



**Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC)
Development Policy**

**WILLOW GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL
SMSC DEVELOPMENT POLICY**

ADOPTION AND AMENDMENTS TO SMSC DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Section	Governors' Meeting or Committee
Whole document	KET Steering Group – 25 th April 2024
Whole document	LGB – 16 th March 2026
Next review: 2026/2027	

WILLOW GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL SMSC DEVELOPMENT POLICY

At Willow Grove Primary School we recognise that the personal development of pupils, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally (SMSC) plays a significant part in their ability to learn and achieve. We therefore aim to provide an education and environment that provides pupils with opportunities to explore and develop:

- their own values and beliefs,
- spiritual awareness
- high standards of personal behaviour,
- a positive, caring attitude towards other people
- an understanding of their social and cultural traditions
- and an appreciation of the diversity and richness of the cultures.

SMSC is a dimension of the whole school experience which makes the curriculum relevant, stimulating, creative and fun. It enriches each subject and the ethos of Willow Grove Primary School and is an essential ingredient of school success.

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

As a school we recognise the importance of these values because:

- People, staff as well as pupils, achieve better when they feel valued.
- Our beliefs and values influence the way we behave and the community that we live in
- Education is about the development of the whole person

Statements

- All curriculum areas have a contribution to make to the child's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and opportunities for this will be planned in each area of the curriculum.
- All adults will model and promote expected behaviour, treating all people as unique and valuable individuals and showing respect for pupils and their families.
- The school will be a place where pupils can find acceptance for themselves as unique individuals and where forgiveness and the opportunity to start again is fundamental to the ethos of the school.
- Pupils should learn to differentiate between right and wrong in as far as their actions affect other people. They will be encouraged to value themselves and others.
- Pupils should understand the need for rules and the need to abide by rules for the good of everyone. School and classroom rules should reflect, reiterate, promote and reward acceptable behaviour and provide opportunities to celebrate pupils' work and achievements.
- All curriculum areas should seek to use illustrations and examples drawn from as wide a range of cultural contexts as possible. This will be reflected in teachers' planning and purchasing decisions.

WILLOW GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL SMSC DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Aims

- To ensure that everyone connected with the school is aware of our values and principles. To ensure a consistent approach to the delivery of SMSC issues through the curriculum and the general life of the school.
- To ensure that a pupil's education is set within a context that is meaningful and appropriate to their age, aptitude and background.
- To ensure that pupils know what is expected of them and why.
- To give each pupil a range of opportunities to reflect upon and discuss their beliefs, feelings and responses to personal experience.
- To enable pupils to develop an understanding of their individual and group identity.
- To enable pupils to begin to develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment and an appreciation of the many cultures that now enrich our school community, local community and country.
- To give each pupil the opportunity to explore social and moral issues, and develop a sense of social and moral responsibility.

Spiritual Development Aims

As a school community we aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Sustain their self-esteem in their learning experience.
- Develop their capacity for critical and independent thought.
- Foster their emotional life and express their feelings
- Experience moments of stillness and reflection.
- Discuss their beliefs, feelings, values and responses to personal experiences.
- Form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships
- Reflect on, consider and celebrate the wonders and mysteries of life.

Moral Development Aims

As a school we aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Recognise the unique value of each individual.
- Listen and respond appropriately to the views of others.
- Gain the confidence to cope with setbacks and learn from mistakes.
- Take initiative and act responsibly with consideration for others.
- Distinguish between right and wrong.
- Show respect for the environment.
- Make informed and independent judgements.

Social Development Aims

As a school we aim to promote opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Develop an understanding of their individual and group identity.
- Learn about the value of service in the school and wider community.

Cultural Development Aims

As a school we aim to promote opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Recognise the value and richness of cultural diversity in our school, local community and Britain, and how these influenced individuals and society.
- Develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment.

WILLOW GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL SMSC DEVELOPMENT POLICY

- Develop an understanding of Britain's local, national, European, Commonwealth and global dimensions.

Teaching and Learning

Development in SMSC will take place across all curriculum areas, within activities that encourage pupils to recognise the spiritual dimension of their learning, reflect on the significance of what they are learning, and to recognise any challenges that there may be to their own attitude and lifestyle. Teachers will inspire pupils through the enthusiasm for and modelling of learning. Teachers at Willow Grove will use creative strategies and challenging questions to engage pupils in their learning and relate it to their own experiences.

