Policy: British Values, PSHCE and SMSC

Date: June 2025

Relevant supportive documents and legislation:

DfE: Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools - Departmental advice for maintained schools. November 2014

Section 78 of the Education Act 2002 (requirement to promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of pupils.

HM Government Prevent Strategy June 2011

A model Catholic Primary RSE curriculum Autumn 2019

Prevent Duty Guidance 2023

Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education - Statutory guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, head teachers, principals, senior leadership teams, teachers (June 2019 for adoption Sept 2020, updated 2021. Currently awaiting outcome of DfE consultation of 2024)

Keeping children safe in education Statutory guidance for schools and colleges https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2

Children and Social Work Act 2017 Section 34

Education Act 1996 Section 403

Date created: March 2015
Responsible: Headteacher
Date Ratified: March 2015, updates approved 16th April 2018, reviewed May 2019, May 2020, May 2021, May 2022, May 2023, May 2024, June 2025
Responsible Committee: FGB under the recommendations of the Safeguarding Lead Governor
Date to be reviewed: Annually

Aims

At St Bernadette's, we want our children to become responsible, active citizens who participate in democracy and public life with respect for diversity and a commitment to working towards greater community cohesion. Our inclusive, Christian ethos, in addition to our broad and balanced curriculum and clear, concise school rules, support all of our pupils' development in Personal Development, RE, SMSC and RSHE

This policy should be read in conjunction with the school's RSHE Policy and the school's British Values Curriculum Map.

Core British Values are naturally introduced and promoted throughout our school's curriculum, which we have developed to enable children to make progress towards these aims.

Our Whole School Rules are:

- We will look after each other and our school
- We will be honest
- We will try our best
- We will listen and follow instructions

The examples presented below are not exhaustive but serve to provide an example of the types of opportunities offered at St Bernadette's to address British Values through natural curriculum links.

Democracy

At St Bernadette's, our pupils quickly learn how they can influence decision making at the school through democratic processes.

At the start of each academic year, pupils work together to draw up their own set of class rules and expectations.

Our Mini Vinnie Teams (Children's branch of the SVP Society) are directly involved in decision making across the school and members share issues raised with their peers, taking votes on proposed amendments. The Mini Vinnie Teams are made up of a Prayer Team, an Eco Team and a Community Team. The Mini Vinnies, along with our School Ambassadors also meet annually with School Councils from across the Local Authority.

Our Mini Vinnies, Junior Park Rangers, Bully Busters and Eco Monitors go through a rigorous application process involving written applications and interviews. Outgoing Y6 pupils are actively involved in this process.

Our Community Mini Vinnie Team meets with representatives from a range of charities and make informed decisions about which charities to support throughout the year. They communicate this to their peers and the local community. Each class

then arranges their own fundraising events and often make decisions around exactly how their money raised will be used to support the individual charities.

Pupils' views are regularly sought via class discussion and questionnaires in order to support the school self-evaluation process and to inform future decisions around development of provision.

When arranging groupings and choosing individuals to contribute to discussions, teachers often use the "lolly stick" approach of random selection to ensure that all pupils are viewed with equal value and have opportunities to contribute and work with a wide range of peers.

We also have an annual 'Speech Cup' and Poetry Recital Competition where pupils prepare a speech on a subject of specific interest to them. Their peers vote for the speech to represent their class in the final competition using a specific set of agreed criteria.

Year 5 pupils learn about the origins of democracy through their studies of Ancient Greece.

Our pupils recognise their right to positive social interaction and we have several strategies to promote positive playtimes.

Our Bully Busters support the play and social interaction of the younger pupils, providing a wide range of activities each day.

Regular prayerful opportunities allow children to opt to spend lunchtime at prayer in our school chapel or Prayer Garden.

There are also a range of additional weekly clubs that form 'St Bernadette's University' which are run at lunchtime and after school that pupils can sign up to join eg football, English, handmade earrings, athletics, homework club, choir, drama, musical theatre, recorder, xylophone, dance, science, French, running, hand signing, art, coding, engineering, creative writing, gardening and cooking club, games clubs etc.

Pupils and/or parents were consulted and all members of staff were invited to contribute to our behaviour policy and procedures; the Catholic Self Evaluation Document (CSED), our RSHE policy; our approach to end of year reports to parents and developing of our wider curriculum, including increasing representation for our diverse community.

