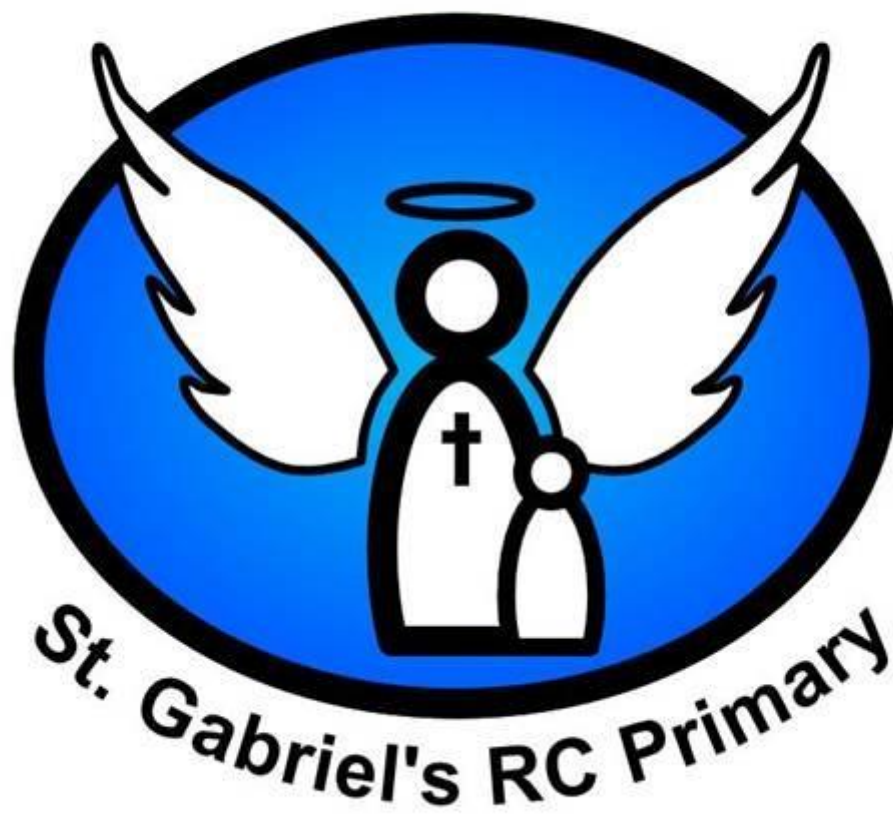




St Gabriel's RC Primary School

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development  
Policy (SMSC)

Updated: June 2026

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**In God's Love: We Welcome**



**We Learn**

**We Grow**

**TOGETHER**

Showing re**S**pect for everyone and everything

We are s**t**ronger, together,

Keeping the **G**ospel values in our hearts,

We are proud to be **a** part of a hard-working team.

Everyone a mem**b**er of God's family,

Progressing th**r**ough life, progressing through faith,

Walking **i**n Jesus' footsteps,

Learning for lif**e**, following our dreams.

We are al**l** unique, but all equal

Sharing God'**s** love through friendship and mutual respect.

## **Overview**

At St. Gabriel's R.C. Primary School, we recognise that the personal development of pupils, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, plays a significant part in their ability to learn and achieve. We, therefore, aim to provide an education that provides pupils with opportunities to explore and develop their own values and beliefs, spiritual awareness, high standards of personal behaviour, a positive, caring attitude towards other people, an understanding of their social and cultural traditions and an appreciation of the diversity and richness of their cultures. We provide a range of opportunities for pupils to develop their self-esteem and confidence.

## **Objectives**

The National curriculum document states that:

Every state funded school must offer a curriculum which is broad and balanced and which:

- Promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, and
- Prepare pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life

The school curriculum comprises all learning and other experiences that each school plans for its pupils. The national curriculum forms one part of the school curriculum.

At St. Gabriel's, SMSC plays a significant part in the ability to learn and to achieve. All curriculum areas have a contribution to make to the child's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Our Catholic faith, values, principles and spirituality are explored throughout the whole curriculum along with other faiths, cultures and beliefs. The integrity and spirituality of other faith backgrounds are respected and explored. The diversity of spiritual traditions will be recognised and pupils will be given access to alternative views. All adults will model and promote expected behaviour, treating all people as valuable individuals and showing respect for pupils and their families. Children should learn to differentiate between right and wrong in as far as their actions affect other people. They will be encouraged to value themselves and others. Children should understand the need for rules and the need to abide by rules for the good of everyone.

We promote the British Values in all we do. Our code of conduct promotes excellent behaviour and we provide opportunities to celebrate pupils' work and achievements.

Our whole school mission statement:

"In God's Love: We welcome, we learn, we grow, together" is also evident in all aspects of school life and beyond. All curriculum areas should seek to use illustrations and examples drawn from as wide a range of cultural contexts as possible. This will be reflected in the teacher's planning and learning resources.

## **Aims of SMSC**

- To ensure that everyone connected with the school is aware of our values and principles.
- To ensure a consistent approach to the delivery of SMSC issues through the curriculum and the general life of the school.

- To ensure that a child's education is set within the context that is meaningful and appropriate to their age, aptitude and background.
- To ensure that children know what is expected of them and why.
- To give each child a range of opportunities to reflect upon and discuss their beliefs, feelings and responses to personal experience.
- To enable children to develop an understanding of their individual and group identity.
- To enable children to begin to develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment and an appreciation of the many cultures that now enrich our society.
- To give each child the opportunity to explore social and moral issues and develop a sense of social and moral responsibility
- To embed British Values throughout the curriculum and through other learning opportunities.