All curriculum areas should seek illustrations and examples drawn from as wide a range of cultural contexts as possible.

Class discussions and reflective group time will give pupils opportunities to:

- Talk about personal experiences and feelings.
- Express and clarify their own ideas and beliefs.
- Speak about difficult events, e.g. bullying, death etc.
- Share thoughts and feelings with other people.
- Explore relationships with friends/family/others.
- Consider others needs and behaviour.
- Show empathy.
- Develop self-esteem and a respect for others.
- Develop a sense of belonging.
- Develop the skills and attitudes that enable pupils to develop socially, morally, spiritually and culturally — e.g. empathy, respect, open mindedness, sensitivity, understanding, forgiveness and critical awareness.

Many curriculum areas provide opportunities to:

- Listen and talk to each other.
- Learn an awareness of treating all as equals, and accepting people who are different from themselves in terms of their personal beliefs, physicality, ethnicity and ability.
- Agree and disagree.
- Take turns and share equipment.
- Work co-operatively and collaboratively.

School Values

At Willow Grove, our core values underpin all aspects of school life. These are: Teamwork, Hope, Respect, Integrity, Value and Excellence. These values provide a shared framework that guides behaviour, relationships, and learning across the school community.

The values are actively promoted and explored throughout daily school life, including in assemblies, lessons, enrichment opportunities and wider school experiences. They are also revisited in meaningful moments, such as during restorative conversations following behaviour incidents, where pupils are supported to reflect on their choices and consider how their actions align with our shared values.

WILLOW GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL SMSC DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Through these values, pupils are encouraged to develop a strong sense of responsibility, empathy and moral understanding, enabling them to make thoughtful decisions and contribute positively to their community. They also support pupils in developing the spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness needed to thrive in modern Britain.

All members of the Willow Grove community—pupils, staff and families—are expected to understand and demonstrate these values in their words and actions each day. By modelling and celebrating these values consistently, we aim to create a culture where every individual feels respected, valued and supported to achieve excellence.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Personal development is also enriched through a wide range of extra-curricular activities (e.g. Sport, Drama, Art, Nature Club) which provide opportunities for SMSC and for inspiring pupils to broaden their experience and horizons. Children will also have the opportunity to study for Arts Awards and Nature base Awards such as the John Muir Award.

Links with the wider community

Visitors are regularly invited and warmly welcomed into school.

The development of a strong home-school link is regarded as very important, enabling parents, teachers and the wider community to work in an effective partnership to make sure that we give our pupils the best possible environment in which to grow, flourish and learn.

Pupils will be taught to appreciate their local environment and community and to develop a sense of responsibility to it.

Resources

We will provide a wide range of resources as appropriate, these resources will be updated and enhanced through annual audits which will lead to the purchase of materials for particular themes. Books and curriculum resources will consider and reflect diversity so that children from all backgrounds see themselves reflected in the materials used. Stories of positive role models from a range of diverse backgrounds will be shared.

Professional Development

It is important to recognise any particular difficulties staff may have in delivering the curriculum and an annual review will determine any co-ordinator input or CPD which may be required.

Professional development around including Equity, Diversity and Inclusion will be given regularly and form part of the school's vision, ethos and aims.

SEN and Equal Opportunities

Our school will aim to provide children with SEND with a curriculum which allows for appropriate differentiation and adaptation. This may be by outcome, task, resources or support as appropriate. Where needs are significant, a personalised curriculum may be needed.

Children with EAL needs

We will try to ensure that children who have English as a second language will be given extra support in class, as necessary, either from teachers, support staff or their peers, to enable them to gain the knowledge, understanding and skills set out in the SMSC curriculum.

WILLOW GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL SMSC DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Monitoring

The Headteacher and class teachers continually monitor to ensure equality and equity of provision across the year groups and to identify how effectively SMSC is being implemented in the school. This will be conducted through observation and discussion.

British Values

In support of the Department for Education (DofE) document: Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools, Departmental advice for maintained schools, November 2014.

