

Our Ethos, Vision and Values

“Achieve, Aim High and Succeed”

SMSC

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development (SMSC) is about everything we do at Heaton Park, to help children build their own personal values, have positive relationships with others and become responsible young citizens in society. SMSC development supports children to be kind, thoughtful and caring and to be able to live and learn alongside people with different beliefs, cultures and lifestyles.

An important part of SMSC is to support children to engage with British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and respect for different faiths and beliefs.

Social development of our children

Children are taught to respect each other and listen carefully. Circles give children a voice which is heard. They are given the opportunity to vote for their class representative in the school council and learn about the process and the importance of democracy. Our Personal Development Program (PDP) is broad and covers all areas of social development so children maintain friendships and good working relationships with other children and adults. In lessons, children work together in pairs or groups. Kagan structures encourage this interactive learning through sharing and good communication practices. Children are given the tools to develop independence whilst being able to work positively with others. Our various clubs also help children develop social skills.

Moral development of our children

Children at Heaton Park are taught to be thoughtful and caring towards each other. We have a zero tolerance policy on the use of derogatory language and children are encouraged to use kind words at all times. Children are taught right from wrong. Our Good to be Green initiative reinforces this which encourages and rewards good choices. Debate and discussion encourage children to form opinions and a strong sense of their moral obligations.

Spiritual development of our children

Children are taught to respect themselves and look after their bodies as well as their minds. Our children's spiritual well-being is developed through reflection on ourselves and being proud of who we are. Children are given opportunities to reflect on their feelings and develop the vocabulary to articulate them. Our creative curriculum encourages children to express themselves and their feelings in many different ways including dance, movement and art and design.

Cultural development of our children

Through our broad curriculum children encounter different cultures and are encouraged to respect and learn from them. Children reflect on their own identities and celebrate their differences. Special events, such as Diversity Week, give the children wider opportunities to learn about different cultures, backgrounds and religions. Children at Heaton Park come from many different countries and speak many languages. We celebrate this by learning important words and phrases in different languages.

Collective worship

Assemblies enable children to feel part of the school, local community and the wider world. Visitors from different professions and cultures raise our children's awareness of the importance of community, the roles and responsibilities of the members of these communities including their own.