

Merrydale Infant School



Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Development at Merrydale Infant School

At Merrydale Infant School we recognise that the personal development of pupils, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally (SMSC) plays a significant part in their ability to learn and achieve. We therefore aim to provide an education that provides pupils with opportunities to explore and develop:

- their own values and beliefs,
- spiritual awareness,
- high standards of personal behaviour,
- a positive, caring attitude towards other people,
- an understanding of their social and cultural traditions
- an appreciation of the diversity and richness of the cultures of our school community and the wider community of Leicester and the United Kingdom.

SMSC is supported by our school ethos and our curriculum:

At Merrydale Infant School we are committed to provide a stimulating and caring learning environment to ensure our children achieve their highest potential to be successful in life. Excellence in learning is supported by developing moral values and respect through a variety of differing experiences including those beyond the local school community.

Spiritual Development

Our children have opportunities to explore values and beliefs and the way in which they affect peoples' lives. We encourage our children be reflective and give them the opportunities to appreciate human feelings and emotions. Our school ethos of respect allows our children the opportunities to grow and flourish, valuing each other and presenting the right to be respected. We celebrate differences and the unity of our community.

We achieve spiritual development in lessons in a variety of different ways including:

- Regular circle times
- RE lessons including reflecting on religious experiences outside of school
- Morning 'thinking questions'. 'thunks!'
- Through responses to stories
- Role play opportunities -
- Study of significant people e.g. Mother Theresa

We achieve spiritual development in the curriculum and throughout the school in a variety of different ways including:

- Assemblies including weekly Star of the Week, Ramadan, 'Eid, Harvest Festival, Vaisakhi, Holi, Diwali etc
- Classroom 'time to talk' opportunities - valuing children's responses
- Appreciation of Art & dance
- Religious stories

Further Spiritual development:

- Continue to develop opportunities to value children's questions and give them space for their own thoughts, ideas and concerns.
- Are pupils developing an appreciation of the intangible- e.g. beauty, truth, love, goodness ?



Rainbows and Starlight class celebrate Diwali Nov 2015

Moral Development

We provide our children the opportunity to develop a moral code which is promoted constantly and is a cornerstone of our ethos. We promote measures to prevent discrimination on the basis of race, religion and gender. Across our curriculum our children explore and develop moral concepts and values including equality and right and wrong. The learning environment is 'open and safe' which allows children the opportunities to express their developing views. Good behavior is rewarded and celebrated and children are encouraged to take responsibility for their actions e.g caring for each other, caring for the classroom. The codes and morals of different cultures are discussed in acts of worship including the daily act of worship.

We achieve moral development in lessons in a variety of different ways including:

- Literacy stories- role play, 'conscience alley', 'hot seating'
- History- discussing issues with guest speakers
- P.E- fair play and good sportsmanship
- Collaborative work- group discussions & problem solving
- Discussions with PCSO's - e.g. stranger danger, responsibilities to the community- how to behave when 'trick- a- treating', 'bonfire night'.
- Behaviour charts - 'sunshine & rain reward system'

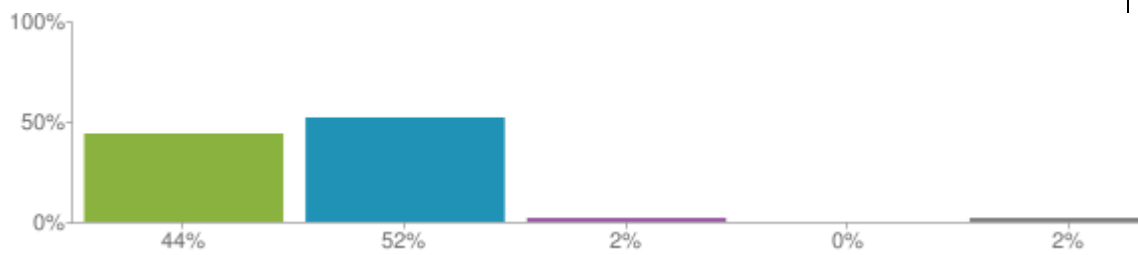
We achieve Moral development in the curriculum and throughout the school in a variety of different ways including:

- Collective worship following the SEAL themes and Celebrations of Festivals
- Work of the School Council- e.g. organising Harvest Festival collection, Save the children, working with Banjulunding school in The Gambia.. etc

- 'Good at Play' group & Playground rules
- Charity days inc: Red Nose, Harvest Festival for Open Hands Charity and Children in Need
- Through positive behaviour plans, Behaviour Policy - behavior policy- good behavior plans

2015 ParentView:

7. This school makes sure its pupils are well behaved



- Figures based on **167** responses up to 21-04-2015



The Sunshine class have been learning about being kind and helpful to others.



We learn about children and people less fortunate than us and do all we can to help them.



Our Harvest festival was a celebration of dance, art and poetry. We collected 2 white vans of food for Leicester's 'Open Hands' charity- Oct 2015



The children in Rainbows class learn the importance of helping each other through the story of The Little Red Hen

Further Moral development:

- Ensure children are given opportunities to make reasoned and responsible judgements on age appropriate moral dilemmas

Social Development

Our Ethos is based on the fundamental value of respect on which our children's school life is based. We foster a sense of community with common values ensuring that everyone irrespective of ethnic origin, gender, ability and religion can flourish and be given the best opportunities to learn. Our children work cooperatively, respecting each other's differences and similarities. Our children are encouraged to feel a sense of belonging and association in the school reinforced by wearing the uniform and being proud of each other's achievements. Our children are encouraged and given the support and skills to resolve problems amongst themselves as well as given opportunities to exercise leadership and responsibility e.g. School Council and daily helpers.

