Longhoughton C of E Primary School
Spiritual, Moral, Social, and Cultural Development Policy

Rationale:

In this Church of England School the ethos is founded on Christian values and beliefs and in particular on the unique capacity and worth of each individual.

Spiritual development needs to be viewed as something fundamental to the human condition which is not necessarily experienced through the physical sense and/or expressed through everyday language. It has to do with relationships, with God for those who believe, and with other people. It has to do with the universal search for individual identity and with our responses to challenging experiences, the search for meaning and purpose in life and for values by which to live.
We see 'Spirituality' as an awareness in 4 areas:

- Inwards – towards yourself
- Outwards – to others
- Downwards to the environment
- Upwards – to 'God' or a 'higher being'

Moral development is principally about the pupils' progressive acquisition of the competences and qualities needed to play a full part in society.

Cultural development is principally about pupils' understanding of those beliefs, values, customs, knowledge and skills which taken together, form the basis of identity and cohesions in societies and groups.

Social development is given high priority in our school and spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspects of development are equally as important as academic development.

Aims and purpose

• To promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils.

Spiritual Development
In order to develop the spiritual aspects of a pupil's life the school will provide opportunities for pupils to:
- Experience the spiritual claims of the Christian faith
- Develop a sense of wonder, awe, mystery and joy
- Listen, reflect and puzzle
- Consider their own feelings, likes and dislikes
- Develop personal beliefs and values and learn to respect the beliefs and values of others
- Show insights into deep questions about life, change and death
- Engage in activities which involve questioning, valuing, envisioning, empathising and imagining

Moral Development:
In order to develop the moral aspects of a pupil's life, the school will provide opportunities for pupils to:
- Understand and experience the moral dimension of the Christian faith
- Develop a sense of right and wrong within a supportive environment
- Develop self esteem and take responsibility for one's own actions
- Be aware of the needs of others
- Reflect on moral principles

Social Development:

In order to develop the social aspects of a pupil's life, the school will provide opportunities for pupils to:

- Develop skills such as co-operation, collaboration, responsibility, teamwork and initiative
- Understand and experience the rights and responsibilities of individuals within the social setting
- Recognise the need to live harmoniously in a plural society
- Communicate with others with increased effectiveness
- Engage in activities which benefit others
- Use language in a range of groups and contexts
- Write for a range of purposes and audiences.

Cultural Development:

In order to develop the cultural aspects of a pupil's life the school will provide opportunities for pupils to:

- Value their own cultural roots, interests and achievements
- Learn from other cultures
- Engage in discussions on different cultural practices and lifestyles
- Demonstrate knowledge about their own culture and its practices
- Feel a sense of community beyond the locality

Principles of Teaching and Learning

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development will be achieved through the whole curriculum which includes the subjects taught and the activities and experiences which make up the broader curriculum.

The word 'development' suggests that the child can make progress. It is important to note that this is not necessarily a linear process but the following steps illustrate a possible path of progression:

- Recognising the existence of others as independent from oneself
- Becoming aware of and reflecting on experience
- Questioning and exploring the meaning of experience
- Understanding and evaluating a range of possible responses and interpretations
- Developing personal views and insights
- Applying insights gained with increasing degrees of perception to one's own life
  (Source: Spiritual and Moral Development. SCAA. 1995)

Ways in which we currently encourage growth in these areas:

- Celebration worships
- Opportunities for group and team work within the curriculum
- Promoting creativity within the curriculum
- Quiet times for thought and reflection within the class and at worship time
- Encouraging response to material – paintings, music, prayers, stories
- Exploring feelings and emotions within class, at worships and in Circle Time
- Behaviour policy promotes responsibility and the acceptance of consequences but makes provision for reparation of relationships
- Promotion of self respect and respect for others through curricular themes and discussion
- Provision of an environment where individual differences are accepted
- Fund raising for charities
- Displaying work of high quality
- Collective worship
- Visits to the church for specific occasions
- Visits from the Vicar/Padre
- Residential visits

Monitoring and review

The policy and practice of spiritual, social, moral and cultural development will be monitored and evaluated by the governors and staff of the school through:
- Pupil interviews and discussion groups
- Pupil, parent & staff questionnaires

This policy is linked to the whole school ethos and in particular to the Religious Education Policy; within the RE Policy parents have the right to withdraw children from RE lessons. In some cases withdrawing the child from the RE curriculum may impact on some of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural developments of the child. In these situations the school will look at the individual needs of the child.

Other school policies and documents which are linked to this policy are:
- Anti-Bullying
- Behaviour
- Equality
- Inclusion
- Safeguarding

Author	Creation Date	
LCP Model Policies		
Reviewed	Revision date	
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Signed		