Regular parental, staff and pupil surveys inform the school's self-evaluation process.

The Rule of Law

Our pupils appreciate that the laws of our country and our school rules protect them and others and are essential for their wellbeing and safety.

The importance of laws, whether they are those that govern the class, school or country, are consistently reinforced at St Bernadette's.

Pupils are taught specific rules from an early age – our four key school rules; God's rules, with specific reference to the key commandments – Love God and Love one another. Children are taught the values and reasons behind the rules and laws. They learn that rules govern and protect us and all members of the community. They are taught about the rights that these rules provide alongside the respective responsibilities they entail. Visits from the police, fire service, national rail safety officers, and NSPCC leaders help to reinforce this message.

If a child exhibits inappropriate behaviour which contravenes the school rules, they are required to complete a "What Would Jesus Do?" form which entails restorative reflection on the rule they have broken, what the Gospels reveal Jesus would do in such circumstances and what they would do next time.

If a child's behaviour has impacted on others or on the school environment, they are required to carry out restorative practices through "Community Task Force" which may entail activities such as litter picking, supporting younger children etc.

Positive contributions to our school community are openly rewarded – eg Ambassadors are identified each year through a formal ceremony for living our school mission; house points are rewarded for academic and behavioural achievements; notes home are awarded regularly and pupils who demonstrate our Christian Values are presented with Bernadette Beads; Y5 & 6 pupils earn 'money' for effort and behaviour which they can save to buy rewards. A weekly celebration of pupils from each year group who have been observed to provide positive role models takes place and the nominated pupils share a special lunch with a member of SLT. Celebration assemblies take place each week and praise and encouragement are used liberally to reinforce positive contributions.

Individual Liberty

At St Bernadette's, our pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school, we educate and provide boundaries for our pupils to make informed choices, through a safe setting and empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise them safely through RSHE lessons, Values lessons and E-Safety lessons.

Our children are encouraged to recognise that the choices they make regarding their own behaviours impact on other people. They are encouraged to make positive choices that impact positively on others. When pupils are observed or reported to be living by our school values, they are rewarded with a "Bernadette Bead" which is placed in a special vase at the Values Display near our school entrance. Certificates are awarded to pupils who amass specific numbers of beads.

Positive, healthy living and healthy, safe relationships are promoted and modelled to our pupils through positive role modelling and through our Science, Virtues, RE and RSHE curricula. Our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs), Learning Mentor and Inclusion Manager work diligently with pupils, families and external professionals and

organisations to ensure that we support the wellbeing of any vulnerable pupils in our care.

Our pupils are taught a healthy attitude towards money and recognise their right to grow into independent adults who can earn a living and contribute positively to the economy of their country. They learn about savings, price increases and reductions and problem-solving involving money and debt. Through the maths and STEAM curriculum; on-going charity fundraising which focuses on how money is spent and during our annual Careers Fair, pupils learn about inequality across society and the world and their responsibility as citizens of God's world to work for equality. Our Gardening Clubs grow and sell their own vegetables and herbs. Our Year 5 and 6 pupils earn 'money' through positive work, behaviour and carrying out their specific classroom responsibilities. They are able to spend this earned 'money' to buy real items and entry to events.

Our pupils are not afraid to speak up for what they believe in. They know they will be listened to and respected even if others have a differing opinion. The courage to speak out is fostered through regular circle times, talk partner work, regular debates through curriculum work and our annual speech cup in addition to our whole-school focus on promoting oracy.

Mutual Respect

Mutual respect is one of our core school values. Our children learn from the earliest ages, that their actions impact upon others, affecting their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community treat each other with respect; all staff and volunteers sign a Code of Practice on an annual basis and our children and parents/carers sign an annual home-school agreement. All of our four school rules tie into respect for others (see above). We are now focusing on Catholic Social Teaching Principles on a half termly basis. The children are introduced to the principles in a whole school assembly and then follow-up sessions are delivered in class.

Charitable living forms a crucial part of life at St Bernadette's and this also feeds into promoting respect, compassion and empathy. In addition to the fundraising work carried out by all of our pupils, we also support the local foodbank by both providing regular food parcels and by arranging for our older pupils to spend the day working for this vital local charity. Our pupils also make regular visits to the local care home and dementia club which have been very well received. We also run our own Community Store to support the vulnerable within our own school community.

