



## St Catherine's Catholic Primary School

Vale Drive, Barnet, Hertfordshire, EN5 2ED

Telephone 020 8440 4946

Fax 020 8441 4346

4<sup>th</sup> February 2015

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you have had the opportunity to visit the SMSC Gridmaker on our website.

[www.gridmaker.net/scb](http://www.gridmaker.net/scb)

username: scb-guest

Below is a summary of what Spiritual, Moral, Social and Moral development means for our children.

### **Spiritual Development**

Children participate in Religious Education where they explore their own religious and spiritual identities, as well as those of their classmates. We invite our parish priests, Father Mark and Father John to our school to support children's learning and children participate in visits to places of worship.

We celebrate significant experiences such as birthdays and festivals and ensure that children have the opportunity to feel special and valued. Families are invited to share important moments with us.

We create opportunities where children can develop awareness of the world and its capacity to inspire awe and wonder. We use the 'Cornerstones Curriculum' which comprises of imaginative learning projects that are creative, flexible, thematic, inspiring and engaging. We encourage children to use imagination and creativity in their learning.

We plan times for children to take part in opportunities to be quiet and reflective. We give them space for their own thoughts, ideas and concerns.

### **Moral Development**

We encourage children to respond appropriately to the needs and feelings of others and to show consideration and kindness to others. We create opportunities for children to learn from people who are excellent models of positive behaviour.

We teach children to communicate in ways that will enable them to form positive relationships and enjoy participating in school and community life.

We give children opportunities across the curriculum to explore and develop moral concepts and values – for example, personal rights and responsibilities, truth, justice, equality of opportunity, right and wrong. We also provide models of moral virtue through literature, humanities, sciences, arts, assemblies and acts of worship.

We want them to recognise the difference between right and wrong, and respect the civil and criminal law of England.

### **Social Development**

We provide a range of activities which develop children's social skills and understanding, like how to care for people, living things, property and the environment. We teach children to work cooperatively as a member of a group or team, taking turns and sharing within a range of social contexts.

We create opportunities for children to develop positive relationships with peers and adults, including those who have different needs. We teach children to help and support others and to experience being helped by others.

We teach a range of social skills in different contexts, including working and socialising with pupils from different religious, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds, and with a range of needs and abilities.

## **Cultural Development**

We celebrate each other's cultural identities and teach children to value their own cultural heritage and develop a positive, personal identity, and to show respect for other people's values and beliefs. We want our children to demonstrate an understanding of the range of different cultures within the school "and further afield" as preparation for life in modern Britain.

We encourage children to participate in, and respond positively to a range of artistic, musical, sporting, mathematical, technological, scientific and cultural opportunities.

We provide opportunities for children to experience and respond positively to the languages, food, music, artefacts and cultural practices of different and diverse communities.

We encourage children to show an interest in exploring cultural diversity and show positive responses towards different religions, ethnic and socio-economic groups in the local, national and global communities. We celebrate our cultural diversity every month at our Friday Coffee Mornings.

## **Teaching and Organisation**

Development in SMSC takes place across all curriculum areas, within activities that encourage pupils to recognise the spiritual dimension of their learning, reflect on the significance of what they are learning, and to recognise any challenges that there may be to their own attitude and lifestyle.

Class discussions and circle time will give pupils opportunities to:

- Talk about personal experiences and feelings.
- Express and clarify own ideas and beliefs.
- Speak about difficult events, eg bullying, death etc.
- Share thoughts and feelings with other people.
- Explore relationships with friends/family/others.
- Consider others' needs and behaviour.
- Show empathy.
- Develop self-esteem and a respect for others.
- Develop a sense of belonging.
- Develop the skills and attitudes that enable pupils to develop socially, morally, spiritually and culturally — eg empathy, respect, open mindedness, sensitivity, critical awareness

We welcome your feedback and any suggestions on how we can improve SMSC education for our children. Please find time to complete the questionnaire. Please email or return the completed form to the main office for the attention of Mrs Ainger.

Thank you for your continued support

Mrs M Ainger

## Parental Questionnaire February 2015

### SMSC- Social, Moral, Spiritual, Cultural (SMSC) development of our children

	Agree	Disagree	Unable to comment	Comments
The school makes me feel welcome at prayer services, celebration assemblies learning events (e.g. E-Safety meeting/ workshops – IMPACT Meetings/ Maths/ Phonics.				
The school staff listen to my views and take account of my suggestions and concerns. e.g. Parent Partnership				
I am happy with the values and attitudes this school promotes.				
The school promotes social, moral, spiritual and cultural education. (see covering explanation)				
The school makes links with the local community e.g. our parishes, external agencies/ speakers, visits from police/ fire, performances in the community.				
The school promotes spirituality through valuing the uniqueness of my child.				
The school supports and includes <b>ALL</b> children.				
My child is given opportunities to take responsibility in the classroom (monitors) or in another way such as RSA steering group, school council, playground leader, house captains, reading buddy etc.				
The school values wider learning opportunities through the provision of clubs and enrichment activities.				

*We welcome any further comments on how we can improve SMSC education for our children. Thank you for taking the time to complete the form. Mrs Ainger*