

Heart of the Forest Community Special School Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education (SMSC) Policy

Context

Heart of the Forest Community Special School is an all age special school (3-19 years) for pupils with severe, profound and complex learning difficulties. Our school is an accessible, inclusive and integral part of the community. Due to the nature of our provision our catchment area is Gloucestershire wide and cross county. It is a school where diversity is celebrated and strong partnerships built and everybody treated as a unique individual. We are a rural community and therefore we work hard to provide our pupils with opportunities to visit the wider community and to receive visitors to our school. All pupils have statements or EHCPs (Education, Health and Care Plans) or, in rare instances, in the statutory process to receive a plan, and many have medical conditions.

Mission Statement

At Heart of the Forest Community Special School, we recognise that the personal development of pupils spiritually, morally, socially and culturally plays a significant part in their ability to achieve and learn and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experience of adult life.

The four areas can be defined as:

- **Spiritual Development:** is about being reflective about beliefs, values and aspects of human experience, using imagination and creativity and developing a curiosity in learning.
- **Moral development:** relates to recognising right and wrong in school life and outside, understanding consequences, investigating moral and ethical issues and offering reasoned views.
- **Social development:** involves using a range of social skills in different contexts, working well with others, resolving conflicts and understanding how communities work.
- **Cultural development** has to do with responding positively to a range of artistic, sporting and other cultural opportunities and to understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity.

At Heart of the Forest we aim to provide the following:

A stimulating experienced based curriculum that is meaningful, appropriate and relevant, to our pupils enabling them to maintain progress and reach their full potential

A safe and secure learning environment

A consistent approach to the delivery of SMSC development through the curriculum, including our Values Curriculum, and the overall life of the school

Close liaison and working partnerships with parents/carers and other service providers

Adults who are good role models and promote expected behaviour, treating everyone as unique and valuable individuals and show respect for students and their families.

Spiritual

Heart of the Forest Community Special School will provide the opportunities for pupils to:
Use their imagination and creativity in their learning

Gain an understanding of feelings and emotions and their likely impact
Explore beliefs, religious or otherwise and respect for different people's beliefs and values
Experience moments of stillness and reflection
Reflect on, consider and celebrate the wonders and mysteries of life
Develop curiosity in their learning
Foster an enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them
Prepare themselves for the challenges of independent living

Moral

Heart of the Forest Community Special School will provide opportunities for pupils to:
Recognise the unique value of each individual
Listen and respond appropriately to the views of others
Take initiative and act responsibly with consideration for others
Make appropriate and informed decisions and choices
Show respect for the environment
Manage their behaviour
Develop and apply an understanding of right and wrong in their school life and life outside school
Understand the consequence of their actions.

Social

We will provide opportunities for pupils to:
Develop a positive self-image and an awareness of their rights and responsibilities
Learn to be effective communicators (including the use of augmentative systems)
Help others in school and the wider community
Develop personal qualities valued in society e.g. honesty, consideration, independence and self-respect
Exercise leadership and responsibility
Form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships
Take part in a range of activities requiring social skills
Work co-operatively and collaboratively

Cultural

We will provide opportunities for students to:
Recognise the value and richness of cultural diversity in Britain
Develop an understanding of Britain's local, national, European, Commonwealth and global dimensions
Extend their cultural awareness through visits and residential trips
Respond positively to a range of artistic, sporting and other cultural opportunities provided by the school

Where you can find SMSC in Heart of the Forest Community Special School

Opportunities are created for the development of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development through the curriculum in each subject area and in other wider school opportunities through,

The curriculum as a whole
The Religious Education curriculum

The PSHE and Citizenship curriculum
Our values curriculum
Circle Time
Assemblies
Our Behaviour Policy
Structured Reward Systems
Extra-curricular activities
Participation in Level 1 (intra) level 2 (inter) and level 3 school sports activities
Educational Visits
Pupil Voice (The School Council)
Special days (fund raising, cultural experiences and immersion days) and themed weeks.

Policy Reviewed -----

Agreed by *Governors* -----

Review Date -----