



SMSC AT WOODLANDS



December 2018

What is SMSC?

SMSC is about developing the whole person. As our pupils move through the school, we are committed to developing not only their academic standards and levels of achievement, but also their spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness. We aim to provide opportunities for our children to form their own identity; sense of place and purpose, giving them the confidence to question and discover who they are in the world and face the exciting challenges that lie ahead.

SMSC permeates the curriculum and approaches to teaching and learning through the whole school ethos. The school's weekly newsletter and website also capture SMSC in action. See below from our Ethos Ambassadors—Lewis (5DJ) and Alex (6LT) what SMSC stands for and means to pupils at Woodlands.

Spiritual

In Woodlands, we know it's not just learning to read and write that counts. It's really important to nurture our spiritual development too. This means that we have time to reflect upon and explore our beliefs, the faiths of others and what our true values are. It's crucial that we think about what is important to *us* and what makes us unique. In our RE lessons we learn about many different faiths and we understand and celebrate people for being individuals. We don't all have to believe in the same God or go to Church. Some people don't believe in a God at all, and that's ok! We embrace diversity and enjoy learning about different faiths and ceremonies, such as Divali as well as Christmas. Rev. Jackie Bellfield has created links between our school community and her church, Hope Farm Methodist, and we really enjoyed making and painting poppies recently to mark one hundred years since the end of the First World War. One thing we really enjoy doing in Year 5 with Mr Jenner is meditating. It's really relaxing and gives us time to think in peace about how we are feeling. Sometimes, just five minutes can really clear your mind and help you to make the right choices. Since September, it has been a lot of fun learning about inspirational people in school. We learnt about the amazing Malala, Tim Peake, Marie Curie and others. It's great to know that no matter what life throws at you, you can overcome the odds to succeed and be happy. Here at Woodlands, we celebrate many of our own achievements too! Our teachers give out certificates, share our work on 'Wow' boards and celebrate our sporting successes to honour how incredible we are. We know just how important it is to cheer our friends on and to celebrate *their* achievements as well as our own, as we want to inspire others to be their best too!

Moral

Knowing what the right thing to do is and *choosing* to do the right thing can be two different things. At Woodlands, we are given clear guidance on what is right and wrong; a moral code of behaviour. We are reminded and encouraged to do what is right and to follow our positive behaviour policy that we have created and agreed upon together. As a reminder to make the right choices, we have our Good to be Green charts up in our classroom and we work as a team to collect cubes to fill class jars and to earn house points. PC Claire often delivers sessions to us either in our classes or in assemblies where we investigate moral issues such as respecting the law and respecting people around us. We learn about the impact of anti-social behaviour and we are taught what consequences are and what they look like. In our lessons, we explore how our behaviour can impact on other people and we learn that it is our duty to look after each other and our world. For example, we learn about saving our planet, recycling and using bins rather than dropping litter on the floor just because it is easier than finding a bin. Anti-bullying week is a chance for us to experience through role play what it is like to be the victim of bullying and to see how upsetting it would be to be singled out and bullied. We learn to speak up for others and not to be a bystander. This month we learnt about e-safety and were reminded about making the right choices when online, even if we think we are invisible. We are all unique, we are important and we have a duty to each other to make respectful and right choices.

Social

At Woodlands we explore the 'Social' part of SMSC in lots of different ways. This area includes using a range of social skills, participating in the local community and exploring 'British Values' of democracy, respect and tolerance.

We know that it is really important to learn to get along with other people, even if they have different opinions or look different to us. We want our school to be a happy place so we treat our friends, teachers and all other staff with respect. Every year each class makes a promise which reminds us to make the right choices. It is important not to fight if you fall out with someone. It is much better to solve problems by talking to each other and to always say sorry if you have upset someone. Sometimes our teachers will put us on the 'Wow board' if you have done something extra special to look out for a friend.

We learn about people in different countries and how they don't always have the things that we can sometimes take for granted. We also learn about people who struggle with little money or with being poorly. If you are one of Woodlands Charity Ambassadors you meet every two weeks to make plans on how we can raise money to help others. Since September we have enjoyed raising money and collecting food for different charities such as 'Children In Need' and people with dementia and cancer. The younger children in Reception have had fun walking to our local residential home singing and sharing tasty homemade vegetable soup with the elderly people. Rev. Jackie came and collected all the food that we had donated at Harvest time and took this to the food bank to help others. Our next challenge is to find a way of raising money for the 'Toilet Twinning Project', ensuring that people in some of the poorest countries can have clean toilets and keep healthy. It is a great feeling when you know that you have helped someone!

Cultural

The cultural side of SMSC is all about appreciating different cultures and how they have shaped our country and the way we live. It also helps us to explore the British parliament system and how we can vote to make a difference to our country and its' future. Other aspects of this area includes all the opportunities that we have to take part in sports, art and musical activities.

We love finding out about different cultures and, at Woodlands, we are lucky to have friends and staff from a range of different countries such as China, Turkey, Poland and Sweden. This helps us to appreciate and get to know other people's traditions, languages and beliefs. The younger children in our Reception classes had lots of fun finding out about Diwali and enjoyed Henna paintings this term.

It is vital that we, the children, have a voice in whole school decisions so that we know our opinion matters and our ideas are valued. Pupil Parliament members have been voted for by us and they represent the views and ideas of each class about different issues, such as what PTA money should be spent on and why.

We have many opportunities to take part in sports events, often organised by our P.E teacher Mr Bull. It is a great way to keep healthy and have lots of fun at the same time! This term we have also been proud to represent our school in different sports events and we have even brought back a few medals to Woodlands! If you are interested in music you can come along and learn to play the guitar or join our choir!

This term we got creative and really enjoyed painting poppies using pebbles and bottles to remember the soldiers who helped making our country the way it is today and also to mark the end of the first world war. Lots of parents and members of the public who walked past our school commented on how fantastic they looked outside the school and in both of the school entrances.