

GREAT ECCLESTON COPP C.E. PRIMARY
SCHOOL

SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND
CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Reviewed and updated September 2018

MISSION STATEMENT

Talk to me and I will listen,
Show me and I will remember,
Involve me and I will learn,
Encourage me and I will thrive.

Copp, the village school, where everyone is special and where God will help us grow.

Copp School's Mission Statement is the foundation on which we base the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development of those within our care.

In order to achieve our mission statement, we, as staff, subscribe to that statement through our own Christian beliefs. Indeed, we are the role models for the standards set in school and as such should base our own practices on a set of principles. These principles are to:

- treat children equally and get to know them well
- expect children to have skills and talents which we must identify and develop
- help each child develop as a whole person - socially, emotionally, physically, intellectually, culturally and morally.
- try and instil enthusiasm and curiosity for school life and education which will continue throughout life
- encourage self-discipline and a sense of independence and responsibility within the school community and for the wider community
- emphasize, praise and encourage positive achievements in all pupils: applaud efforts to help and show tolerance to others
- provide a consistent school environment, where children know they may develop within the bounds of school rules and in the knowledge that if mistakes are made they may 'start again'
- provide opportunities for parents to be involved in children's progress and achievement.

VISION

Our Church School will respect each child as a unique being, a child of God, loved and accepted in an ethos that encourages and celebrates difference. We will endeavour to afford sustainable opportunities for holistic academic and personal development with a life and moral code based on Christian values and teaching. There are opportunities for spiritual growth and the development of a life of faith.

Authority for Christian personal development and living is built upon the foundational teaching of the Bible, reason, Christian tradition and experience. The school accepts and promotes a set of values and beliefs based on Christian authority. Relationships in the Church School are based on the Christian principle that all should be loved and accepted as they are - and as they could be with God's and our community's help. Our School will work with the Church, other partners and agencies to promote holistic personal development, based on the example of the life and teaching of Jesus.

It is about:

- children developing lives that reflect Christian values and teaching as we nurture personal faith and spiritual growth
- enabling children to love their neighbours as themselves
- encouraging children to develop an awareness that as members of a Christian family they have shared responsibilities and are able to make valuable contributions to the lives of others
- children knowing they are accepted as they are, are of equal worth and unique in the sight of God.

PROMOTING SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN A CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Spiritual development in a church school can enrich and encourage the child's journey towards a discovery and deeper understanding of God the wonder of the environment around them.

At Copp School this is promoted through:

- exploring a relationship with God and the sense that we are his children, unique and loved by him
- exploring and experiencing prayer and worship from a variety of Christian traditions
- giving thanks to God for all aspects of school life
- discussing and reflecting upon key questions of meaning and truth such as the existence of God, the origins and purpose of the universe, good and evil, life after death
- considering the value of human beings and their relationship with God, with one another and with the natural world
- discovering how the creative and expressive arts enable spiritual development
- providing opportunities to discuss feelings and emotions openly
- recognising and encouraging the use of personal and group gifts and talents
- providing opportunities to develop gifts of imagination and creativity
- encouraging curiosity and questioning so that views and ideas on religious and spiritual issues can be developed within a secure environment where faith is valued
- developing a sense of personal significance and belonging
- encountering Christian fellowship.

We provide a variety of learning experiences which will encourage the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of each child.

Daily Worship

Conducted by different people to provide a variety of approach/content. These will include the Headteacher, members of the church, people from other faiths, staff and children, along with visiting members of society and community as and when appropriate.

Each assembly will normally include some form of story (not necessarily religious) which relates to the half termly targets and Christian values. Staff should aim to involve the aspects of anti-bullying, diversity and other cultures within their worship on a half termly basis.

Children should be encouraged to participate where possible and a time for reflection should be embedded in each act of worship.

Whole school worship takes place every day and is led by teachers, children, the Headteacher, and both of our local churches.

Thursday worship is led by a designated class each half term and this takes place in the church.

There is a half termly theme which relates to SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) and which incorporates particular Christian values. Music is chosen according to the theme/values and played as children come into worship.

"Celebration Worship" will take place once a week. This worship will:-

- recognise a "Star of the Week" from each class - this is awarded for improvement in work, attitude or effort
- include and applaud the achievements of any child that he/she has attained inside or outside school, where possible
- celebrate "wonderful writing" and a mathematician of the week
- include teampoints
- celebrate birthdays
- promote 100% or best attendance by awarding a certificate and "Alan the Adder".

