



## OAKFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL

### SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL POLICY

‘From Small Acorns to Mighty Oaks’

Children at Oakfield Junior School are being prepared for life, both in today’s world and in the future, which they will help to shape. It is our whole school intent for all learners to have courage to embrace new experiences with confidence; work co-operatively, whilst respecting and caring for others; be curious about the whole world and enjoy learning for life.

Oakfield Junior Schools curriculum is derived from the National Curriculum.

[Click here for a copy of the Key Stage 2 National Curriculum](#)

Our curriculum is balanced, broad and based on our School Vision. Our curriculum planning is detailed, inclusive and differentiated to meet all pupils’ talents, skills and abilities, where pupils maximise individual progress in a respectful, caring and safe environment.

To equip them to live in, understand and influence modern society, our children receive clear teaching and practical guidelines. It is important to enable them to develop their own powers of moral judgement, while understanding the need for a moral framework.

A **spiritual** awareness helps to give meaning and purpose to life. Feelings of success and pleasure that arise in many aspects of school life can come to be associated with a special feeling that lifts the ordinary moment to something ‘out of the ordinary’. This could involve poetry, music, drama or art. School experience can give insight into values and experiences that transcend everyday existence. Our RE curriculum adopts an enquiry based approach to teaching and learning. Each unit starts with a key question allowing our children to show curiosity as they investigate beliefs and practices of religions and other worldviews and how these influence morality, identity and diversity. As a Community School, we aim to also teach an appreciation and respect for the religious beliefs of others.

Our PSHE curriculum uses a mindful approach to PSHE and teaches our children techniques to support their spiritual development, allowing pupils to connect well with each other and most importantly to be more aware of and better able to manage their feelings and thought processes.

The **moral** development of our pupils involves encouraging a growing appreciation that life situations involve responsibilities as well as rights, requiring

judgements about questions of right and wrong to which there may be no easy answer. Moral development in Christianity and many other religions is rooted firmly in the belief that we should love our neighbour as our self. At Oakfield Junior School we encourage pupils to show respect and consideration towards others. At Oakfield we have 5 core values which we refer to as the 5C's. These values are reinforced throughout our curriculum, by all staff and governors; shared by all pupils and evident throughout the school.

A clear behaviour policy, provides the moral framework in which our School operates. Oakfield Junior Schools Home, School Agreement outlines the responsibilities of staff, parents and pupils and helps us all work towards a common goal.

The development of **Social** skills is essential to the personal growth of every individual. The development of self-awareness, self-identity and independence alongside growing experience in handling healthy and balanced relationships, allows children progressively to play a part in the community where they live. The School Council, Eco Committee, House system and the 'Star Awards' all promote roles and responsibilities within the class and school, and all promote social inclusion. Oakfield's PSHE curriculum further develops these skills by providing pupils with opportunities to better understand each other as human beings and global citizens, share cultures and grow empathy.

**Cultural** development involves an increasing awareness of values, customs and achievements that underpin our society and the different groups within it. It includes an understanding of the importance and the validity of different cultural traditions both here and in other parts of the world. We accept the need to be proactive in creating opportunities for children at Oakfield Junior School to experience positive images of a range of other cultures. We aim to enrich the children's lives with a wide variety of cultural experience across the social, artistic and musical spectrum.

### **Promoting the Policy**

Our policy in these areas is put into practice in a number of ways:

- through the school's inclusive ethos where all pupils maximise individual progress in a respectful, caring and safe environment.
- through positive example and encouragement by the members of staff
- through our approach to the subjects of the curriculum
- through our Young Leaders Groups and Home School Agreement
- through formal Religious Education
- through PHSE
- through weekly Jigsaw Focus
- through celebration assembly and Star Awards
- through collective worship and assembly
- through encouraging the school to reach out to the community and the community to come into the school

- through the invitation to the school of a wide range of visiting groups, artistic, musical and others to give experience of a range of cultures
- through encouraging a sense of service e.g. through charitable fundraising
- through opportunities outside school e.g. on visits to St. Marys and other local churches including places of worship for other faiths. Visits such as to art galleries, museums and nature areas and the Yrs 3-6 residential visits all help to promote the aims of this policy.
- Through global citizenship education and local, UK and international school links

### **Monitoring and Review**

All staff have a responsibility to monitor these issues in their own subject area and class base. The spiritual, moral, social and cultural health of the school will be reviewed annually as part of the School's self evaluation process.

Policy last reviewed: May 2022