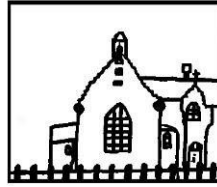


**Kirkby la Thorpe
Church of England Primary Academy**

Building a Hopeful Future through Kindness, Learning and Trust

Policy Title	Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Policy
Governance Function Area	Academic Performance
Date reviewed/amended	January 2026
Date for next review and frequency	January 2028 Biennially



Kirkby la Thorpe
Church of England Primary Academy

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Policy

Vision

Building a Hopeful Future through Kindness, Learning and Trust

At Kirkby la Thorpe, we strive to ensure that each person is empowered to flourish and contribute positively to society. We seek to equip our pupils with the knowledge, skills and qualities necessary to navigate the complexities of our world, rooting this in Christian love.

We are inspired by the life of St Thomas in all that we do so that we can:

Be Positive and Active Citizens: We strive for our pupils to communicate clearly, embracing tolerance and respect for the diverse beliefs and aspirations of others.

Be Curious and Independent Members of Society: We encourage curiosity and a thirst for knowledge, instilling a longing for justice and an empathy for those in need.

Have Confidence and Perseverance: Through trusting each other, we empower everyone to embrace challenges with confidence and perseverance, striving to achieve their full potential in all aspects of life so that they can be the best that they can be.

Have the Courage to Respectfully Challenge: We foster an environment where respectful dialogue and critical thinking are encouraged, empowering pupils to voice their opinions with courage and integrity so they can build a better future.

Know their heritage: We cultivate an appreciation for both local and national heritage, helping pupils understand their roots and identity within the broader context of history so that they have a sense of where they are from.

Values

We are on this journey together and our Christian values of **Kindness, Learning** and **Trust** support us as we travel.

St Thomas was one of Jesus' disciples. He encouraged others to follow Jesus on his journey (John 11.16), showing **confidence** and **trust**. He also has the **courage** to challenge his friends when they tell him that Jesus has resurrected from the dead; he does not take their words on face value, but asks questions with **curiosity** (John 20.24-29). Thomas was an important member of the early

church, taking Jesus' good news for a **hopeful future** to people around the world. According to traditional accounts he travelled to India, **building** Christian communities across the region. This is a journey that would have required great **perseverance**. This matters to us because we consider the ancient global **heritage** of the Christian faith to be an important part of our own identity as a church school. St Thomas inspires us to **learn** from past and current events to build a more hopeful future.

Vison and Values Alignment

The SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural) policy at Kirkby la Thorpe CE Primary Academy is deeply rooted in its vision and values, aiming to foster a nurturing environment where students can develop holistically. Emphasising spiritual development, the school encourages reflection on beliefs and values through daily worship, assemblies, and themed activities. Moral development is promoted through teaching right from wrong, ethical awareness, and fostering empathy, supported by the PSHE curriculum and community engagement.

Social development is nurtured by promoting diversity, teamwork, and engagement with British values like democracy and respect for others. Activities such as playground leadership, school councils, and community visits enhance social skills and citizenship. Cultural development is enriched through celebrating cultural events, language lessons, and exposure to diverse perspectives, fostering appreciation for different heritages and traditions.

Overall, these efforts align closely with the school's vision of promoting kindness, learning, and trust, ensuring that students are well-prepared to contribute positively to society and embrace the complexities of the modern world.

1. Purpose

At Kirkby la Thorpe CE Primary Academy we recognise that the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development plays a significant part in their ability to learn and achieve.

The aims of this policy are to:

- to ensure that everyone involved in the life of the school shares its values and principles;
- to ensure a consistent approach to the delivery of SMSC issues based in a context that is meaningful and appropriate to all children;
- to ensure the whole school community shares and actively promotes the school expectations;
- to give each pupil a range of opportunities to reflect upon and discuss their beliefs, feelings and responses to personal experiences;
- to enable pupils to develop an understanding of their individual and group identity;

- to enable pupils to develop an awareness of their social and cultural environment, and the many cultures that enrich our society, to prepare them for life in modern Britain;
- to give each pupil the opportunity to explore social and moral issues and to develop a sense of responsibility;
- to experience practices, customs, art, music and literature from a variety of cultures; and
- to enable children to become open minded and empathetic to the needs and beliefs of others.

