



THE ARRETON & OAKFIELD FEDERATION SMSC POLICY

2018

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SMSC Policy

Working and Learning together for success. Everyone is given the chance to shine.

Oakfield CE Primary School and Arreton St. Georges C E Primary School

At Arreton and Oakfield we believe that the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the child lies at the heart of our school's ethos. It provides a foundation for the children's values, attitudes and beliefs, preparing them for their future lives. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural learning is taught through all subjects of the curriculum, including collective worship themes, and in particular Religious Education and Personal Social and Health Education lessons. It supports all areas of learning and can contribute to the child's motivation to learn. As a school we believe that this aspect of children's learning will be most successful when the values and attitudes promoted by the staff provide a role model for the children. The quality of relationships and the ethos within the school reflect an appreciation of our core Christian Values of Love, Hope, Trust and Honesty at Oakfield and Friendship, Honesty and Perseverance at Arreton.

Our Aims

At Arreton and Oakfield Primary Schools we aim to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development in the following ways:

- Enable every learner to be the best they can in all areas and find joy in the learning experience.
- Promote and nurture respect and responsibility at all times; Respect for ourselves, others and the world we live in.
- Create and foster a genuine love of learning within a stimulating, safe and caring environment where all children are able to grow and shine as individuals.
- Promote an inclusive community where every individual is enabled to develop within our Christian ethos and can experience Christian Worship, teaching and learning and develop links within the wider Christian community.
- Enable every learner to face challenges with positivity in the knowledge that we are all valued and unique.
- Develop pupils' ability to make responsible decisions, and to view mistakes as learning opportunities.
- Develop children's emotional understanding and encourage pupils to recognise different emotions in themselves and others whilst suitable strategies for dealing with these.
- Teach and encourage pupils to lead and maintain a safe and healthy lifestyle.

Definitions of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Learning at Arreton and Oakfield Federation:

Spirituality

We define spirituality as the way in which we learn about, and gain a sense of ourselves and others and our place within the world. It also includes consideration of things bigger than ourselves and our connection to them.

At Arreton and Oakfield we are helping children to develop and talk about their spirituality through 4 distinct areas of Spiritual development. The link between the areas is the pupils' love/relationship with these areas.

The Self – (Mirror Moments) When learners reflect on the relationship that they have with their sense of being a unique person. The joy of being alive. The need to understand oneself and ones feelings.

Others – (Door Moments) When learners will reflect on how their values and attitudes affect how they treat others and show empathy and compassion.

World – (Window Moments) When learners reflect on their ability to respond emotionally to the experiences of wonder of the natural world and the results of human creativity. These can be Wow or Ow moments, reflecting the mystery and wonder of existence.

Beyond – (Candle Moments) When learners explore their experiences beyond the non-material dimension of life, searching for meaning and purpose of life which may lead to an understanding and belief of God.

At Arreton and Oakfield we promote spiritual development by:

- Planning opportunities across the curriculum for children have time to experience and reflect on their learning and achievements both within and beyond the classroom.
- Encouraging children to reflect on issues within and beyond their own first-hand experience, fostering emotional intelligence and wellbeing.
- Giving children the vocabulary and creative tools to express their feelings and explore the impact of their behaviour on others leading to spiritual moments.
- Providing a range of opportunities for children to pray and reflect in moments that have meaning to them.

Spiritual moments may follow these steps: encounter, reflect, transform. The child will encounter /experience a moment, they will reflect on it, that reflection will enable them to transform their understanding, relationship, opinion or belief.

Moral Learning

At Arreton and Oakfield CE Primary schools, we believe that moral development is concerned with living by principles which guide our choices between right and wrong. We aim to:

- Develop the children's awareness and understanding of the moral code of the community in which they live. This will include exploration of the religious teachings and specifically look at the moral teaching embedded within Christianity.
- Help children to realise that to enjoy rights we have to accept responsibilities.
- Develop children's understanding of why rules are necessary.
- Develop children's self-discipline so that rules are followed as a point of principle and not from the fear of sanctions.
- Give children the knowledge and ability to question and to reason so that they are capable of deciding on the most appropriate action having considered the consequences.
- Develop the skills necessary to explain their own behaviour and its influence on others.
- Value physical wellbeing, privacy, feelings, beliefs and rights of others.
- Develop children's empathy and awareness for injustice Our school's ethos is underpinned by the Six Strands approach which builds on the children's skills in – resilience, boundaries, focus, self-regulation, independence and respect.

Social Learning

At Arreton and Oakfield we believe that social development is our way of relating to self and others and this is influenced by our spirituality and our morality.

We aim to provide a variety of experiences for children to work collaboratively through: group work, talking partners, cross federation activities, joint class activities and visitors. We recognise that our daily experience of worship is a special time to share and come together.

We understand that social skills need to be learnt and have a programme of support which focuses on “Six Strands” of development. Where appropriate individual plans will be put in place using the “Six Strands” programme but all teachers will build in universal activities that enable pupils to develop their social skills at age appropriate levels.

Cultural Learning

At Arreton and Oakfield we celebrate diversity and encourage children to recognise that all cultural groups are distinctive. Cultural learning encourages children to explore shared beliefs, knowledge, customs and values of different groups. We encourage pupils to develop curiosity and appreciate the traditions and values of their own culture and recognise the diversities and richness of others.

The schools will promote cultural development through:

- Providing a curriculum which allows children to learn about their own culture and those of others. This will be taught across the curriculum and we recognise that through RE, Literacy, History, Geography, Modern Languages, Dance, Art and Music we can provide a rich experience for children.
- Providing visits out of school and arranging visitors to the school which enrich the children’s learning e.g. School residential trips to Italy and HMS Belfast, visits from the Lifeboat association, visiting dance and theatre groups, participation in the county show.
- Encouraging participation in and appreciation of the wealth of cultural traditions and the beliefs associated with these. This work is supported through our work on the local carnival, music festival, and participation in the IW Country Dancing Festival and through our Spanish lessons.