



## Why SMSC and British Values?



### A message from Mrs Powell , our SMSC and British Values lead:

SMSC is vital to a well-rounded curriculum as it is embedded in everything the children learn and do. These skills are vital for children to function within society. We follow and refer to British Values within our lessons to help children identify their importance in modern day Britain.

As part of developing SMSC I am always keen to hear from parents / carers who would be willing to share their knowledge and expertise with the children regarding their social, moral, spiritual and cultural development.

### Design and Do

Our Academy values: Achievement, Belonging, Confidence, Determination and Excellence alongside British values: Democracy, Rule of Law, Individual Liberty, Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those with difference faith and beliefs are intrinsic in all we do. The curriculum design enables connections to the lives and heritage of our children and their community. We encourage our children to make positive contributions and an understanding of our community and wider society. Within our provision we exemplify British values through the teaching of general behaviours within the Academy. British Values have strong links to the Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural (SMSC) aspects of the curriculum and during our schools assemblies, Religious Education and RSHE lessons from Early Years to Year 6.

SMSC stands for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development. It underpins everything we do as a school.

The spiritual development of pupils is shown by their:

- ability to be reflective about their own beliefs, religious or otherwise, that inform their perspective on life and their interest in and respect for different people's faiths, feelings and values.
- Sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them
- Use of imagination and creativity in their learning
- Willingness to reflect on their experiences

The moral development of pupils is shown by their:

- Ability to recognise the different between right and wrong and to readily apply this understanding in their own lives, recognise legal boundaries and, in so doing, respect the civil and criminal law of England
- Understanding of the consequences of their behaviour and actions
- Interest in investigating and offering reasoned views about moral and ethical issues and ability to understand and appreciate the viewpoints of others on these issues.

The social development of pupils is shown by their:

- Use of a range of social skills in different contexts
- Willingness to participate in a variety of communities and social settings
- Acceptance and engagement with the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

The cultural development of pupils is shown by their:

- Understanding and appreciation of the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their own heritage and those of others

- Understanding and appreciation of the range of different cultures within school and further afield as an essential element of their preparation for modern life in Britain
- Knowledge of Britain's democratic parliamentary system and its central role in shaping our history and values, and in continuing to develop Britain
- Willingness to participate in and respond to artistic, musical, sporting and cultural opportunities
- Interest in exploring, improving understanding of and showing respect for different faiths and cultural diversity and the extent to which they understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity, as shown by their tolerance and attitudes towards different religious, ethnic and socio-economic groups in the local, national and global communities.

At Darlington, we wish to offer a curriculum that enables children (no matter what stage or background) to develop knowledge and skills to succeed in a complex world, cultivating a sense of humanity and belonging. Holistic success is central to our design, to increase effectiveness and improving educational excellence and life chances. SMSC and British Values are embedded within all our lessons and activities in school. We value and celebrate the diversity of all our pupils and the communities that we belong to.

Difference

Our children learn to be active citizens by ensuring their voices are heard and by bringing our school into the future through their social, moral and cultural development. They also use British Values as a basis to encourage skills of participation in a democracy. They develop the skills such as how to work with others, communicating their ideas and thinking critically. They gain the knowledge of what values are important to our culture and community, as well as a knowledge and respect of other cultures and religions. Our children are equipped to show a high level of empathy and emotional intelligence through these knowledge and skills so that they are well prepared for everyday life and a future outside of school. In a sense, we focus on the whole child so that they can be successful in what they do and contribute effectively.

‘Achieving Excellence Together’

Reflections and Celebrations

We celebrate religious festivals such as Diwali, Christingle and Christmas. In Key Stage 1, children create Christingles and Christmas decorations to commemorate this Christian festival. We also visit different places of worship. For example, Year 3 visit a local church. As part of our RSHE curriculum, we started the year by setting class rules and thinking about our roles and responsibilities.

### **Moral**

To commemorate Harvest Festival, we collect food and basic toiletry items for homeless charity, St Vincent's Southend. Our Junior Governors support our local community by creating postcards for the residents at Admiral Court. The residents are always delighted when they receive their crafts and thank the children for all their hard work.

As a school we take part in the Wildlife Trust's '30 Days Wild' which involves activities including litter picking, bug hunting, hugging trees and reflecting a spiritual link with nature as well as a moral obligation to caring for it.

### **Social**

We also focused on mental health and wellbeing by raising money through Hello Yellow day. We commemorate many events and special days. As part of Green week, children explore the debate behind some key moral and ethical issues through learning about littering, recycling and climate change. We observe LGBTQ+ Month by having our own 'variety week' where children are set homework with the theme of 'express yourself' to share what makes them different and unique. In EYFS and Year 1, children hear stories about different types of families and in year 1, children use these to inspire their own stories. In conjunction with International Women's Day and the 'break the bias' theme, our PE team organised a girls' football tournament, 'Let Girls Play' to inspire our children to aim high and follow their dreams.

### **Cultural**

We offer a variety of trips and have lots of different visitors each year such as authors and people from different careers. Some of our children were able to attend theatre workshops in London as part of our drive to enable our children to have a variety of cultural experiences.

### **British Values**

In order to continue our focus on helping our children understand democracy, we often enjoy visits from our local MP Anna Firth. Our pupils have also been invited to take part in the online Children's Parliament event each year as well as our Head Prefect attending a special debate on water management and waste at the Houses of Parliament.

In November each year, the children commemorate Remembrance Day by having a 2 minute silence across the school and learning about the significance of the day in class as well as making poppies in Art.

We had a wonderful time commemorating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Each year group chose a decade to learn about ranging from the 1950s in Year 6 to the 1980s in Year 3. We had a special day of celebration which included singing the National Anthem as a whole school, watching what other classes had learnt and a whole school picnic lunch. The children made crowns, flags and bunting as part of the 'spirit' of the event.



<https://educateagainsthate.com/parents/>  
<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2020>  
<https://multiculturalkidblogs.com/>  
[www.eco-schools.org.uk](http://www.eco-schools.org.uk)

### SMSC and British Values Gallery

