

Rakegate Primary School



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

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Statement of intent

At Rakegate Primary we are committed to promoting spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of all pupils. Through this, we actively promote fundamental British Values as part of our broad and balanced curriculum.

The Department for Education states that there is a need:

"To create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs".

This policy outlines how we embed these principles across school life. This policy sets out the framework in which Rakegate Primary School will ensure that our curriculum and ethos provides opportunities for all pupils to integrate British Values and SMSC into their learning and experiences and so help enable them to become valuable members of society who treat others with respect and are able to effectively and fully engage in life in modern Britain.

These values are officially taught through the Religious Education (RE) and Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum and are further nurtured through the school's ethos and promotion of spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) understanding through assemblies, enrichment activities and pastoral systems.

Signed by:

Headteacher: _____

Date: _____

Chair of Governors: _____

Date: _____

1. Aims and Objectives

- 1.1 At Rakegate Primary School we strive to create a learning environment which promotes respect, diversity and self-awareness and equips all of our pupils with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values they will need to succeed in their future lives.
- 1.2 We enable pupils to distinguish between right and wrong and to accept accountability for their behaviour.
- 1.3 The curriculum provides a wide range of artistic, sporting and cultural opportunities that encourage pupils to work together and use imagination in their learning. Activities are planned that encourage pupils to reflect and give their opinions whilst promoting tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions. The curriculum enables the confidence to provide their opinions and develop their own view points. We closely link SMSC and British Values with our PSHE scheme of work and with the RE syllabus.

2. Roles and responsibilities

- 2.1. Rakegate Primary School understands the importance of promoting British Values and SMSC through a comprehensive, inclusive and unprejudiced curriculum.
- 2.2. The Headteacher will ensure that all teachers and staff are aware of the requirement to uphold British and SMSC Values through the methods outlined in this policy, and will ensure that the appropriate procedures are in place to carry out these methods.
- 2.3. Teachers and support staff will ensure that their lessons are inclusive of, and sensitive to, the fundamental British values.
- 2.4. Pupils are expected to treat each other and staff with respect, in line with the school's Behaviour Policy.
- 2.5. In planning lessons, teachers and support staff are aware of the need to plan opportunities to develop, encourage and promote a wide variety of social, moral, spiritual and cultural values. Such opportunities will be delivered through cross-curricular activities, as well as specific RE, PSHE and assembly themes.

3. The Four Fundamental British Values

Rakegate Primary promote British Values in line with the Department of Education (DfE) guidance.

3.1 Democracy:

At Rakegate Primary School pupils have numerous opportunities to have their views heard through, for example, pupil voice, pupil questionnaires, pupil surveys and the pupil-elected school council that meets regularly and whose suggestions and ideas are valued. Our pupils are encouraged to have an input into what and how they learn so as to instil an understanding of democracy for their future.

3.2 Rule of Law:

Rakegate Primary School has a high regard for the laws that govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Our pupils are involved in the creation of school rules to inspire them with this understanding.

At Rakegate Primary School pupils are taught these values and the reasons behind laws, whether they govern the class, the school or the country, that are essential for their well-being and safety. Pupils are allowed healthy debate in class on the matter to encourage recognition of the importance of the law.

Rakegate Primary School organises visits from authorities throughout the academic year in an effort to reinforce the reality and importance of this message.

3.3 Individual liberty:

At Rakegate Primary School we foster a safe and supportive environment where pupils are actively encouraged to make choices. Whether it is choosing a challenging task or an extra-curricular club, pupils have the freedom to base their choices on their interests.

Pupils are taught about their rights and personal freedoms and are encouraged and advised on how to exercise these safely, for instance through our teaching on e-safety and PSHE lessons.

3.4 Mutual Respect and Tolerance of Those with Different Faiths and Beliefs:

Respect forms a core pillar of Rakegate Primary School's ethos as a main value. Pupils are treated with respect and learn to treat each other and staff with respect.

This is reinforced through our Behaviour Policy and posters throughout the school promoting mutual respect.

