

SMSC (Spiritual, moral, social and cultural) update

Review of our provision 2023-2024

Spiritual, Moral, Social, and Cultural (SMSC) Development

At Birchwood Avenue Primary School, we are committed to providing a well-rounded education that nurtures the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development of our diverse pupil community. Our school's vision and values, centred around the principles of Kindness, Respect, and Hard Work, are woven throughout our SMSC provision.

Spiritual Development

- Our pupils engage in regular workshops and assemblies that explore topics such as online safety, diversity, and anti-bullying, helping them develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of the world around them.
- The school provides regular opportunities for pupils to explore their own spirituality through whole-school assemblies and class-based reflection activities.
- Music assemblies and theatre performances expose pupils to a variety of artistic and cultural experiences, broadening their horizons and appreciation for the arts.
- We have reviewed our R.E (Religious Education) scheme of works and made the decision to use Kapow RE. This ensures that our children are not only learning about religions but developing critical thinking skills and 'learning through religion'. There is an increased focus on discussions and exploring their own viewpoints whilst respecting those of their peers. Our RE curriculum is complemented by our assemblies which recognise many religious festivals celebrated by the faiths explored in our RE curriculum.
- The school's choir and music assemblies provide opportunities for pupils to express themselves creatively and connect with their inner selves.
- Participation in theatre performances and sports workshops, including fencing and archery, exposes our pupils to a range of enriching experiences that broaden their horizons.

Moral Development

- Behaviour assemblies and workshops focused on racial discrimination and healthy living encourage our pupils to reflect on their actions and make informed choices that positively impact themselves and their community.
- The school's behaviour policy, which is underpinned by the "Birchwood Triangle" of Kindness, Respect, and Hard Work, provides a clear moral framework for pupils to understand and uphold.
- Behaviour assemblies reinforce the importance of making positive choices and taking responsibility for one's actions

- The school's commitment to safeguarding is evident in our child-friendly safeguarding policies, which incorporate our school's contextual information to ensure the safety and well-being of all pupils.

Social Development

- Pupil leadership opportunities, such as the Head Boy/Girl and School Council, empower our pupils to have a voice and contribute to the decision-making process within the school. This fosters a sense of civic responsibility and an understanding of democratic processes.
- The Eco-Council's initiatives, like litter picks and charity fundraising, foster a sense of social responsibility and community engagement among our pupils.
- A wide range of after-school clubs, including gardening, cooking, computing, and sports, provide avenues for our pupils to develop their social skills and build positive relationships with their peers.
- The school's diverse community and inclusive ethos promote social integration and understanding, as evidenced by the positive relationships between pupils.

Cultural Development

- Celebrations of Black History Month and workshops addressing racial discrimination help our diverse pupil community appreciate and celebrate their cultural heritage and the diversity within our school.
- The school's curriculum is designed to expose pupils to a wide range of cultural experiences, ensuring they are well-prepared for life in modern Britain.
- The Forest School programme, accessible to all classes, allows our pupils to connect with the natural world and develop a deeper understanding of their place within the environment.

Through these varied SMSC opportunities, we aim to equip our pupils with the knowledge, skills, and values they need to become responsible, well-rounded, and culturally aware citizens, prepared to navigate the challenges of the modern world.

The lists below are not exhaustive. They simply give a flavour of how we are promoting fundamental British values through SMSC at our school.

Autumn 2023
Theatre company- whole school performance of Jungle Book Skipping workshops- whole school- using Sports Premium Year 4 having weekly music lessons (steel drums) at music centre- part of First Access offer to schools. Roman Workshop in school December Christmas carol concerts & nativity Harvest Festival- celebrating harvest around the world

Spring 2024

Mental health week celebrated
Young Hearst 2 x 90 mins, Y6
Year 4 having weekly music lessons (steel drums) at music centre- part of First Access offer to schools.
Year 5 & Year 6- Indoor athletics at Onslow, Feb 2024
Tag Rugby Festival at Onslow, 29.01.24
Year 5 attending 'Coding workshops' x 4 weeks at Onslow
Year 3 and Year 4- 2 weeks of swimming at Hatfield Leisure Centre
Year 5 and Year 6- Breck Foundation workshops- online safety
Celebrated World Book Day
Celebrated Red Nose Day
Year 3 have 4 x sessions Cemex (2 in school, 2 off-site)
Reception class- 18.03.24- Animal Encounter day at school
Year 6- Imperial War Museum, 21.03.24
Year 5- Natural History Museum 27.03.24
Year 5 and Year 6 pupils- attending Dance Festival, Campus West 25.03.24
Class assemblies focused on 'My Hidden Chimp'- this is part of our behaviour curriculum

Summer 2024

- ✓ Year 6- trip to Stanborough Park's 'Splashlands'
- ✓ Whole school- science outreach day delivered by Cambridge University. This was opened to families of YR and Year 1 at the end of the day.
- ✓ Year 4 residential at Hudnall Park
- ✓ Circus- workshops and performances
- ✓ Year 1 and Year 2 trip to Whipsnade Wildlife Park
- ✓ Martial Arts workshops- whole school
- ✓ Walk to School week and celebrations in school
- ✓ Forest School sessions have taken place across the school.

Autumn 2024 so far...

Diversity Role Models workshops- KS2
Rocksteady music assembly and workshops for all phases
Year 5 & year 6 Cross country event at Onslow
Increased number of after school clubs- Coding, cooking, art, gardening, football, indoor athletics, music & movement, choir
Forest School
Languages Day
Year 5 & Year 6 Reading Champions elected- support, and promote reading for pleasure across the school
Weekly assembly celebrates diversity in music.
Year 1 Toy workshop
Harvest festival
Open classrooms event
School Council & Eco-council reps elected; meeting held
Interviews for head/deputy boy/girl in wb 7th Oct
Year 4- first access, Music centre, steel pans weekly

Fire service and police service visit to Reception Class.