



St Edward's
Church of England
Academy

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Guidance Policy

Approved by Trustees:
Last reviewed in: December 2022
Next review due by: December 2023
Non Statutory Policy

RECOGNISE • ENCOURAGE • STRIVE • PREPARE • EMPATHISE • CHRISTIAN • TEAMWORK



St Edward's Church of England Academy

Contents

The Vision for Education within a Church of England Academy	3
St Edward's Church of England Ethos and Values.....	4
Aims of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Developments	5
Responsibility for the policy and procedure	6
Spiritual development	7
Moral development	8
Social development	8
Cultural development	9
Organisation	9
Raising Awareness	10
Training	10
Appendix	11



St Edward's
Church of England
Academy

THE VISION FOR EDUCATION WITHIN A CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

There are fundamental reasons, rooted in the Bible, which have motivated centuries of Christian involvement in schooling in this country and around the world. The God of all creation is concerned with everything related to education.

There is a fresh articulation of the Church of England's vision for education as we meet the challenges and take the opportunities offered by the present situation. The vision is not simply for Church schools but, recognising the Church's involvement in education over many centuries, the Church of England seeks to promote educational excellence everywhere, for everyone. In Church schools like St Edward's Church of England Academy, the deeply Christian foundation for this vision will be seen explicitly in teaching and learning both in RE and across the curriculum, and also in the authentically Christian worship and ethos. The Church's vision for education can be expressed and promoted as one of human flourishing that inspires what the school is and does.

The vision is deeply Christian with the promise by Jesus of 'life in all its fullness' at its heart. This vision embraces the spiritual, physical, intellectual, emotional, moral and social development of children and young people. We offer a vision of human flourishing for all, one that embraces excellence and academic rigour, within a wider framework. This is worked out theologically and educationally through four basic elements which permeate our vision for education:

- Wisdom
- Hope
- Community
- Dignity

The vision, in line with the Church of England's role as the established Church, is for the common good of the whole community and its environment, whether national, regional or local. It is hospitable to diversity, respects freedom of religion and belief, and encourages others to contribute from the depths of their own traditions and understandings. It invites collaboration, alliances, negotiation of differences, and the forming of new settlements in order to serve the flourishing of a healthily plural society and democracy, together with a healthily plural educational system.



St Edward's
Church of England
Academy

ST EDWARD'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY VISION, ETHOS AND VALUES

The Vision for Education at our Academy

At St Edward's Church of England Academy, we are commissioned to celebrate and support the talents and potential of all in our community (Matthew 28: 18-12). In our Academy, we are all journeying together in order to learn through faith, grow through hope and achieve through love (Corinthians 13:13), allowing all to live life in all its fullness (John 10:10).

We are an avowedly inclusive community where all are welcomed, supported and celebrated for all they are and for all they do. Our Academy is a place of and a space for flourishing and fulfilment because here...

...we are 10:10 people.

The ethos and values of St Edward's Church of England Academy are based on the teachings of Jesus Christ and underpin everything that we are and everything that we do, which is encompassed in the word '**RESPECT**'.

Each letter links to the Academy motto – *Learn for Life*.

'Learn for Life'

- Recognise and Encourage everyone's potential, individual skills and talents
- Strive to be the best we can be
- Prepare for the challenges of life
- Empathise – promoting the values of respect, kindness, compassion, fairness, forgiveness, love, honesty and trust
- Christian – a community where we learn from the teachings of Jesus so that we can contribute to the family of St Edward's and beyond
- Teamwork – an environment where we work together so we can all achieve our potential



St Edward's
Church of England
Academy

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Guidance

At St Edward's Church of England Academy, we consider the pupil, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development to be the centre of our school ethos and responsibility of the whole curriculum.

We strive to provide and maintain for our pupils an education that provides opportunities so that they can 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.

We believe spiritual, moral social and cultural development is promoted through the school ethos, the climate of the school, collective worship, all curriculum areas, behaviour code, extra-curriculum and other activities.