At Willow Grove Primary School, we value the diversity of the backgrounds of all pupils, families and the wider school community and strongly believe in upholding British values through all aspects of our school provision.

The DofE 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**”.

Our school reflects British values in all that we do. We aim to nurture our children on their journey through life so they can grow into safe, caring, democratic, responsible and tolerant adults who make a positive difference to British society and to the world and the wider world.

What is meant by British values?

Learning about British values forms a key part of children’s spiritual, moral, cultural and social education. The five British values that the Government has identified for schools to focus on are:

Democracy

The rule of law

Individual liberty

Mutual respect

Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

How should we help our children prepare for adult life as citizens of Britain?

- Develop their self-confidence and self esteem.
- Develop their understanding of right and wrong, and their respect for the law.
- Encourage them to take responsibility for their behaviour.
- Encourage involvement in the community and wider society.
- Encourage respect for the public services and institutions of Britain.
- Promote tolerance of and respect for all cultures and faiths.
- Encourage participation in the democratic process.

How does our school develop children’s understanding of British values?

We uphold the British value of Democracy by:

WILLOW GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL SMSC DEVELOPMENT POLICY

- facilitating a democratic process for electing pupil leadership roles, including school councillors and the running of the council.
- teaching about the democratic process in Britain, at both a local and national level. We teach about communities and pressure groups, how children can participate in these and make changes to life at all levels from local to global.
- taking turns in class, at dinner time and in after school clubs.
- facilitating visits from local politicians for children to learn more about democratic systems.
- Some pupils have the opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament and learn more about the democratic systems at a local and national level.
- All pupils will engage in UK Parliament Week Activities.

We uphold the British value of the Rule of Law by:

- teaching children an understanding of human rights, in particular the UNICEF rights of the child.
- implementing our school and class charters which have clear and agreed statements, and ensuring that the children know their own right and respect the rights of others.
- teaching children to learn about the process of law-making and the part that citizens can play in that process.
- implementing our procedures and protocols for dealing with any behavioural or bullying issues and the very rare incidents of racial, homophobic and other forms of discrimination, which demonstrates to pupils that we take these issues very seriously, mirroring the attitudes of British society. We will include discussion of British Values where relevant in restorative conversations.

We uphold the British value of individual liberty by:

- teaching children to take responsibility for their own behaviour
- teaching an understanding of the concept of freedom and choice.
- teach children how to safely exercise their rights and personal freedoms
- teaching children an understanding of human rights, in particular the UNICEF rights of the child, through assemblies and class lessons.
- support our pupils to become as independent as possible, including through our PSHE lessons and experiences such as residential.
- exposing children to a range of experiences and future career opportunities, e.g. STEM week and the school values.

We uphold the British value of mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs:

- providing our extra-curricular provision, which offers equal opportunities for all children, boys and girls, and children with Special Educational Needs in sport and other areas.
- holding discussions in RE, English and other subjects, which allow children to develop respect for the opinions, values and beliefs of others.
- teaching our RE curriculum, which inculcates values of understanding, tolerance and respect for others, including those of other faiths.

We also support pupils to develop personal and social responsibility by:

WILLOW GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL SMSC DEVELOPMENT POLICY

- expecting children to demonstrate responsibility in many ways in school, e.g. pupil leadership roles.
- expecting children to take responsibility in every class for a variety of roles which assist in the running of the classroom.
- encouraging children to have responsibility for their own possessions, behaviour and work, both at school and at home and to always do their personal best in all aspects of school life.
- teaching children about courageous advocacy and encouraging them to be involved in or lead activities for social or environmental change (through the John Muir Award in Nature Club for example).

We also respect British Institutions by:

- celebrating many British festivals and special events, e.g. Remembrance Day, November 5th, Christmas, Easter, World Book Day, Children in Need, Red-nose day etc.
- regularly inviting representatives from various groups, such as Police, charities and local religious leaders to visit our school and talk to the children in both lessons and assemblies.
- teaching about the structure and work of Parliament, keeping children informed of major and minor events which can be discussed. School Council visits to Parliament etc.
- In all our provision, both academic and otherwise, we endeavour for our school community to develop an understanding of British values and a strong desire to uphold them both now and as future British citizens.

Willow Grove Primary School
16th March 2026