

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development at Mill Rythe Junior School

The 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
- willingness to reflect on their experiences.

At Mill Rythe Junior School we promote children's spiritual development by:

- Ensuring all children have daily reflection time in whole-school assemblies.
- Following the locally approved Religious Education Curriculum which covers a range of concepts for children to reflect on and engage with as well as thinking about these concepts in the context of major world religions.
- Ensuring that different religious festivals are discussed and celebrated in school. Often this is through school assemblies and the RE curriculum.
- Organising a bi-annual 'Faith Day' with workshops led by local religious leaders.
- Ensuring all children in years 4,5 and 6 attend an annual Christmas service in local church.
- Ensuring all children in year 3 take part in an annual Christingle service with other local schools.
- Holding weekly Christian-based assemblies led by local church – 'Open the Book' where children get to experience and discuss bible stories.
- Having an agreed set of school values that the children engage with through class work and school assemblies.
- Providing many opportunities for imagination and creativity in children's learning e.g. Art day, DT Day.
- Having an annual residential trip where children take part in adventurous activities, learn about themselves and develop character.
- Science is used to consider the amazing world in which we live, such as hosting a visiting planetarium and allowing pupils to plan and lead their own scientific investigations.
- Providing a curriculum that helps the children to learn about the world around them both locally and internationally.
- The language of spirituality is taught through the explicit covering of the Learning Values so that the children can have a voice and express themselves.
- A sense of achievement is encouraged through a range of reward systems.
- Learning Behaviours are promoted through the self-assessment of effort and weekly celebration of 'class behaviour bee.'
- Love Days are used so that pupils can participate in new learning experiences and discover how they learn in different contexts.
- Through PSHE we challenge all that would constrain the human spirit e.g lack of confidence, indifference, discrimination and greed.
- Hooks and special days are used to stimulate curiosity and reflection e.g. the Year 5 World War 1 day, Year 6 Greek day etc

The 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
- interest in 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 Mill Rythe Junior School we promote children's moral development by:

- Having a clear code of conduct for behaviour that is understood by all. The system ensures all children develop a clear sense of right and wrong and an understanding that there are consequences for their actions.
- Having a school charter that sets out the behaviour and conduct expected of all children at the school.
- Exploring important moral and ethical issues through the school curriculum e.g. year 6 science unit on sustainability and the environment and RE / PSHE lessons that explore moral issues.
- Having assembly themes regularly linked to key moral issues and dilemmas
- Being involved in fund raising.
- The school council giving pupils the opportunity to express their viewpoints and consider those of others.
- Fair play and sporting behaviour being encouraged through PE and extra-curricular clubs.
- Considering issues surrounding the misuse of information and the access of personal information regarding computing and social media.
- Exploring right and wrong through a range of scenarios in PSHE and consider the consequences of various actions.
- Promoting Anti-bullying through theme weeks and regular assemblies.
- Having chickens as a school pet, children are involved on a rota system in looking after them and understanding how to care for them.
- Giving individual support to children through our ELSA scheme, to reinforce appropriate behaviour and responsibilities for a range of situations.
- Encouraging children to be safe outside of school through themed assemblies e.g. on fireworks, sun safety and trips e.g. year 5 visited Fort Purbrook and took part in a number of workshops.
- Encouraging children to be safe outside of school through school rules such as: children must wear a helmet to cycle to school, and organised activities e.g. Bike ability.

The 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
- 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 Mill Rythe Junior School we promote children's social development by:

- Getting the children to engage with the concept of democracy through annual school council elections.
- A strong emphasis on collaborative work throughout the curriculum and as a particular focus on certain days e.g. DT day and Art day.
- Giving pupils an opportunity to work with children who are different ages and abilities through Love day (children from all year groups come together to learn from each other).
- Having a range of additional responsibilities that children can take on through the school i.e. classroom monitors, chicken monitors, MRJS Rangers and school 'ambassadors.'
- Helping children to learn how to manage conflicts through the PSHE unit, 'Getting on and Falling Out.'
- Encouraging children to work together and take part in whole-school events such as 'Campus Carols', an annual Christmas Service, Harvest Festival and sports days.
- Y3 and Y6 Cheeky Chums scheme, developing strong and lasting relationships.
- Teamwork and loyalty being promoted through an expansive sporting calendar.
- 'Care – the cheeky monkey' being awarded in assemblies, promoting the importance of care in the Mill Rythe Family.
- A 'Citizenship Award' is presented to year 6 pupils who are identified as displaying exemplary manners/acts of kindness, where they have supported and been good role models for others.
- 'Great Citizens' being recognised and their actions celebrated both within school and our wider school family through Instagram. Great Citizens make significant contributions to our school and local community.
- Giving children the opportunity to work with children from the Hayling College through music clubs such as Glee Club.
- Giving children the opportunity to work together and represent the school in sports events and music events such as the Portsmouth Music Festival.
- Giving children the opportunity to sit with pupils of a range of abilities in lessons and discuss ideas through 'talk partners'.
- Giving children the opportunity to express their talent through the annual talent show.

The 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
- 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
- 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 Mill Rythe Junior School we promote children's cultural development by:

- Providing a wide range of sporting, artistic and other cultural opportunities e.g. annual art day and exhibition, annual sports days, weekly swimming and PE lessons, weekly sports coaching sessions and a wide range of extra-curricular sporting opportunities.
- Opportunities to engage with people with a range of disabilities e.g. visits from a para-Olympian and a representative from guide dogs for the blind.
- PSHE units in every year group based on 'celebrating diversity' – It's good to be different.
- Participation in Portsmouth Schools Music Festival.
- Using Love Days for pupils to experience a range of different cultures such as British Sign Language.
- Using Global and local cultural events as a stimulus for learning, for example the Olympics and Remembrance Sunday.
- Reflecting on how cultures are represented in stories and poems such as Year 5's English link to the geography topic, 'Amazon Rainforest' and 'Rivers.'
- Studying historical cultures such as Anglo Saxons, Ancient Egyptians, Ancient Greeks.
- Studying art work of various artists (such as Vincent Van Gogh Andy Goldsworthy) which provides a rich canvas for pupils to draw upon for their own works.
- Learning about historical composers such as Mozart, Bach and Handel during a Love of Music Day.
- Studying religious culture through trips and visits e.g. Faith day, trips to the church.
- DT cooking units exploring the influences of culture on the foods of different countries such as Italy and Pizza making.
- Celebrating Christmas through our annual Christmas lunch.