2. Scope

This policy should be read alongside the following policies:

- Safeguarding;
- Teaching and Learning;
- subject policies;
- SEND;
- RE; and
- Collective worship.

3. Policy

At Kirkby la Thorpe CE Primary Academy, we define spiritual, moral, social and cultural development in the respective ways, outlining the opportunities we offer to our pupils for each area. As a school we recognise that these areas are intricately linked and use this to strengthen our children's knowledge and understanding.

Spiritual Development of pupils is shown by their:

- ability to be reflective about their own beliefs, religious or otherwise, that inform their perspective on life and their interest in and respect for different people's faiths, feelings and values;
- sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them;
- use of imagination and creativity in their learning; and
- willingness to reflect on their experiences.

At Kirkby la Thorpe CE Primary Academy we promote spiritual development through:

- daily collective worship and special assemblies for events;
- class and celebration assemblies;
- Harvest Festival, Carol Service, Christmas performances, and Easter Festival;
- whole worship at St Denys Church;
- termly school trips and visitors to inspire and excite;

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- themed days and weeks; • RE curriculum; and
- PSHE Curriculum.

Moral Development of pupils is shown by their:

ability to recognise the difference between right and wrong, readily apply this understanding in their own lives and, in so doing, respect the civil and criminal law of England;

- understanding of the consequences of their behaviour and actions; and
- investigating and offering reasoned views about moral and ethical issues, and being able to understand and appreciate the viewpoints of others on these issues.

At Kirkby la Thorpe CE Primary Academy we promote moral development through:

- PSHE curriculum and circle time;
- School values of 'kindness, learning and trust';
- School policies and procedures, such as Behaviour and Discipline and Anti-bullying;
- Assemblies, such as weekly 'Picture News';
- ELSA sessions;
- Identifying and supporting three charities each year, local, national and international; and
- being an Eco School.

Social Development of pupils is shown by their:

- use of a range of social skills in different contexts, including working and socialising with pupils from different religious, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds;
- willingness to participate in a variety of communities and social settings, including by volunteering, cooperating well with others and being able to resolve conflicts effectively; and
- acceptance and engagement with the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs; the pupils develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.

At Kirkby la Thorpe CE Primary Academy we promote social development through: • school values of 'kindness, learning and tolerance';

- school vision;
- PSHE curriculum and circle time;
- Year 5 Peer Mediators;
- Playground Leaders;
- School Council;
- Sports Crew;
- ELSA sessions;
- sports day;
- termly school trips, including the annual whole school visit to the pantomime;

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- lunchtime and after school clubs;
- Carre's sporting Friday festivals;
- participating in the 'collaborative choir' with our cluster schools; and
- visiting the nursing home in the neighbouring village.

Cultural Development of pupils is shown by their:

- understanding and appreciation of the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their own heritage and that of others in an age appropriate way;
understanding and appreciation of the range of different cultures within school and further afield as an essential element of their preparation for life in modern Britain;
- knowledge of Britain's democratic parliamentary system and its central role in shaping our history and values, and in continuing to develop Britain in an age appropriate way;
- willingness to participate in and respond positively to artistic, sporting and cultural opportunities;
- interest in exploring, improving understanding of and showing respect for different faiths and cultural diversity, and the extent to which they understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity, as shown by their tolerance and attitudes towards different religious, ethnic and socio-economic groups in the local, national and global communities.

At Kirkby la Thorpe CE Primary Academy we promote cultural development through:

- celebrating events e.g. Chinese New Year, Advent;
- mandarin lessons in Years 3 and 4;
- curriculum themed days designed to inspire, excite and inform the children for their upcoming topic;
- sharing children's own personal experiences; • visits and visitors.

4. References

- Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools 2014 • PSHE Association