

SMSC Policy

Holbeach Bank Academy and Holbeach Primary Academy

September 2023

SMSC Statement

At Holbeach Bank Academy and Holbeach Primary Academy we recognise that the personal development of pupils, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally plays a significant part in their ability to learn and achieve. We therefore aim to provide a curriculum 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 other cultures. This is embedded throughout all aspects of school life and is at the heart of school development.

Rationale

At Holbeach Bank Academy and Holbeach Primary Academy we recognise that social, moral, spiritual and cultural development is central to the education of all pupils and permeates the whole curriculum and ethos of the school. It is reflected in the behaviours of individuals and in their interactions and also in the provision of teaching, resources and learning environments.

Social development relates to the development of knowledge and understanding and the acquisition of skills in relating to others. This begins with family and friends and extends to the wider community beyond. Pupils are taught to respect each other and to appreciate each other's similarities and differences. An awareness and understanding of, and respect for, the environments in which they live is also developed.

Moral development relates particularly to developing knowledge and understanding of right and wrong. Pupils learn to make choices in their behaviour through developing knowledge of boundaries and understanding of consequences. They learn by example and by practising through role-play, story and group activities.

Spiritual development is concerned with the exploration and development of feelings and emotions; personality, individuality and uniqueness; and knowledge and understanding of their own and different beliefs and cultures.

Cultural development is concerned with encountering the defining aspects of different cultures. Explorations of values, beliefs, customs, foods, artefacts and stories allow the pupils to make comparisons and develop knowledge of lifestyles and choices of others.

Strategies

SMSC development is taught through and reflected in all areas of the curriculum and through all aspects of school life. Pupils are provided with the opportunities to gain in knowledge and understanding and to develop the skills they need to participate in the life of the diverse community in which they live. For example:

Social

- Staff during play times promote appropriate social interaction. Pupils play together in group games and imaginative play on their own and with adults.
- The PSHE scheme of work (Jigsaw) contains units on Health and Wellbeing, and Relationships that are close and in the wider world.
- Educational visits within the community, including swimming and visiting places of worship.

Moral

- There is an agreed reward system in place so that all pupils can earn prizes for good behaviour as well as academic achievement. The prizes are handed out at weekly special assemblies so that everyone shares in the success.
- Regular meetings are held to discuss difficult behaviour to ensure that all staff are supported and that ideas are shared, with the guidance and support from an established pastoral team.
- Behaviour plans are agreed and implemented with the help of the pastoral team.
- The PSHE scheme of work (Jigsaw) has units dealing with issues to do with rules, negotiating difficult situations, emotions, caring for one another, making and keeping friends, living in a community.

Spiritual

- The RE scheme of work (Discovery RE) contains units on celebrations, festivals and worship from Christianity, Islam and Hinduism.
- Pupils are encouraged to take part in periods of reflection at different times throughout the school week.
- Through PSHE and circle time activities, children are helped to gain an understanding of their feelings and emotions and their likely impact on themselves and others.
- Pupils are encouraged to appreciate the awe and wonder of the world around them whenever appropriate occasions arise e.g. looking at beautiful objects in an assembly, looking for signs of Spring whilst outside etc.

Cultural

- There are regular celebrations of religious festivals over the year including harvest, Diwali, Christmas, Easter, Eid and Chinese New Year.
- Geography and RE have units on other cultures and religions.
- English includes units on stories from other cultures.
- All pupils are accepted equally and play an active part in the school community regardless of their colour, religion or gender.
- Pupils participate in a range of artistic, sporting and other cultural opportunities provided by the school.

Where you can find SMSC in Holbeach Bank Academy and Holbeach Primary Academy:

- The curriculum as a whole
- The Religious Education Curriculum
- The PSHE Curriculum
- Assemblies
- Behaviour policy
- Extra-curricular activities
- Educational visits
- Pupil Voice (Student Council)
- Special days (fundraising, cultural experiences and immersion days)

To be reviewed September 2025