

Fairfield First School

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

Spiritual Development

We promote the children's spiritual development by encouraging our pupils to be reflective about their own beliefs, religious or otherwise, as these beliefs will inform their perspective on life. We help our children to develop an interest and a respect for different people's faiths, feelings and values. We try to provide our children with a sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them by giving them plentiful opportunities to use their imagination and creativity in their learning. We also encourage them to reflect on their experiences and help them to understand why this is so important.

Moral Development

We promote the children's moral development by helping them to recognise the difference between right and wrong and to readily apply this understanding in their own lives. We help our children to recognise rules and boundaries and understand why they are necessary. Our children learn that behaviour and actions have consequences – either positive or negative – and, as a result, they learn to respect the civil and criminal law of England. The behaviour management system of "Zone Boards," that we employ, encourages children to reflect upon their behaviour and to make improved choices about the way they behave in future. We also provide our children with opportunities to investigate and offer reasoned views about moral and ethical issues in an environment where all views are listened to and appreciated. Children are encouraged to offer their own views and to understand and appreciate the views of others.

Social Development

We promote the children's social development by helping them to use a range of social skills in different contexts. Our children are provided with opportunities to work and socialise with other children, including those from different religious, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds. We have very strong partnerships, which provide opportunities for our children to meet and socialise with children from other local schools at sporting events, gifted and talented workshops and transition days throughout the year. In addition, our children get to communicate, where possible, with children from our partnership Schools. Our children also participate in a variety of communities and social settings and they learn to cooperate well with others and understand why this is so important. They are also guided to resolve conflicts effectively. The children's social development is also promoted through their acceptance and engagement with the fundamental British values, detailed above, and through the development of the skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully and contribute positively to life in Modern Britain.

Cultural Development

We promote the children's cultural development by helping them to understand and appreciate the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their own heritage and those of others. We

help them to understand and appreciate the range of different cultures within school and further afield in order to prepare our children for life in modern Britain. Through the curriculum and through our Assemblies, the children learn about Britain's democratic parliamentary system and its central role in shaping our history and values, and in continuing to develop Britain. Our children also participate in and respond to artistic, musical, sporting and cultural opportunities. Throughout the curriculum, we develop the children's interest in exploring, improving understanding of and showing respect for different faiths and cultural diversity. We explore the extent to which they understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity by encouraging them to question their tolerance and attitudes towards different religious, ethnic and socio-economic groups in the local, national and global communities.

Developing the Character of our Pupils

We very much value the development of certain "characteristics" in our children. We work extremely hard to:

- Raise their self-confidence, self-worth and self-efficacy
- Encourage them to become more independent
- Develop their communication skills
- Improve their ability to work collaboratively
- Help them to become more resilient and to not fear failure
- Help them to become good "thinkers" and "problem-solvers"
- Help them to understand and manage risk

By developing these characteristics in our children, we develop their ability to learn and to thrive, both in the next stage of their education and in the modern, rapidly changing world that we live in today. The development of such characteristics in our children is achieved by using a range of approaches such as those outlined below:

- A high proportion of learning takes place outside the classroom
- Providing a wide range of interesting, hands-on, practical activities (indoors and out) that engages children's enthusiasm and ensures that they are purposefully involved in learning
- Providing a curriculum that is wide-ranging and exciting and generates great interest and high levels of involvement from pupils
- An excellent variety of clubs and visits that extend pupils' enjoyment and learning
- Helping pupils to form very positive relationships with each other and with staff
- Providing a wide range of sport and exercise within the curriculum and after school
- Providing opportunities for children to develop their interest and skills in art and music
- Providing opportunities for children to share their achievements, both inside and outside School, with their peers and their teachers (eg. Achievement Assemblies / Displays)
- Providing plentiful opportunities for our pupils to take responsibility for their own learning (eg. through independent project work)
- Providing plentiful opportunities for children to develop their thinking skills and to solve problems, without the fear of making mistakes
- Helping children to understand that mistakes are part of the process of learning
- Helping children to understand and manage risk appropriately (eg. through Forest School)
- Providing a residential visit that develops our children's personal and organisational skills as well as their ability to cooperate and collaborate with others