



## SMSC Curriculum

### Rationale.

- SMSC stands for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. All schools in England must show how well their pupils develop in SMSC. At Elstow we want our pupils to think about the kind of people we aspire to be, the kind of world we aspire to create, and the kind of education we aspire to provide. Why is SMSC so important?
- SMSC is essential for children and young people's individual development, as well as the development of society as a whole and we focus on developing a deep understanding of the fundamental British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs. It links to our Religious Education and our PSHE curricula.
- It is embedded in our teaching across the subjects but is specifically taught through our daily reflection at line up and in daily assemblies after lunch across the school.

### Spiritual Development

- I Decision framework – includes lessons on reflection around beliefs, differences and similarities between people relating to religion, culture and values held by different communities
- The RE curriculum focusses on specific knowledge about different religions and peoples beliefs.
- There are celebrations at Christmas for children which include singing in Elstow Abbey Church. These are deliberately designed to include children of other or no faith and enable access to important local buildings. One year group is invited to attend a Christingle service during Advent.

### Moral Development

- There is a section in every unit of learning in I Decision which poses a moral question or dilemma for reflection and discussion.
- The English teaching sequence includes a Big Question at the end of the series of lessons which invites pupils to discuss moral or other issues and think about whether characters have acted well for example. These are major themes which appear in quality texts.
- The Primary Knowledge Curriculum has elements within it where people from history have behaved well or are considered by historians to have not left a good legacy. For example in WWI and the rise and fall of Hitler.
- The Picture News poses questions each week which are topical and relevant, often controversial and asks children to reflect on the issues in the news of the moment. These are shared daily in line up and during lunchtime assemblies.
- Certificates or awards are handed out weekly for children in all key stages for showing the values at Elstow.

### Social Development

- Lunchtimes are organised deliberately in table groups to allow children to eat together and learn to use cutlery and the social skills of communicating during a shared meal. SLT lead lunch in both halls and support children in discussions and in being able to converse and behave appropriately. It is a safe and relaxing time which all pupils enjoy.

- The Behaviour Policy in the school is robust and rigorously adhered to by all staff. The fundamental structure is through Doug Lemov's TLAC (Teach like a champion) strategies. These are designed to create a warm strict climate in all parts of the school. Teachers are taught specifically to interact with pupils respectfully and ensure they are respectful to all around them. Education is valued and all staff ensure children know that their voice is heard and no-one is lost. It is not a culture of 'he who shouts loudest'.
- Y6 are given the opportunity through offering to complete tasks in and around the school each day, to earn a Prefect Badge. This responsibility is highly valued and pupils are learning to make a significant and consistent contribution to the wider life of the school. This includes jobs such as sorting the library out, supporting in both halls during lunchtimes, administrative tasks for the office, and preparing equipment for teaching – such as the Djembe drums.

### Cultural Development

- The PKC geography and history curricula develops pupils understanding of the cultural influences that have shaped their own and others heritage. It includes specific local area visits which are important to Bedford. The RE curriculum includes local religious influences such as the life and work of John Bunyan and the importance of Elstow Abbey Church and the Moot Hall.
- Pupils are offered access to the Faith Tour which is run by the local and also the Christingle Service on behalf of Save the Children in Advent.
- The school offers a variety of clubs which are aimed at cultural access – these include a choir for KS2, a football club a dance club and a multi skills club. These are school funded and offered to different year groups throughout the year to ensure equity of access.
- The school is part of a group which run inter-school sports competitions and all children during the year have a chance to go and compete. There are also specific events for SEN pupils.
- Annually, Y6 go to London to visit the Houses of Parliament and there are also local offers of speakers who come into school to discuss the role of government and democracy.
- IDecision has teaching unit which is entitled British Values – A world without judgement.
- The Picture News resource includes as part of its choice of topic for pupils which is adapted for EYFS pupils as an extra support, opportunities to deepen pupil's cultural awareness.