



Approval Date	Next Review Date
24/09/25	25/03/26

### Listen, Love, Learn

#### At Our Lady's –

We are inspired, strengthened and encouraged by our Catholic faith.

We place Jesus at the centre of everything we do and say, **listening** to Him with our hearts.

We spread **love** everywhere we go, valuing and caring for each other.

We strive to be the best **learners** we can, using and celebrating our God given gifts.

*"For he who is mighty has done great things for me, and Holy is his name" Luke 1: 49*



"It is not enough to love the young; they must know that they are loved."

Don Bosco

This policy needs to be read in conjunction with the Mission Statement and the following policies:

- Behaviour Management
- Anti-bullying
- Drugs Awareness
- Child Protection
- Sex and Relationships Education
- Equal Opportunities
- Inclusion
- E safety

#### Aims

- to prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life
- to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of all pupils, to enable them to learn and to achieve to the best of their ability at school and in society.

#### Objectives

To raise pupils' confidence and self-esteem by reminding everyone:

- of the importance of respecting one another as individuals and appreciating effort
- to offer a supportive climate for learning
- to provide a foundation for acquiring the skills needed to learn
- to increase pupil motivation and deepen their understanding through providing relevant opportunities for 'real-life' learning
- to improve pupils' ability to reflect on and become responsible for their own learning
- to reduce the chances that pupils' education will be interrupted or impaired, for example, by the fear of bullying
- to develop resilience in their learning and life

### **Responsibility, management and co-ordination**

All school staff and pupils have the responsibility of ensuring that this policy is upheld, but day-to-day responsibility is held by the SMSC co-ordinator. They support teaching and learning carried out in the school, and report to the Link Governor responsible for SMSC.

### **Organisation of the SMSC curriculum**

At Our Lady Queen of Heaven, SMSC is closely linked with the teaching of RE and the Catholic ethos of the school. Although it is taught by class teachers within timetabled lessons, staff should also encourage the children to adopt Gospel Values across all aspects of their school life.

Topics are covered in accordance with the Curriculum Map for SMSC, provided by the Arundel and Brighton Education Service, but can be addressed at other times if this is felt to be appropriate. Additionally, large amounts of SMSC will be taught through the subjects of the National Curriculum. This can most easily be seen for Citizenship within History and Geography but also environmental awareness in Geography and some health education in Science. However, all subjects are capable of teaching SMSC - not just through the subject area itself, but also through the manner of the teaching and learning styles and the relationships and behaviour encouraged and exemplified by the teacher. At Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School, we recognise the need to develop professionally the skills, knowledge and confidence of staff and are committed to supporting appropriate training within SMSC as requested by the SMSC subject leader.

### **Links to external agencies**

SMSC at Our Lady Queen of Heaven School is supported by partnership with the Healthy Schools Initiative, the Police, Fire Service, the Advisory Service, the Arundel and Brighton Diocese Education Service and a number of other agencies. Whilst ever mindful of child-protection issues, the school is committed to having visitors into school, and to carry out visits outside the school grounds. All such planned learning experiences are designed to address specified learning objectives.

## Teaching and Learning

Our Lady Queen of Heaven has purchased 'Journey in Love' and 'Ten:Ten' Resources, as recommended by the Diocesan Education Service, to support the teaching and learning of SMSC. Much of the curriculum will be delivered through discussion and group activities, with some recordings being shown in the class Spiritual Journal. Other recorded tasks could be included in the pupils' books, with suitable choosing by the class teacher.

## Assessment

Assessment within SMSC is against the learning outcomes outlined in the scheme of work and the Curriculum Map. Methods of assessment are generally unwritten and are more often based on observation or peer, self or group assessment. Progress will be reflected in the termly personal and social targets for each child.

## Informal curriculum

SMSC is not just addressed in the classroom. Good use is made of displays, assemblies, the behaviour code, playground policy, RE Council, School Council and many other aspects of school.

