



# Hope Academy

A joint Catholic & Church of England Academy

## SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL POLICY

*Mission Statement:*

*“A community of learners of all ages from the local area committed to mutual service where all can flourish, be their best and work for the common good to the glory of God and his creation.”*

APPROVED			
REVIEW DATE			
SIGNED PRINCIPAL		PRINT NAME	
SIGNED CHAIR OF GOVERNORS		PRINT NAME	

## **This Policy incorporates the Academy's Vision and Core Values.**

### **Introduction**

Hope Academy recognises that the spiritual, moral, social and cultural element of pupils' education is crucial in their development as an individual, allowing them to take up their rightful place in their community: local, national and global.

As a multicultural Academy, drawing pupils from diverse cultural, racial and religious backgrounds, we recognise the importance of providing direct opportunities for fostering equality of opportunity for all pupils and for engendering tolerance, mutual respect and moral values in our young people.

All we do is framed in the context of our distinctive Christian Faith dimension and our commitment to sustainability in its broadest sense.

Our pupils' experience of spiritual, moral and cultural education and their own development as caring and responsible stewards of creation will be placed firmly in a context of learning, teaching and relationships which is permeated by the values of the Gospel.

### **Purpose**

To provide a safe and stimulating learning community in which pupils can develop:

- an understanding of the world, society and the community and accept responsibility as a Citizen
- questioning, enquiring minds and learn to express their ideas appropriately
- the capacity to tackle moral and spiritual dilemmas and try to reach independent judgements which reflect universal human principles and, wherever appropriate, to do so within a framework of faith.
- perception and sensitivity, tolerance and respect for others as individuals and in groups.

### **Guidance**

Subject lessons will give pupils opportunities to reflect on relevant moral and spiritual issues, drawn from a variety of sources, thereby enriching their experience of life. Developing pupils' knowledge of alternative cultural experiences will assist them in understanding the motivations and life opportunities of others. Every member of staff must understand their part in helping pupils prepare for working with others and for adult life.

Schemes of Work in all Learning Areas will explicitly describe the links to spiritual development.

We believe that assemblies are an important element in the promotion and development of the ethos and values of the Academy. In their various forms assemblies play a key role in supporting and enhancing the moral, spiritual and social development of our pupils. Staff will provide a good role model to pupils by modelling relationships based on mutual respect and courtesy and by challenging inappropriate language and actions (e.g. racist, sexist or homophobic comments). Staff should be aware that every contact with pupils provides the opportunity to develop attitudes, skills and understanding.

Tutor programmes will include reference to aspects of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and provide opportunities for reflection and discussion.

Displays in Learning Areas and around the Academy will take every opportunity to draw on diverse cultural references.

Student Support Staff will develop any opportunity to help pupils consider issues from others' point of view in moral, spiritual and cultural terms and gain appropriate social and moral guidance.

### **Assemblies and Collective Worship**

Our assemblies provide occasions when pupils meet together in larger, more formal settings where a positive tone and focus for the day can be established. Pupils are given opportunities to reflect on relevant moral and spiritual issues, drawn from a variety of sources, thereby enriching their experience of life.

Assemblies are also an essential means of recognising and celebrating achievement in its broadest sense. Within all assemblies pupils are recognised for their personal achievement, both Academy based and in the community, and groups of pupils are also commended for their corporate achievements.

Pupils are encouraged to play an active role in planning, preparing and presenting assemblies, thereby giving them a platform for positively contributing to the ethos of the school and for providing role models for other pupils. The involvement of pupils in assemblies, is an effective vehicle for developing their self-confidence and for encouraging cooperation, respect and tolerance amongst all pupils.

Each school has one Assembly a week co-ordinated and led by the Deputy Head of School. Each Assembly (and Form Period) involves an Act of Collective Worship, wherever possible these should involve pupils in their delivery and should encourage worship, response and reflection. Guidance will be provided by the Academy Chaplain and resources made available to staff. Our Collective Worship reflects our Christian context and should embrace other faiths and seek to be inclusive of all members of our community.