

NEWBOLD SCHOOL

Spiritual, Moral, Cultural, Social and Citizenship Policy

Reviewed December, 2017 by Mrs J Crissey

Ratified December, 2017 by Newbold School Board of Governors

Newbold School aims to prepare all its pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life by providing spiritual, moral, social and cultural development within a Christian context.

Spiritual Development

As a Seventh-day Adventist Christian School, Newbold adopts an integrated faith and learning programme whereby spiritual development is at the core of the overall school curriculum, and where our pupils are encouraged to explore their values and beliefs within their learning opportunities.

Further in-depth opportunities for spiritual development arise in the RE and PSHE programmes, as well as in class and whole-school worship and celebration.

Pupils should be encouraged to:

- live by a set of values and beliefs within Christian teachings, while at the same time respecting the values and beliefs of others religious/non-religious groups
- develop the ability, through the use of their senses, to enjoy the world in which they live, considering the mystery of God and the wonder of His creation
- develop self confidence in expressing their inner thoughts in a variety of creative ways (e.g. artistically, emotionally and through the performing arts)
- have opportunity to find inner confidence and peace in their school lives
- practise occasional quiet reflection and celebrate loudly and enthusiastically at other times
- explore, recognise and begin to understand human emotions and how they affect human behaviour.

Moral Development

Newbold pupils will develop an understanding of the difference between right and wrong, moral dilemmas, the will to do what is right, a willingness to consider others with concern and to cope positively with moral dilemmas.

Generally, pupils are taught that they should:

- take responsibility for their own actions
- respect the rights and property of others
- appreciate the feelings and concerns of others
- help those less fortunate than themselves
- tell the truth

- keep their word, unless it becomes inappropriate to do so
- exercise self-discipline
- develop high expectations for their behaviours and achievements
- develop positive attitudes
- conform to rules and regulations for the good of all.

Sex education takes place in a context that promotes good sexual health and the values underlined in Christianity.

Social Development and Citizenship

Social development is about young people working effectively with each other and participating successfully in the community as a whole. It is about functioning effectively in a multi-racial, multi-cultural society and it involves growth in knowledge and understanding of society in all its aspects. This includes understanding people as well as understanding society's institutions, structures and characteristics, economic and political principles and organizations, roles and responsibility and life as a citizen, parent or worker in a community. It also involves the development of the interpersonal skills necessary for successful relationships.

Pupils should:

- learn to show sensitivity to the needs and feelings of others
- develop an understanding of citizenship and experience being part of a caring community
- share emotions such as love, joy, hope, fear and reverence
- show respect for people, living things, property and the environment
- develop leadership and responsibility
- interact positively with others.

Personal responsibility, reliability, kindness and consideration of others are considered to be of equal value with academic achievement in the school reward and achievement system.

The school promotes British values into the fabric of the school character. Democracy is demonstrated through election to the School Council.

Cultural Development

Newbold School is highly diverse in its population. Children come to us from a large variety of cultural settings and backgrounds. We see this as a vast resource, whereby our children are able to develop a respect for and an understanding of differing cultures, customs and traditions. We encourage the pupils to question, analyse, evaluate and reflect on their responses and the responses of others within a range of different cultural contexts and experiences.

Newbold is a Christian school and our children are drawn, while not exclusively, chiefly from this background, even when they come to us from other parts of the world. It is our desire to engender at the school an atmosphere and understanding that encourages respect and acceptance of religious as well as cultural diversity, acknowledging the sincerity of those with beliefs different from our own.

Pupils should:

- develop an awareness and recognition of their own cultural and values and all that a cultured person appreciates in terms of music, art, drama and literature;
- value their own cultural heritage, recognizing and appreciating the diversity and interdependence of cultures;
- develop an understanding of the British cultural tradition, including Christianity and the influences that have shaped this country's cultural heritage;
- appreciate cultural diversity and accord dignity and respect to other people's values and beliefs, thereby challenging racism and valuing racial equality;

NB. For many Newbold children, their own culture may be a mixture of British culture and that of their native culture (or it may not be British at all). However, the culture of Britain should be valued and respected as much as any other to provide a true balance of equality and mutual respect.

In order to promote opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development as a whole, the school will:

- encourage pupils to express their creativity and imagination
- foster a sense of respect for the integrity of each person
- create an atmosphere that enables pupils and staff to speak freely about their beliefs
- create opportunities within the curriculum to include SMSC in current schemes of work
- encourage extra-curricular opportunities throughout the school
- encourage off timetable events and whole school events
- support community, church and school links
- encourage staff, prefects and senior pupils to act as good role models throughout the school
- actively reward friendship, consideration of others, kindness, reliability and social responsibility