We achieve social development in lessons a variety of different ways including:

- Talk partners, whole class discussions, small group work, establishing classroom contracts
- Topic Work e.g. FS Understanding the World
- Fun time and adults modelling social play partnering skills
- Working with the School Councillors
- Tolerance and acceptance developed through the ethos of respect (inclusivity)

We achieve social development in the curriculum and throughout the school in a variety of different ways including:

- Collective acts of worship
- Classroom celebrations e.g. Diwali parties
- School Rules- Behaviour Policy
- Wearing the uniform and it being an association that we belong to one community -
- Work of the School Council
- Funtime and Language groups.

Further Social development:

- Provide positive links with the world of work and the wider community
- Provide opportunities to understand and debate social issues
- Provide wider opportunities to engage in the democratic process and participate in community life.



Everyone is encouraged to learn regardless of ethnic origin, gender, ability and religion



Our children are encouraged to feel a sense of belonging and association in the school reinforced by wearing the uniform and being proud of each other's achievements.



The children in Starlight class talk about belonging in a family.



The children in our Nursey learn about differences and similarities between people.

Cultural Development

We provide opportunities for pupils to explore different cultures, working hard to present authentic values and traditions. We address discrimination on the grounds of gender, religion and promote racial equality. We extend our pupil's chances to develop culturally by providing opportunities for them to participate in literature, drama, music, art and cultural events. The school's cultural values are reinforced around the school through displays, by welcoming visitors to the school. We also visit the theatre and museums. Our ethos ensures our children celebrate their shared local cultures while also developing a wider understanding of life beyond the school community.

We achieve cultural development in lessons in a variety of different ways including:

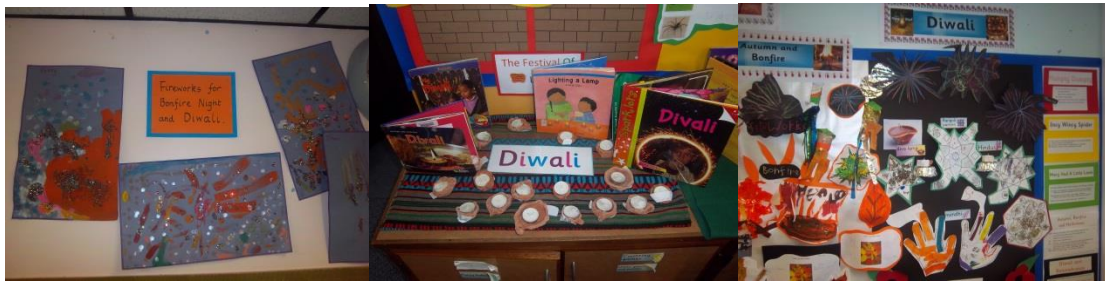
- Daily act of Collective Worship based on SEAL, community celebrations and festivals e.g. Eid & Diwali - sharing foods & cooking-
- Walks around the local area, trips to The Curve Theatre and Melton Carnegie Museum, Leicester's Newarke Museum
- FS - 'Jack the bear goes home'

We achieve cultural development in the curriculum and throughout the school in a variety of different ways including:

- Collective acts of worship - Diwali, Eid, Harvest festival, Remembrance, Christmas, St George's day, Mothering Sunday
- Nationwide celebrations e.g. VE day and Olympics/ Commonwealth
- Nationwide events e.g. Remembrance, commonwealth games
- Black History month- inc Yr2 work on Empire Windrush and African Drumming workshops



The Banjulunding Nursely school sent us a carving to remind us of their friendship all the way from The Gambia



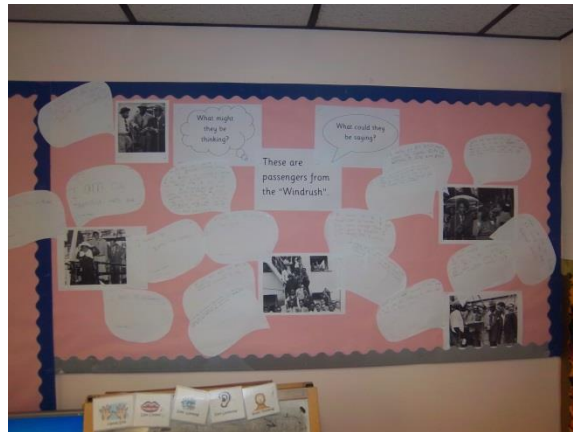
We all celebrate Diwali Nov 2015



Year 2 looked at the life and culture of Jamaican people



The children in Butterflies class have been learning about Africa and made African masks.



Year 2 looked at how the passengers felt on the arrival of HMS Empire in 1948 during their work on Jamaica.

Further Cultural development:

- Develop opportunities for pupils to regard the heights of human achievement in all cultures and societies.
- Develop, where possible, an understanding of how scientific discoveries and ideas affect the way people think and feel
- Develop an understanding of ideas behind art, craft and design in differing cultural contexts.