



SMSC STATEMENT 2025 - 2027

Date: June 2025

Due for Review: June 2027

Our Vision

We are excited by Jesus' invitation to 'live life in all its fullness' (John 10:10) and wish to create a loving community where, by serving God, excellence is pursued and individual achievement is celebrated, so that all children are inspired and empowered to flourish as successful adults.

"What the Spirit brings is; Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Trustfulness, Gentleness and Self-control." Galatians 5:23

Our Values

Ambition, Compassion, Courage, Responsibility, Resilience, Respect, Honesty and Trust.

Our Aims

To prepare them for the next stages of their education and beyond we want all children to be ambitious in their acquisition of knowledge, skills and understanding and be proud of their achievements.

In an ever-changing world, we want our children to develop the resilience to learn, the perseverance to problem solve and the courage to do their best and try new things.

To prepare children for adult life and support their personal well being and development we will teach our children to be responsible, respectful, trustworthy and honest in their relationships.

We want our children to become compassionate citizens of the world.

Opportunities to Access and Experience Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Aspects of Education

We believe SMSC Education lies at the heart of our curriculum. It supports our Christian Foundation, our Vision for our community and prepares each child for life as they grow into adults.

We believe that, by weaving aspects of SMSC through our curriculum and daily lives in school we enable children to:

- Develop their own sense of belief and moral code
- Know about and respect differences in our community and in the world
- Develop secure and positive relationships with one another
- Have the confidence and curiosity to ask questions and deepen their understanding of others and the world around them
- Develop an informed and balanced perspective on life as they grow up
- Seek new experiences and embrace new challenges as they travel through life with a sense of excitement, fascination and enjoyment
- Become self-reflective and use moments in the day to reflect, think and deepen their self-awareness and empathy for others
- Make positive life choices, reasoned decisions and be able to solve problems and overcome challenges



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Spiritual Education

Promoting and nurturing children's personal spirituality is of huge importance to our school community because, by doing this, we enable our children to find meaning in their lives and help them connect to others and the wider world. We believe that, by providing children with opportunities every day to feel loved, safe, secure and happy in our daily lives together, they develop the trust and confidence to open their minds and imaginations to explore their spiritual selves. We believe that it is more than 'special moments' and 'wow moments' (although we work hard to create these experiences for children within the school day) – it is also how we treat each other within our school community every day.

By nurturing spirituality we believe it helps us all to:

- Develop and understand our own faith, beliefs and values whilst respecting those of others
- Develop and sustain our self esteem
- Develop secure and positive relationships with others
- Develop our capacity for critical and independent thought
- Foster our emotional development, particularly in regard to being able to express feelings
- Develop our empathy, creativity and imagination
- Appreciate moments of stillness and reflection
- Understand our moral obligations towards others
- Appreciate and be thankful for our lives
- Be curious and seek to understand the world around us
- Feel fulfilled personally and professionally

We actively use our curriculum to nurture spirituality through investigating, giving a choice of response, debating, questioning and providing space and time for independent thought and reflection each day. We purposely use our Daily Time In, Easter Pause Week, Prayer Spaces, Collective Worship, Philosophy for Children and Godly Play to actively promote spirituality.

Moral Education

To prepare our children for their adult lives, we believe it is essential that they learn to accept and respect one another.

The children at Ottershaw have a strong understanding of right and wrong. Our 'mantra' of how to behave and treat one another is 'Try hard, Be nice'. This is reinforced through our values-based behaviour system. All classes agree rules at the beginning of each year which are signed in a class charter and regularly embedded within our curriculum expectations. To reinforce the importance we place on our School Values children at the Junior School earn Merits for exemplifying the values and acting as role models to others. At both schools exemplification of School Values is rewarded in celebration assembly by a 'Values Certificate' and at the infants, children put a 'gold coin' on the Values Rainbow.

Children show a keen interest in offering views about moral and ethical issues, particularly through opportunities to ask and answer questions in all our learning (but notably at the beginning and end of new topics in foundation subjects) and when we use Picture News stimuli in Class Worship.



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Children are given an understanding of how a democracy works through voting children to our Schools Councils in both schools, and, at the Junior School by voting for Head Boy, Head Girl and Sport Captains.

In addition, the Junior School also runs a House system. KS2 children are divided into 4 houses, and children are awarded points for their house to reward good behaviour and achievement, developing further a sense of collective responsibility.

Our ethos and charitable giving goes deeper than 'fund raising' to support those in need. We are committed to ensuring our children become leaders and compassionate citizens in their adult lives, and foster 'Courageous Advocacy' through our year group social action projects and the work our School Councils undertake each year.

Social Education

The school is at the heart of a supportive, social community. We believe it is essential that our children learn how to successfully access the social side of school life and become active participants in our school community.

Children are encouraged to use a range of social skills in school every day – from the way we welcome one another in the morning through to the end of each day, there are opportunities to gather together, collaborate, play and learn alongside others.

We purposefully build in opportunities for our school to connect with our local community, including welcoming parents in to school for performances and classroom events, Sports Day and Family Picnic, our social action projects, local fieldwork and learning trips, regular visits to Church, performing at Cameo, our Parent and Toddler Group, OPTA and local charity fundraising, school trips, after school and lunchtime clubs, inter-school events, regular visitors to school and opening up our facilities beyond the school day to worthwhile community groups.

Cultural Education

We want all our children to 'live life in all its fullness' and seek to build 'cultural capital' within our curriculum offer every year. We want our children to have as broad an education as possible, opening their lives to new experiences and opportunities and so offer many cultural experiences during their journey through our schools. We work closely with other like-minded local schools, local Museums and Arts Partners to build partnerships with organisations who promote and deliver authentic cultural educational experiences for our children. We thoughtfully enrich our curriculum each term with cultural experiences and visits.

Our children participate in a wide range of artistic, musical, sporting and cultural curriculum opportunities.