## **Strategies**

**Spiritual Development** - As a school we aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable children to:

- Sustain their self-esteem in their learning experience
- Develop their capacity for critical and independent thought. We encourage deeper thinking through thought provoking questioning and feedback.
- Foster their emotional life and express their feelings
- Experience regular quality prayer and worship and moments of stillness and reflection
- Discuss their beliefs, feelings, values and responses to personal experiences
- Form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships
- Reflect on, consider and celebrate the wonders and mysteries of life and creation

**Moral Development** – As a school we aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable children to:

- Follow the examples set by Jesus as a way for us to live
- Recognise the unique value of each individual
- Recognise the challenges of the faith teachings and how we can learn from this
- Listen and respond appropriately to the views of others
- Gain the confidence to cope with setbacks and learn from mistakes
- Take initiative and act responsibly with consideration for others
- Distinguish between right and wrong
- Show respect for the environment
- Make informed and independent judgements and take responsibility for their own actions

**Social Development** – As a school we aim to promote opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Develop an understanding of their individual and group identity
- Learn about service in the school, Church and wider community

- Begin to understand the need for social justice and a concern for the disadvantaged

**Cultural Development** – as a school we aim to promote opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Recognise the value and richness of cultural diversity in Britain, and how these influence individuals and society
- Recognise Catholicism as our faith, a world-wide faith, along with a tolerance and respect of other faiths – we don't just tolerate difference, but celebrate difference
- Develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment

Development in SMSC will take place across all curriculum areas. SMSC has particularly strong links to Religious Education, Collective Worship and Personal, Social, Health & Citizenship Education. Within all curricular activities, children will be encouraged to reflect on the significance of what they are learning, to recognise any challenges to their own attitudes and lifestyle and to recognise a spiritual dimension to their lives.

All curriculum areas should seek illustrations and examples drawn from as wide a range of cultural contexts as possible. We also promote the fundamental British values in all we do across the school and beyond.

Through classroom discussions we will give the children opportunities to:

- Talk about personal experiences and feelings
- Express and clarify their own ideas and beliefs
- Speak about difficult events, e.g. bullying, death etc
- Share thoughts and feelings with other people
- Explore relationships with friends/family/others
- Consider the needs and behaviour of others
- Show empathy
- Develop self-esteem and a respect for others
- Develop a sense of belonging
- Develop the skills and attitudes that enable children to develop socially, morally, spiritually and culturally e.g. empathy, respect, open-mindedness, sensitivity, critical awareness, etc.

Many curriculum areas provide opportunities to extend these skills to:

- Listen and talk to each other
- Learn an awareness of treating all as equals, accepting and loving people who are different because of physical and learning difficulties.
- Agree and disagree
- Experience good role models

- Take turns and share equipment
- Work co-operatively and collaboratively

**Practical activities and events to develop SMSC within our school include:**

- Coming together as a community regularly for Friday's Celebration Assemblies, Whole School Mass and individual Class Masses.
- Learning Behaviours promoted in class – to be active and engaged, resilience, making links, independence and collaboration.
- School Mission certificates awarded weekly in our Celebration Assembly.
- Our RE scheme of work – Come and See offers opportunities for children to reflect on bigger issues in society/the world.
- Class assemblies focus on Catholic Social Teaching through Caritas in Action, allowing children to explore various social, cultural, moral and spiritual issues linked with British Values.
- Our Caritas in Action ambassadors' work allows us to focus on Catholic Social Teaching.
- Participation in projects, such as 'Rochdale in Bloom' and gardening club give children a chance to reflect on Stewardship and the wonders of God's creation.
- Emotional Literacy groups led by our Pastoral Manager allow children to reflect on their own emotions and behaviour and deal with difficult times in their lives.
- Year six take part in 'Crucial Crew' which builds self-esteem and encourages team work.
- Our feedback and marking system guides children on their next steps for learning and allows them time to reflect on challenging questions.
- Our yearly Harvest Festival food is donated by the children to the Rochdale Food Bank.
- At Christmas and Lent, children take part in charity events on local, national and global scales for example donating stationery to Africa and collecting money for St Joseph's Penny.
- Children have responsibilities within their own classes to give them a sense of working as a team and having ownership.
- School Chaplaincy team promote the religious and spiritual life of the school.
- Throughout the year, a range of productions take place including a nativity and pantomime at Christmas and a KS2 performance and year 6 leavers assembly at the end of the year.
- Various visitors to school give children a sense of the wider community and the way adults behave, e.g. the fire service, PCSO, doctors and nurses.
- The Eco Team works within school to encourage stewardship and taking care of our planet.
- The School Council represent the pupil voice throughout the school.
- The children who complete the Sacramental Programme often complete follow up visits e.g. to the Laudato Si Centre.
- Companies such as #THRIVE visit school to deliver assemblies and workshops focussing on children's mental health and wellbeing.
- Year 6 and Reception pair up as 'Buddies' at the start of the year.

- A range of educational visits throughout the year.
- E-SAFETY display within each classroom and focus throughout the computing curriculum.
- Year 6 residential trip.
- Visits to different places of worship
- Strong links to our Church and Parish Priest.

### **Outcomes**

As a Catholic school, we are here primarily to pass on the Catholic faith to our pupils as well as providing an outstanding education in all aspects. Through our strong Catholic ethos, we teach and prepare our pupils as a 'whole child' and not just academically. Our Catholic faith teaches us that we are all made in the image and likeness of God and are all God's children and loved equally. We, therefore, celebrate this and teach everything through the examples given by Jesus. This means that we naturally teach all aspects of SMSC in curriculum lessons as well as within all areas of learning, inside the classroom and beyond.