



How does SMVSC promote the spiritual development of each child?

Our exceptional SMVSC curriculum aids the development of insights, principles, beliefs, attitudes and values which guide and motivate us and bring us closer to God. Throughout the curriculum, a substantial proportion of the work is based around discussion and reflection which aids in developing understanding of feelings, emotions, and empathy which support reflection on their own spiritual development.

SMVSC promotes the development of recognition of pupils' own insights, principles, beliefs, attitudes and those values which influence them in their own lives. We link these closely with our own Catholic Virtues which are shared throughout the MAC and throughout the rest of the school in different curricular areas. Throughout their topics, pupils understand that they are serving God by using and developing the gifts given by God to each individual to realise their potential differences and talents.

What is the intent of the SMVSC curriculum?

SMVSC (PSHE/Life Skills) enables our pupils to become healthy, independent and responsible members of our school but also of society. It aims to help them understand how they are developing personally and socially, and tackles many of the moral, social and cultural issues that are part of growing up which they will likely face. It is an important part of their personal development for them to develop skills for their future in the workplace, relationships and other life situations.

From a Catholic School point of view, we focus specifically on our Catholic Virtues to aid pupils to find themselves as a person, Spiritually, Morally, Socially, Vocationally and Culturally. These 5 areas are explored throughout their time at St Bede's from Year 5 to Year 8 to prepare them for the next step into high school and into their future outside of school. Through adding in work on Vocations and careers, this allows pupils to start thinking about what their callings in life could be and their purpose in which God has created them.

All pupils work on and explore related topics which are age appropriate for the children as part of a spiral curriculum. These include Relationships, Bullying, Relationships and Sex Education, Staying Safe, Jobs and Vocations, Mental Health and Wellbeing. The content for each area varies depending on the relevant age group and we use resources from the PSHE Association as well as Ten:Ten to enable us to deliver the curriculum effectively. Each area of the SMVSC curriculum focuses on children as individuals, allowing them to broaden their thinking and express their talents, individuality and opinions in a safe and respectful environment.

SMVSC intends to give pupils the tools and knowledge to develop through life, generalising scenarios to wider world and everyday contexts and drawing in from self and other's experiences. Pupils will become aware of differing opinions and cultural backgrounds which help to contribute to a positive atmosphere in school, as well as their ability to develop relationships.

How does SMVSC support the broader development of the child?

At St. Bede's, the pupils develop deep thinking throughout all of their subjects and question the world around them, which can often be all drawn together in SMVSC through the cover of the curriculum.

We have specific SMVSC drop down days where pupils come off curriculum timetable to spend times in their form groups, mix with other pupils they may not usually, and with their own form teacher to develop their relationships and discuss these different topics, all which develop the children in multiple ways. These half termly days are then supported by weekly Thrive Friday activities as well as extensive links across the curriculum. At St Bede's, we believe that all staff are teachers of SMVSC and so there is a shared responsibility across the curriculum to deliver its content. Pupils develop their own self-esteem and confidence in each of their topics due to the sharing nature of discussion and respect for others, allowing them to flourish in other subject areas inside and outside of school.

As part of our curriculum, we cover relationships and bullying in the autumn term, which is particularly important at the beginning of the year for children to feel safe in their environment. It allows the pupils to accept others and respect other people's opinions which is evident throughout the whole of this curriculum area.

As a result of these topic areas, pupils are able to give reasons for things being right and wrong. Pupils can build relationships with others from many diverse backgrounds, looking after each other and take responsibility for each



other, developing their ability to resolve conflicts quickly and effectively. Building relationships is an especially important part of any person's development for socialising and communicating with others.

Pupils develop an understanding of how to stay safe in their society and the dangers in the world around them, but also develop an independence of decision making regarding what they can do to keep themselves and others safe. Through class and paired discussions, pupils learn how to voice their own opinions, whilst respecting and listening to others, being able to reason their justifications.

Teamwork is developed through different tasks throughout all areas of SMVSC and pupils learn how to communicate effectively with each other, requiring the essential skills to be a good and balanced team member. Pupils are encouraged to present their ideas in diverse ways which develops their own confidence in speaking but also develops their creative thinking and ability to solve problems and discuss these eloquently.

How does SMVSC link to other subjects at St Bede's?

There is constant overlap between SMVSC and different curriculum topics in the different activities and topic areas which are covered. This is clearly evident on our PSHE/RSE/Well-being Audit, which can be found in the SMVSC area of our website) but below are some specific examples:

- Maths is embedded into the SMVSC curriculum as tasks which help pupils perceive everyday problems, dealing with money and financial situations and understanding how this can have an impact on their lives. This helps them develop their mathematical reasoning and understanding as well as seeing that Maths comes into their everyday lives. Likewise, SMVSC strands are also covered in Maths, particularly in Key Stage 3.
- Science is very prominent in SMVSC to give the pupils the facts about how to live a healthy and safe lifestyle, keeping fit and healthy (PE), as well as the dangers that they could be faced with in life. These are all good bases for discussions which are very thought provoking and aid children's discussions but also understanding of the wider world. Again, some of the SMVSC strands are further explored in Science lessons where pupils learn about how to take care of themselves and potential dangers that they may encounter.
- Pupils are encouraged to express their understanding and opinions through many different mediums, such as through letter writing, a song, poem, through the arts, drawing, drama – all which link across many different curriculum areas such as English, Drama, Art and Music.
- Geography is intertwined into the SMVSC curriculum through the delivery of diversity and prejudice towards different cultures, developing an understanding and empathy of different countries, cultures and religions, again reflecting on their own spiritual and moral beliefs and how this is similar to others.
- RE is intricately linked with SMVSC and they work very closely together in the delivery of the PSHE and RSE curriculum content in different ways. Both are incredibly reflective and always bring us back to reflecting on ourselves and our faith/values.
- The texts we choose across school link to the SMVSC curriculum. Children are given the opportunity to read about, analyse and reflect on diverse characters in the texts they read across the curriculum and constant links with SMVSC are made.