We as a school community have a commitment to promote equality in line with the Equality Act 2010 (see appendix)

Aims of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Developments

- To encourage pupils to develop their own beliefs and values about life and religion
- To promote an appreciation of alternative individual and shared beliefs
- To develop appropriate personal and social behaviour in response to other cultures and environments
- To develop an awareness of oneself in terms of thoughts, feelings, emotions, responsibilities and experiences and the development of self-respect
- To recognize and value the worth of all individuals irrespective of gender, ethnicity, sexuality or religion thus developing a sense of community and the ability to build relationships with others
- To promote curiosity in order to make sense of the world
- To live out our RESPECT ethos specifically:



St Edward's Church of England Academy

- **Recognising** that all in our Academy are valued and loved because they are made “Imago Dei” (Genesis 1:27)
- **Encourage** - everyone’s potential, individual skills and talents (1 Peter 4:10)
- **Strive** to be the best we can be (Philippians 4:13)
- **Prepare** for the challenges of life (Luke 1:37)
- **Empathise** - promoting the values of respect, kindness, compassion, fairness, forgiveness, love, honesty and trust (Ephesians 4:2)
- **Christian** – a community where we learn from the teachings of Jesus so that we can contribute to the family of St Edward’s and beyond (John 3:16)
- **Teamwork** – an environment where we work together so we can all achieve our potential and transform (Romans 12:4-8)

Responsibility for the policy and procedure

The trustee body has:

- Delegated powers and responsibilities to the Principal to ensure all school personnel and stakeholders are aware of and comply with this policy
- Responsibility for ensuring that the Academy complies with all equalities regulations
- Responsibility for ensuring this policy and all policies are maintained and updated regularly
- Responsibility for ensuring all policies are made available to parents
- Responsibility of involving the School Council in the development, approval, implementation and review of this policy
- Responsibility for the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this policy

Role of the Principal

The Principal will:

- Ensure all Academy personnel, pupils and parents are aware of and comply with this policy
- Work closely, with the link trustee and coordinator for SMSC
- Provide leadership and vision in respect of equality
- Provide guidance, support and training to all staff
- Monitor the effectiveness of this policy
- Annually report to the Trustee Body on the success and development of this policy



St Edward's Church of England Academy

Role of the coordinator for SMSC

The coordinator for SMSC will:

- Lead the development of this policy throughout the school
- Work closely with the Principal and link trustee
- Provide guidance and support to all staff
- Provide training for all staff on induction
- Keep up to date with new developments and resources
- Undertake risk assessment when required
- Review and monitor (SMSC audit)

Spiritual development

We see spiritual development as the way pupils acquire personal beliefs and values, especially on questions about religion, whether life has a purpose, and basic personal and social behaviour.

We try to help pupils make sense of these questions through the curriculum, worship, the school ethos and stilling/mindfulness opportunities within the curriculum. We see spiritual development as an important element of a pupil's education and fundamental to other areas of learning.

We aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Enhance their spiritual awareness through quiet/reflection spaces
- Experience stilling/mindfulness through the curriculum
- Sustain their self-esteem in their learning experience
- Develop their capacity for critical and independent thought
- Foster their emotional life and express their feelings
- Empathise with others
- Discuss their beliefs, feelings, values and responses to personal experiences
- Form and maintain worthwhile satisfying relationships
- Reflect on, consider and celebrate the wonders and mysteries of life
- To live out RESPECT ethos specifically elements:
- **Empathise** - promoting the values of respect, kindness, compassion, fairness, forgiveness, love, honesty and trust (Ephesians 4:2)



St Edward's Church of England Academy

- **Christian** – a community where we learn from the teachings of Jesus so that we can contribute to the family of St Edward's and beyond (John 3:16)
- **Teamwork** – an environment where we work together so we can all achieve our potential and transform (Romans 12:4-8)

Moral development

We believe that pupil's moral development involves:

- Acquiring an understanding of the difference between right and wrong and a moral conflict
- A concern for others and the will to do what is right
- Reflecting on the consequences of their actions
- Learning how to forgive themselves and others
- Developing knowledge, skills, understanding, qualities and attitudes in order for them to make responsible moral decisions and to act on them

We aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Tell the truth
- Keep promises
- Respect the rights and property of others
- Act with consideration towards others
- Help those less fortunate than themselves
- Take personal responsibility for their actions
- Have self-discipline
- And be able to: **Empathise** - promoting the values of respect, kindness, compassion, fairness, forgiveness, love, honesty and trust (Ephesians 4:2)

Social development

We believe social development is concerned with the skills and personal qualities necessary for individuals to live and function effectively in society.

We aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Develop an understanding of their individual and group identity
- Learn about service in the school and wider community
- Begin to understand social justice and a concern for the disadvantaged



St Edward's Church of England Academy

Cultural development

We believe pupil's cultural development involves pupils acquiring:

- An understanding of cultural traditions
- And an ability to respond to a variety of aesthetic experiences

We want our pupils to acquire:

- A respect for their own culture and that of others
- An interest in others' ways of doing things and a curiosity about differences

We want our pupils to develop:

- Knowledge, skills, understanding, qualities and attitudes that they need to understand, appreciate and contribute to culture

We aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Recognise the value and richness of cultural diversity in Britain, and how these influence individuals and society
- Develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment

Organisation

We believe spiritual, moral, social and cultural development takes place across all curriculum areas and within activities that provide opportunities to allow pupils to:

- Talk about personal experiences and feelings
- Express and clarify their own ideas and beliefs
- Speak about difficult events
- Share thoughts and feeling with other people
- Explore relationships with friends, family and others
- Consider others needs and behaviour
- Show empathy
- Develop self-esteem and respect for others
- Develop a sense of belonging
- Develop the skills and attributes that enable them to develop socially, morally, spiritually and culturally



St Edward's Church of England Academy

Role of Academy personnel

Academy personnel will:

- Comply with all aspect of this policy
- Implement the school's equalities policy and schemes
- Report and deal with incidents of discrimination
- Attend appropriate training sessions on equality
- Report any concerns they have on any aspect of the Academy community

Role of the pupil

Pupils will:

- Be aware of and comply with this policy
- Listen carefully to all instructions given by the teacher
- Ask for further help if they do not understand
- Treat others, their work and equipment with respect
- Support the Academy's Code of Conduct and guidance necessary to ensure the smooth running of the Academy
- Liaise with the Academy's council
- Take part in questionnaires and surveys

Raising awareness

This will be achieved through:

- The prospectus
- The Academy website
- Academy events
- Meeting with Academy personnel
- Communications with home
- Acts of collective worship
- Extra-curricular activities

Training

We ensure all school personnel have equal chances of training, career development and promotion.



St Edward's Church of England Academy

Periodic training will be organised for all school personnel so that they are kept up to date with new information and guide lines concerning equal opportunities.

Role of parent/carers

Parents/carers will:

- Be aware of and comply with this policy
- Be ask to take part in periodic surveys conducted by the Academy

Monitoring the effective of the policy

The practical application of this policy will be reviewed annually or when the need arises by the Principal /coordinator of SMSC/Trustee.

Approved and signed off by

Principal

Chair of Trustees



Appendix

Equality Act 2010

Under the Equality Act 2010 we have a duty not to discriminate against people on the basis of their age, disability, gender identity, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

This policy has been equality impact assessed and we believe that it is in line with the Equality Act 2010 as it is fair, it does not prioritise or disadvantage any student and it helps to promote equality at this school.

Ofsted

“Inspectors’ will make a judgement on the personal development, behaviour and welfare of children and learners by evaluating the extent to which the provision is successfully promoting and supporting children’s and other learners” August 2015

- Pride in achievement and commitment to learning, supported by a positive culture across the whole provider.
- Self-confidence, self-awareness and understanding of how to be a successful learner
- Choices about their next stage of their education, employment, self-employment or training, where relevant, from impartial careers advice and guidance.
- Where relevant, employability skills so that they are well prepared for the next stage of their education, employment, self-employment or training.
- Prompt and regular attendance
- Following of any guidelines for behaviour and conduct, including management of their own feelings and behaviour, and how they relate to others.
- Understanding of how to keep themselves safe from relevant risks such as abuse, sexual exploitation and extremism, including when using the internet and social media.
- Knowledge of how to keep themselves healthy, both emotionally and physically, including through exercise and healthy eating.
- Personal development, so that they are well prepared to respect others and contribute to wider society and life of Britain.



St Edward's
Church of England
Academy

There needs to be a whole school approach to personal development, behaviour and welfare.

SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools)

All church schools will have a SIAMS inspection. SMSC comes under Core Question 1: Christian Character which states,

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

- The breadth of experiences available to all learners through curricular and extra-curricular activities.
- How well the school offers opportunities for learners to reflect on and respond to beliefs, values and profound human experiences from a range of faith perspectives.
- The extent to which the opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development are characterized by distinctively Christian values.
- How well daily collective worship, religious education and other aspects of the curriculum enable learners to make informed choices which are based on Christian values i.e.; the extent to which the school operates as a distinctively Christian community.

SIAMS Evaluation Schedule September 2018

The full link for the SIAMS evaluation schedule is:

https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/201804/SIAMS%20Evaluation%20Schedule%202018_0.pdf