Hurst Green Primary School

**SMSC at Hurst Green**

SMSC stands for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Ofsted’s definition of SMSC is as follows:

*Exploring beliefs and experiences; respecting faiths, feelings and values; enjoying learning about oneself, others and the surrounding world; using imagination and being creative; reflection.*

At Hurst Green, SMSC underpins much of what we do. We recognise that the personal development of the children – spiritually, morally, socially and culturally – plays a significant role in their ability to learn, and to grow into well-rounded members of society. We aim to provide an education that provides children with opportunities to explore and develop:

* Their own values and beliefs
* Spiritual awareness
* High standards of personal behaviour
* A positive and caring attitude towards other people
* An understanding and respect for their and others social and cultural traditions
* An appreciation of the diversity and richness of cultures and the world around them.

**Spiritual Development**

Pupils develop the knowledge, skills, understanding, qualities and attitudes they need to foster their own inner lives and non-material wellbeing.

**Our school supports children’s spiritual development by:**

* Giving children the opportunity to explore values and beliefs, including religious beliefs, and the way in which they impact on peoples’ lives
* Encouraging children to explore and develop what animates themselves and others
* Giving children the opportunity to understand human feelings and emotions, the way they impact on people and how an understanding of them can be helpful
* Developing a climate or ethos within which all children can grow and flourish, enjoying individual liberty and mutual respect
* Accommodating difference and respecting the integrity of individuals, including tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs
* Promoting learning opportunities which value children’s questions, encourage deeper questions and give them space for their own thoughts, ideas and concerns

**Moral Development**

Pupils develop the knowledge, skills and understanding, qualities and attitudes they need in order to make responsible moral decisions and act on them.

**Our school supports children’s moral development by:**

* Providing a clear moral code as a basis for behaviour which is promoted consistently through all aspects of the school
* Promoting racial, religious and other forms of equality
* Challenging stereotyping
* Giving pupils opportunities across the curriculum to explore and develop moral concepts and values –for example, personal rights and responsibilities, truth, justice, equality of opportunity, right and wrong
* Developing an open and safe learning environment in which pupils can express their views and practise moral decision making
* Rewarding expressions of moral insights and good behaviour
* Recognising and respecting the codes and morals of the different cultures represented in the school and wider community
* Encouraging pupils to take responsibility for their actions, for example, respect for property, care of the environment, and developing codes of behaviour
* Providing models of moral virtue through literature, humanities, sciences, arts and assemblies; reinforcing the school’s values through images, posters, classroom displays, etc. and monitoring in simple ways, the success of what is provided

**Social Development**

Pupils develop the knowledge, skills, understanding, qualities and attitudes they need to make an active contribution to the democratic process in each of their communities.

**Our school develops pupil social development by:**

* Identifying key values and principles on which school and community life is based
* Fostering a sense of community, with common, inclusive values
* Promoting racial, religious and other forms of equality
* Encouraging pupils to work co-operatively
* Encouraging pupils to recognise and respect social differences and similarities
* Providing positive experiences to reinforce our values as a school community –for example, through assemblies, team building activities, residential experiences, school productions
* Helping pupils develop personal qualities, which are valued in a civilised society, for example,    thoughtfulness, honesty, respect for difference, moral principles, independence, interdependence, self-respect and awareness of others’ needs
* Providing opportunities for engaging in the democratic process and participating in community life
* Providing opportunities for pupils to exercise leadership and responsibility
* Providing positive and effective links with the world of work and the wider community

**Cultural Development**

Pupils develop the knowledge, skills, understanding, qualities and attitudes they need to understand, appreciate and contribute to culture.

**Our school develops cultural development by:**

* Extending pupils’ knowledge and use of cultural imagery and language
* Encouraging them to think about special events in life and how they are celebrated
* Recognising and nurturing particular gifts and talents; providing opportunities for pupils to participate in literature, drama, music, art, crafts and other cultural events and encouraging pupils to reflect on their significance
* Supporting cultural understanding through cross curricular links, different text types, therefore developing cultural influences across the curriculum
* Reinforcing the school’s cultural links through displays, posters, exhibitions, etc.
* Developing partnerships with outside agencies and individuals to extend pupils’ cultural awareness, for example, theatre, museum and gallery visits, where possible