



*Making the difference*

# Curriculum Policy: Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development



## **POLICY FOR SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **Philosophy**

At Vranch House we recognise the importance of constructing a firm foundation on which all aspects of education are built. It is our explicit aim to offer a good-quality education. All staff work together to create a caring environment, in which pupils can learn and grow in a healthy, balanced way. It is our belief that education is a route to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and, thus, the well-being of the individual.

### **Aims**

At Vranch House we strive to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, and prepare all pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life through:

- ◆ guiding pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development – in particular distinguishing between right and wrong
- ◆ providing pupils with knowledge of, and insights into, values and beliefs
- ◆ enabling them to reflect on their experiences in a way that enhances their self-knowledge and spiritual awareness
- ◆ broadening their knowledge, understanding and appreciation of their own beliefs and cultures and those of others
- ◆ developing pupils' integrity
- ◆ helping them to be responsible, caring citizens, with an understanding of their rights and responsibilities
- ◆ promoting equal opportunities
- ◆ fostering pupils' self-esteem and emotional well-being
- ◆ the formation of worthwhile, satisfying and lasting relationships based on respect for others and themselves
- ◆ enabling pupils to respond to opportunities, challenges and responsibilities, to manage risk and cope with change and adversity.

The school ethos, effective relationships throughout the school, Collective Worship and Curricular activities all make a significant contribution to the development of spiritual, moral, social and cultural education. The VIEW Curriculum provides many opportunities to further spiritual, moral, social and cultural education.

### **Spiritual Development**

The teaching of what was formerly referred to as 'Religious Education' at Vranch House has been rolled into the VIEW Curriculum to engender an understanding of the distinctive nature of religion and the contribution of religious and spiritual insights to the meaning of life. Our pupils begin to know and understand the traditions and beliefs of Christianity and other faiths, so that they may discover the knowledge, skills, understanding, qualities and attitudes that they need to foster their own inner lives and non-material well-being.

### **Assembly Programme**

The Assembly Programme is used to promote spiritual awareness, as pupils can worship, reflect on beliefs and values and develop a sense of awe and wonder at the world around us. The human response to great art and music is not solely one of knowledge but of emotional and spiritual responses. Sharing stories and experience can develop understanding around the cultural beliefs of people and can impact on the sense of our own humanity and spirituality.

### **Moral Development**

Pupils' understanding of the differences between right and wrong, moral conflicts, and concern for others, are promoted throughout the school day in all subjects and activities as appropriate. The moral development of the pupils is also promoted throughout the daily experiences delivered through the VIEW Curriculum. The children are taught about making responsible and informed decisions, the consequences of their actions, and making personal choices as they grow up.

### **Social Development**

Pupils should be able to relate to, and work with, each other. At Vranch House School, we aim to enhance a child's ability to understand their rights and responsibilities within their families, school and other communities. It is important that children develop a sense of belonging, a willingness to participate and to make an active contribution. In all lessons and activities, the children are encouraged to share, co-operate and take an active role. They are also urged to act with courtesy and consideration for others.

### **Cultural Development**

In order that pupils acquire an understanding and respect for traditions, including those of their own culture, Vranch House initiates a wide range of extra activities.

The Assemblies and Multi-cultural celebrations recognise the diversity within our society and pupils study the wide range of traditions and beliefs represented within our World.

The School Curriculum is enriched by the visits of local artists, musicians and residents, who come to Vranch House to share their experiences with the pupils. These include our local Vicar, African drummers and students on foreign exchange visits.

## Further Information

### Useful Documents and Resources

DfES                                      The National Curriculum Handbook for Primary Teachers in England 2000

Ofsted                                     Handbook for Inspecting Primary and Nursery Schools 2000

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