



Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development in St John's Primary School Early Years

What is SMSC?

SMSC stands for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. All schools in England must show how well their pupils develop in SMSC.

SMSC in the Early Years SMSC development is now referenced throughout Ofsted's School Inspection Handbook. In the Early Years, we have a thoughtful and wide-ranging promotion of pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development and their physical well-being.

Spiritual: explore beliefs and experience; respect faiths, feelings and values; enjoy learning about oneself, others and the surrounding world; use imagination and creativity; reflect.

At St John's we:

- Encouraging awe and wonder for environment – e.g. lying looking at clouds in the sky.
- Encouraging appreciation of nature – e.g. spider webs, watching ladybirds.
- Encouraging children to reflect on their experiences, individually and in group time.
- Supporting development of imagination and creativity through stories and open-ended creative provision.
- Planning for and offering magical moments.
- Acknowledgement of importance of enjoyment to well-being through having fun e.g. jumping in puddles.
- Encouraging strong key worker relationships – influencing quality of life through these interactions.



Moral: recognise right and wrong; respect the law; understand consequences; investigate moral and ethical issues; offer reasoned views.

At St John's we:

- Promote Christian values through planned stories over the year.
- Discuss values and feelings in our 'No Outsiders' sessions.
- Staff modelling of values e.g. being friendly.
- Supporting children's following of rules e.g. "no running in the classroom".
- The Restorative Approach is used consistently by all staff.
- Use of conflict resolution techniques to encourage children's understanding of feelings of others.



Social: investigate moral issues; appreciate diverse viewpoints; participate, volunteer and cooperate; resolve conflict; engage with the fundamental values of British democracy.

At St John's we:

- Use of key worker groups to encourage children to form friendships and relationships with trusted adults.
- Staff support social skills and development throughout play and learning experiences.
- Rolling snack times supporting table manners and topics of conversations
- Teaching self-care habits – e.g. blowing noses, covering mouth when coughing and brushing teeth.
- Support inclusion of children within play and challenge any stereo typing e.g. "boys can't come in the home corner".
- Support transition process into school forming meaningful community links.
- Support development of respectful behaviour e.g. listening to others, not invading other children's space.
- Sharing a wide range of quality inclusive texts/stories and social stories with children.



Cultural: appreciate cultural influences; appreciate the role of Britain's parliamentary system; participate in culture opportunities; understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity.

At St John's we:

- Have appreciation of cultures of others as it arises from home backgrounds of children within nursery and within the books shared.
- "Proud Clouds" encourage families to tell us about their own cultural celebrations and customs and these are shared.
- Encourage bi-lingual children to use their home language, as well as English and discuss importance of this with parents.
- Challenge stereo –typical language and ensure all types of families feel accepted and respected.
- Quality inclusive resources purchased and provided in the environment.
- Understanding and feeling comfortable in a variety of cultures.



British Values in the Early Years

The Department for Education has introduced a statutory duty for all UK schools to promote and teach fundamental British Values.

At St John's Primary School, we take our responsibility very seriously to prepare our learners for life in modern Britain. We value and recognise the multi-cultural, multi-faith and ever-changing nature of the United Kingdom and undertake a variety of events and lessons to celebrate and explore other cultures in our country and the wider world.

In the Early Years, we ensure that the fundamental British Values are introduced, discussed and lived out through the every-day learning and ethos of our Early Years provision. In the Early Years setting, we make considerable efforts to ensure that our learners have exposure to a wide variety of learning experiences beyond the local community, through educational visits, visitors, workshops and sporting events. All these opportunities provide a purposeful platform for embracing difference and diversity.

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What are British Values?

- Democracy
- Rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs



Being Part of Britain

As a setting we value and celebrate being part of Britain. In general terms, this means that we celebrate traditions and customs throughout the year; including, harvest festival, Remembrance Day, May Day, Easter services and Christmas celebrations. We also value and celebrate national, charity and sporting events. Learning about being part of Britain is also part of our school curriculum and is taught in Early Years as they learn to understand the World they live in and through both Geography and History at Key Stage 1.



Democracy

Children, parents and staff have many opportunities for their voices to be heard.

At St John's:

- Children agree have a 'Pupil Planned Provision' each Friday afternoon where they can voice their opinion for what they would like to see in provision the following week.
- Children are regularly asked their opinions by different subject leaders and SLT to further improve subjects and areas within the school.
- Pupils are always listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully and with concern to each other, respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard.



The Rule of Law.

The importance of rules and laws, whether they be those that govern our school or our country, are referred to and reinforced often, such as in Collective Worship and when reflecting on behaviour choices.

At St John's these values are reinforced in different ways, including:

- Visits from authorities such as the police and fire service.
- During Religious Education, when rules for particular faiths are thought about.
- During other school subjects, where there is respect and appreciation for different rules (in a sports lesson, for example).

Individual Liberty

Alongside rules and laws, we promote freedom of choice and the right to respectfully express views and beliefs. Through the provision of a safe, supportive environment and empowering education, we provide boundaries for the children in our setting to make choices safely; for example:

- Choices about what learning challenge or activity.
- Choices around the participation in extra-curricular activities.
- Our pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are taught how to exercise these safely, such as in our e-safety lessons.

Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs:

Our pupils know and understand that it is expected and imperative that respect is shown to everyone, whatever differences we may have, and to everything, whether it is a school resource, a religious belief or whatever. Children learn that their behaviour choices have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community should treat each other with respect.

This is also enhanced:

- Through Religious Education and other lessons where we develop awareness and appreciation of other cultures;
- In story time through carefully planned stories that explore a theme.
- In Expressive Art and Design and Cooking by considering culture from other parts of the world.

Children gather daily, either or the whole school. These times include carefully planned Collective Worships to deliver the 'No Outsiders' themes or bible teaching. Our Friday whole school Collective Worship celebrates the learning and achievements within our school. Children in Early years attend all collective worships and whole school events from October. We carry out class acts of worship until then.





Example of what we do to support Cultural Capital