## British Values

A key part of our plan for education at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Primary School has always been to ensure children become valuable and fully rounded members of society who treat others with respect and tolerance, regardless of background. Through SMSC provision and the values of Christ, as witnessed through the Gospels, we actively promote and reinforce these 'British Values' that have their roots in the Christian values and beliefs that were in existence at the time our country was moving towards a wider understanding of what government and the rights of the people were. **At Our Lady Queen of Heaven Primary School we recognise that these values are not uniquely British.** The teachings and ideals of Christ, given to us through His Word and His Body, walk hand in hand with these values bringing: Love and Solidarity, Truth and Justice, Purity and Holiness, Dignity and Compassion and Tolerance and Peace. We teach the importance of 'British Values' by going much deeper into the meaning of what it means to live a good life, within a framework of Catholic Christian Values. At Our Lady Queen of Heaven Primary School we are guided by our mission statement which best sums up the **ethos** of our school:

*"Listen Love Learn"*

Together, guided by Christian values of respect, compassion, co-operation and stewardship, we reflect on our place and purpose in the world. We simultaneously celebrate individuality and difference within our communities and share the calling to work for the Common Good, in the service of others.

The examples that follow are just some of the ways that 'British values' are embedded into our everyday life and curriculum at Our Lady Queen of Heaven:

### **Democracy**

At the beginning of the year, each class decide upon their own Class Rules and the rights associated with them. Our School Council is a group of children who act as one voice for the children in the school. Its members are children democratically elected by their fellow classmates to represent them. The School Council is actively involved in developing policies and practices which impact on the day to day practice within the school. A majority vote system is used, so that decisions are made fairly. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through Class Representatives which feed ideas to the School Council. Children also have an opportunity to express their opinions in Pupil Questionnaires and Pupil Voice. Through the curriculum, the origins of democracy are explored through historical research of Ancient Greece, Ancient Egypt, Roman civilizations, the Monarchy and Government.

### **The Rule of Law**

The importance of Laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced every day, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through regular school assemblies. We have high expectations about pupil conduct and this is reflected in our behaviour policy. Pupils draw up their own Class Rules which link to the whole school behaviour policy. We have a house point system in place to incentivise excellent behaviour and attitude to learning. Class teachers are also able to use their own behaviour incentives such as table points, Star of the Day, etc. There are additional rewards for exhibiting responsible actions and respectful behaviour such as the Headteacher awards and stickers which are all given out during a celebration assembly every week. Through our school's values, RE curriculum, collective worship and SMSC programme, children are taught how to earn trust and respect and are supported to develop a strong sense of morality; pupils know right from wrong and about making good choices, even when it is difficult. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves, and the consequences when laws are broken. To help us reinforce this message we organise and encourage visits from authorities such as the Community Support Officer; Police and the Fire Service.

### **Individual Liberty**

Within school, pupils are supported and guided spiritually and morally, learning how to make good effective choices whilst knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised on how to exercise these safely. This is explored, for example, through our Online Safety curriculum, SMSC lessons and by the provision of a variety of cross-curriculum opportunities. Pupils are encouraged to take opportunities to follow their interests in a range of extra-curricular clubs, art, sports, cooking and the school choir which allow them to exercise their individual choice.

### **Mutual Respect**

Our Class Rules, as well as our behaviour and anti-bullying policies, are monitored by the School Council. Posters and displays around the school promote British Values and increase the children's knowledge of the importance of mutual respect in school, our local community, nationally and in the wider world. Children are taught to respect each other, to be co-operative and collaborative and to look for similarities while being understanding of differences. We care and support one another, pray for one another, show respect for one another and love one another.

### **Respecting All Faiths**

The development of pupils' understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity is very important at Our Lady Queen of Heaven. Our RE scheme of work follows the teaching of the Church in providing a broad and balanced education, which includes an understanding of and respect for people of other faiths or none and other cultures and lifestyles. Children learn about different religions, their beliefs, places of worship and festivals. Assemblies, themed weeks and workshops offer pupils enriched experiences to deepen their understanding, tolerance and knowledge of our culturally diverse community. The school celebrates the many languages spoken by our pupils, e.g. through responding in their choice of language for class registration; through sharing prayers in collective worship, through interaction with visitors, and on trips. Members of different faiths or religions are made welcome and encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school.

### **Prevent**

Our school is aware of the need to be vigilant when it comes to extreme attitudes or behaviour of any kind and appropriate actions will be taken accordingly. All staff are aware of the need to alert the designated safeguarding officers if they have any concerns. The designated safeguarding officers have attended Prevent training and are aware of their role if they are alerted to a concern. Our overriding aim is to teach children to be resilient to such attitudes. This involves pupils being taught how to ask probing questions and make sound judgements for themselves about what is right and wrong.