Religious Education

RE is taught in line with the Blackburn Diocesan RE syllabus.

Areas of Reflection in class and around the school

Every classroom has area dedicated to spirituality; this may include a prayer corner, a prayer tree, relevant texts or pictures, a Bible and other resources. Children are aware when and how they can access these areas.

Areas of reflection around the school include whole school reflection area, the cross and prayer tree in the entrance hall, the display boards in the hall, the quiet area outside and many more.

Answering Pupils' Questions which have Spiritual and Moral Development Implications

Consideration is given to the age of the child and the situation in which a question arises. At all times we hope that we will be sensitive to the situation. It is our aim to give our own opinion, seek the opinion of others within the class/group and allow time for class discussion.

Throughout the spiritual development of children at Great Eccleston Copp Church of England Primary School, we hope to form a basis on which pupils may eventually make their own decisions and form their own opinions.

Copp School Council (CSC)

CSC actively encourages the children to think, discuss, work and decide together what is best for all concerned throughout school. It is made up of 2 children from each class (Y2 - Y6) and is led by Mrs Melvin.

Members of the Governing Body and Parents

Regular contact is maintained with both members of the Governing Body and parents.

We have an 'open door' policy whereby parents may contact us about any issue that concerns them.

Parental involvement is strong and involves:

- newsletters
- class newsletters each half term
- information on Class Dojo
- formal consultations which include the Welcome Day/Evening and parent/teacher consultations
- Friends of Copp School (FOCS)
- parents working in school.

MORAL DEVELOPMENT

At Copp School we allow pupils opportunities to explore issues from a wide range of view points.

This is promoted through:

- developing a sense of right and wrong based on the teaching of Jesus Christ and Christian rules for living
- discovering and living by the values identified within the Bible
- exploring the influence on moral choices of the teachings of Jesus Christ, family, friends and media and how society is influenced by beliefs, teachings, sacred texts and guidance from religious leaders of Christianity and other world faiths
- considering what is of ultimate value to pupils, Christians and other faith believers through studying the key beliefs and teachings from religion and philosophy on values and ethical codes of practice
- studying a range of ethical issues, including those that focus on justice, to promote racial and religious respect and the importance of personal integrity
- considering the importance of rights and responsibilities and developing a sensitive conscience.

At Copp School we have certain values and disciplines to which children are expected to adhere. Positive reinforcement for the following is sought at every opportunity through:

- telling the truth
- being courteous and polite
- keeping promises
- respecting the rights and properties of others
- acting considerately towards others
- being responsible for one's own actions and understanding the consequences of actions.

Year 6 pupils are afforded special duties and privileges throughout their final year at Copp. These responsibilities help to reinforce all efforts of spiritual and moral development and help them develop further independence as they prepare for secondary school.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Social development in a church school should develop children's understanding of what it means to live in a Christian community where Jesus' command to love one another is put into practice.

This is promoted through:

- building relationships within the school and between the school, the parish and the local community
- developing a sense of empathy, compassion and concern for others
- considering how Christian beliefs affect decisions at local and national level
- investigating social issues from the perspective of Christianity and of other faiths, recognising the common ground and diversity that exists between them
- providing opportunities for pupils to articulate their own views on a range of current issues and to show respect for the opinion of others and a willingness to learn from their insight.

CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

At Copp School, we are mindful that there are varieties of culture within which children are brought up. These variations have their origins in such matters as:

- age
- ethnic inheritance
- places of abode
- social class
- leisure preferences
- religion

Bearing in mind the ages and background of the children at Copp School, it is our responsibility to ensure that the children learn about the variety of faiths and cultures found in our society in their own locality, the UK and other countries with respect to such matters as jobs, diet, dress, religion, language, dialect, leisure pursuits and customs.

We still embrace Christianity as our first and foremost belief but throughout our work in RE and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development, we will teach the importance of mutual tolerance and respect of others and help the children in our care to recognise the widely shared values of love, peace and justice which is common to all faiths and at the core of Christian practice.

Please see the RE Policy for further details and resources

Systems for Evaluation

- Progress and implementation will be discussed regularly at staff/governor meetings
- The impact of the Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural development policy will be a significant addition to the school's self-evaluation document indicating the unique ethos and distinctiveness of the church school.