

Meridian Primary School



'Learning for Life, Striving for Excellence'

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

March 2026

School Vision

The Meridian community work together to become successful, life-long learners. Through high expectations, mutual respect and encouragement we promote curiosity and resilience. This builds a positive, nurturing and inclusive environment in which everyone feels safe and thrives.

Introduction

This policy is carried out within the context and spirit of Meridian Primary School's vision and values: resilience, kindness, curiosity, community and respect.

It reflects the school's commitment to developing the whole child and aligns with Department for Education guidance on Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development, the promotion of British Values and the Equality Act 2010.

At Meridian Primary School we believe that education extends beyond academic success. We aim to nurture confident, compassionate and responsible individuals who contribute positively to society and who are prepared for life in modern Britain.

Our values underpin all aspects of school life.

Resilience – developing perseverance and confidence when facing challenges

Kindness – showing empathy, compassion and care for others

Curiosity – encouraging enquiry, creativity and a love of learning

Community – working together and valuing our role within society

Respect – valuing diversity, fairness and the rights of others

Through these values we aim to create a safe, inclusive and nurturing environment where every child feels valued and able to thrive.

Aims

At Meridian Primary School we aim for all pupils to

- reach their full potential and meet high expectations
- develop curiosity and a lifelong love of learning
- feel safe, valued and confident
- demonstrate kindness, respect and empathy
- show resilience and perseverance in learning and life
- understand their role within the school, local and global community
- celebrate diversity and value differences
- develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to contribute positively to modern Britain

To enable pupils to achieve these aims, staff are committed to:

- creating a supportive and inclusive learning environment
- modelling the school's values in everyday interactions
- providing opportunities for reflection, discussion and enquiry
- promoting pupil voice and participation
- encouraging collaboration and mutual respect
- listening to pupils and responding sensitively to their needs

Rationale

The Education Reform Act (1988) requires schools to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils.

The Department for Education also states that schools should actively promote fundamental British values including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

At Meridian Primary School we recognise that SMSC development is central to preparing pupils for life in modern Britain. SMSC is embedded across the curriculum, within the ethos of the school and through wider experiences beyond the classroom.

Spiritual Development

Spiritual development relates to pupils' sense of identity, belonging, meaning and reflection. It encourages curiosity about the world and fosters a sense of wonder.

At Meridian Primary School spiritual development is accessible to all pupils regardless of faith or belief and is closely linked to our value of curiosity.

Aims for spiritual development

Pupils will develop:

- curiosity about the world around them
- the ability to reflect on experiences and beliefs
- a sense of wonder and appreciation of the natural world
- an understanding of themselves and others
- confidence in expressing thoughts and feelings

Objectives

Pupils will:

- develop imagination and creativity
- reflect on their own experiences and values
- listen respectfully to the beliefs and perspectives of others
- explore questions about meaning and purpose
- appreciate beauty, creativity and achievement

Provision for spiritual development

Within the curriculum pupils are provided with opportunities to ask questions, explore ideas and reflect on their learning. They are encouraged to develop imagination and curiosity through a broad and engaging curriculum that includes opportunities for creativity and enquiry.

Within RE and Worldviews, PSHE and class discussions pupils are able to explore beliefs, values and worldviews. They are encouraged to listen to others respectfully and to express their own ideas thoughtfully.

Assemblies and reflective moments throughout the school day provide opportunities for pupils to reflect on experiences, celebrate achievements and consider values such as kindness, resilience and respect.

Beyond the formal curriculum the school promotes an atmosphere where pupils feel comfortable expressing thoughts and feelings. Staff model curiosity, enthusiasm and reflection in their interactions with pupils.

Moral Development

Moral development involves understanding the difference between right and wrong, developing a sense of fairness and learning to take responsibility for actions.

At Meridian Primary School pupils are encouraged to act with kindness, honesty and integrity. Our behaviour expectations and school values support pupils in understanding how their actions affect others.