Respect for our environment (God's Creation) is very much encouraged through attendance at Forest School, our Eco Mini Vinnies Team, Junior Park Ranger presentations and competitions, Gardening Clubs, Community Task Force and monitoring of our electrical production from our solar panels and LED lighting. Our unrelenting focus on *'Living Simply'* in answer to Pope Francis' call reinforces this message. Our children were delighted that we were the first school in the Northampton Diocese to be awarded the *LiveSimply* Award and we are now

recognised as a Champion School for the Diocese in the area of mission and service. We have recently launched the Ministerium Award, which was created and planned jointly with SLT members from St. Paul's, where our children are given the opportunity to achieve bronze, silver and gold awards in the areas of theology, prayer and service. Many children have signed up for this and working through the awards.

Reconciliation is an important aspect of our values driven curriculum. We have an annual penitential service during Lent and also study the value of "forgiveness". Irrespective of their own faith background, all pupils are encouraged to view Jesus as the perfect example of how to live a life of respect, forgiveness, love, compassion, tolerance and service to others – values which are both *Christian* and *British* values.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

St Bernadette's is a culturally diverse school with over 45 languages represented. Whilst we are a faith school, many of our pupils are not Catholic and a small number are of other faiths. Every pupil in our school is valued as an important member of our school community.

Our school mission statement reinforces the requirement to love and serve others and our RE, Virtues and cross-curricular links reinforce the message of tolerance and respect for others. Our RE curriculum introduces pupils to the faiths of Islam, Judaism and Hinduism in addition to our focus on Catholicism. We visit other places of worship and invite representatives of other faiths to present assemblies and support class-based learning. Members of our staff also represent other faith groups and add a richness and authenticity to our studies of other religions. Our RE curriculum, coupled with our Christian Values introduce pupils to consider and discuss a wide range of ethics, morals and live lives of empathy, compassion and tolerance.

Many of the topics we cover through our broad and balanced curriculum encourage pupils to recognise injustice in the world and to draw inspiration from people who have taken steps to address inequality and discrimination. For example, Y2 pupils learn about the NHS, Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale. Our pupils learn about both World Wars, remembrance and the legacy of these wars. Y4 learn about rainforests and deforestation; Y5 look at democracy and the role of women, Y6 learn about issues around inequality in access to clean water and related diseases and learn about the lives and achievements of Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela.

Through our wider 'Our World' curriculum; our Christian ethos, clear behaviour policy, E-Safety sessions and work on anti-bullying, our children are expected to live as responsible members of society and to identify and report any examples of inequality or discrimination they encounter. They know that verbal or physical aggression, behaviour of homophobic, racist or gender biased nature or any other form of discrimination will be dealt with very seriously and tackled directly by the school's Senior Leadership Team. The new whole school RSHE programme, Life to the Full, includes a session for Year 6 children where they explore the concepts of fairness, bullying, prejudice and discrimination, with reference to the protected

characteristics as determined by the Equality Act 2010. Through activities and discussion, pupils will consider what bullying, prejudice and discrimination are, who they affect, how they might make people feel and what pupils can do about it: all within the Christian belief that everyone is made in the image and likeness of God, is loved unconditionally by Him, has equal dignity and is deserving of equal respect.

Roles & Responsibilities

The Governors and staff at St Bernadette's will:

• Ensure that fundamental British values are embedded as an integral part of the ethos and culture of our school

• Challenge opinions or behaviours in school of students, staff, visitors, volunteers or parents that are contrary to fundamental British values, including extremist views

• Ensure that the rich and varied cultural heritage of our pupils is celebrated and recognised as a strength and quality of the school

• Ensure that our students understand that the freedom to choose and hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law

• Ensure that our pupils develop a tolerance and understanding of different faiths, cultures and beliefs by visiting places of worship, inviting visiting speakers to the school and using teaching resources from a wide variety of sources to help pupils understand a range of faiths

• Enable our students to develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to our local community and life in modern Britain

• Ensure an understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination, extremism and radicalisation

• Ensure that there are effective Child Protection and Safeguarding policy procedures in place to safeguard and promote students' welfare against the threat of extremism and radicalisation

This policy is reviewed annually in June.