Rakegate Primary School acknowledges that tolerance is achieved through pupils' knowledge and understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and the opportunity for pupils to experience such diversity.

Throughout the year, assemblies are held focusing on bullying, with reference to prejudice based bullying, and discussion is encouraged.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs is supported by the RE and PSHE curriculum.

We encourage our pupils from different faiths or religions to share their knowledge with their peers to enhance their learning.

4. SMSC in Practice

4.1 Spiritual development includes the exploration of an individual's beliefs and experiences and their resulting behaviours. Respect and understanding for differing faiths and beliefs is encouraged and an enjoyment of learning more about themselves and others. Through spiritual development, children are able to understand their own feelings and emotions and this enables them to reflect and to learn.

4.2 Curriculum opportunities enable pupils to:

- Be curious and to express feelings of delight and wonder, (scientific investigations, new life, the global landscape)
- Empathise and consider the viewpoints of others, (debates, drama activities, discussing feelings and empathising with characters in familiar stories)
- Consider how a belief can change people's lifestyles, (R.E, investigating communities and faiths, historical case studies)

- Discuss what they think they have achieved and what they need to do to be successful in the future, (self-assessment, target setting activities)
- Examples of such opportunities include visits to and from faith groups, assemblies, celebrations of various festival and special times throughout the year, time to reflect upon learning and experiences.

4.3 **Moral development** means exploring, understanding and recognising shared values and considering issues of right and wrong, respect for the law and thinking about moral and ethical issues.

4.4 The classroom environment and curriculum promote moral development through:

- Behaviour and class rules, agreed with children and displayed in the classroom
- Clear and consistent rewards that children understand and believe to be fair.
- Class and school assemblies that discuss moral values and expectations.
- Activities that enable pupils to give opinions and show their values.
- Restorative discussion - enabling accountability for their actions and decisions.
- Discussing the choices made by the pupils and others and the resulting outcomes (character studies, studies of historical figures).
- Examples of such opportunities include anti-bullying and E-safety lessons, charity appeals throughout the year, WOW certificates and Hot Chocolate Friday to celebrate achievements each week.

4.5 **Social development** involves learners working effectively together and participating successfully in the school community as a whole. During a pupil's social development they gain interpersonal skills that allow them to form successful relationships and to become a positive team member. They will also engage with the 'British values' of democracy, the rule of law, liberty, respect and tolerance.

4.6 At Rakegate Primary School, social skills are developed through:

- Modelling of positive social behaviour by all staff
- After school clubs
- Sporting activities
- Buddy and team games at play times and lunch times
- Turn taking and team building activities
- Pair and small group work within the classroom

- Working with others across the local community (local care homes, other schools)
- Examples of such opportunities include Pupil Voice, pupil participation in a range of groups eg school council, digital ambassadors, buddy systems,

4.7 **Cultural development** enables learners to develop an understanding of their own culture and of other cultures locally, nationally and internationally. It also means learning to feel comfortable in a variety of cultures and valuing cultural diversity. Pupils are encouraged to participate in cultural opportunities and accept, respect and celebrate diversity.

4.8 Children are introduced to a regional and global perspective in life through:

- Stories from different cultures
- First hand experiences through local visits and visits to the school by theatre groups and artists
- Visitors from the local community
- Being part of local and national fund raising events
- Studies of a different lifestyle including different food, dress, festivals and places of worship.
- Learning about other cultures when raising money for charity
- Children are taught to understand the lifestyles and choices made by the variety of different cultures and faiths that exist within the school.
- Examples of such opportunities include opportunities to take part in a variety of after school clubs, opportunities to learn a musical instrument, visits from dance, theatre and music groups through the year, visits to the theatre, museums, art galleries, Year 6 trip to London.

5. Staff training

5.1. At Rakegate Primary School staff are made aware of their responsibilities in terms of British and SMSC values during appropriate training opportunities throughout the school year.

5.2. Staff will be offered further training when opportunities are presented and advertised.

6. Review

6.1. This policy will be reviewed every three years by the Senior Leadership Team and Governors and amended as appropriate to reflect any changes to regulations to ensure it remains effective and relevant.