

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