Aims for moral development

Pupils will:

- understand the difference between right and wrong
- develop a sense of fairness and justice
- take responsibility for their actions
- show respect for rules and laws
- demonstrate kindness and empathy

Objectives

Pupils will learn to:

- tell the truth and act honestly
- respect the rights and property of others
- recognise the consequences of their actions
- make responsible decisions
- demonstrate self discipline and resilience

Provision for moral development

Within the curriculum teachers encourage discussion of ethical questions and moral dilemmas. Pupils are supported to reflect on choices and consequences and to develop a personal understanding of fairness, justice and responsibility.

Within RE & Worldviews and PSHE pupils discuss issues such as honesty, respect, equality and responsibility. They are encouraged to consider different perspectives and develop their own views in a respectful way.

Across school life clear expectations for behaviour help pupils understand boundaries and develop a sense of responsibility. Positive behaviour is recognised and celebrated, reinforcing the importance of kindness, respect and resilience.

Social Development

Social development enables pupils to become active, responsible members of their community. At Meridian Primary School we promote a strong sense of community and encourage pupils to build positive relationships.

Aims for social development

Pupils will:

- relate positively to others
- participate fully in class and school life
- work cooperatively with others
- understand their responsibilities within the school community
- develop respect for democracy and the rule of law

Objectives

Pupils will learn to:

- show empathy and consideration for others
- work collaboratively as part of a group
- communicate effectively and listen to others
- take responsibility for their actions and contributions
- understand that everyone has strengths and something valuable to offer

Provision for social development

Within the curriculum pupils are given opportunities to work collaboratively, share ideas and solve problems together. Group work and discussion help pupils develop teamwork and communication skills.

Within PSHE and wider school life pupils learn about relationships, responsibilities and citizenship. Opportunities such as pupil voice and participation in decision making help pupils understand democratic processes.

Beyond the formal curriculum pupils take part in clubs, visits and community activities which allow them to build friendships and develop social confidence.

Social skill interventions are provided for pupils who need additional support in this area of development.

The school recognises the importance of supporting pupils' emotional wellbeing as part of their social development. Meridian Primary School has staff trained in Emotional Literacy Support (ELSA) who provide targeted support for pupils experiencing emotional or social difficulties.

At lunchtimes the school provides a supportive alternative provision through the Chill Zone. This calm and structured space offers pupils who may find the playground overwhelming an opportunity to engage in quieter activities, develop social skills and receive emotional support in a safe environment.

Pastoral support from staff ensures that pupils feel listened to and supported. These approaches help pupils build resilience, develop positive relationships and feel a strong sense of belonging within the school community.

Cultural Development

Cultural development helps pupils understand and appreciate their own culture and the cultures of others. Meridian Primary School values diversity and encourages pupils to respect different traditions, beliefs and ways of life.

Aims for cultural development

Pupils will:

- develop pride in their own identity
- appreciate cultural diversity
- respect different traditions and beliefs
- engage with artistic and creative experiences
- understand the cultural influences that shape society

Objectives

Pupils will learn to:

- explore a range of cultural traditions and beliefs
- appreciate music, art, literature and drama
- understand the diversity of modern British society
- recognise contributions from different cultures
- think critically about media and cultural influences

Provision for cultural development

Within the curriculum pupils explore a range of cultures through history, geography, literature, art and music. This helps them understand both their own cultural background and the wider world.

Within RE & Worldviews, PSHE and assemblies pupils learn about different faiths, festivals and traditions. Discussions encourage respect for diversity and understanding of equality.

The curriculum, resources and school environment are regularly reviewed to ensure they represent the diverse school community at Meridian.

Beyond the formal curriculum the school provides opportunities for visits, workshops and cultural experiences that broaden pupils' perspectives and help them develop an appreciation for different communities and traditions.

Promotion of British Values

In line with Department for Education guidance, Meridian Primary School actively promotes the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

These values are embedded through classroom discussions, pupil participation in decision making, behaviour expectations, assemblies and the inclusive ethos of the school.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Senior leaders are responsible for overseeing the planning, provision and monitoring of SMSC development across the school.

Monitoring may include lesson observations, environment walks, pupil voice activities, review of curriculum planning and evaluation of assemblies and enrichment activities. Staff meetings may also be used to share good practice and review developments.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed in line with the school's policy review cycle to ensure that it continues to reflect current Department for Education guidance and the needs of the Meridian Primary School community.