



Park Grove Primary School

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

Promoting British Values

The Department for Education published a document in 2014 called 'Promoting Fundamental British Values as part of SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural curriculum) in schools. The document reinforced the need 'to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.'

At Park Grove, we value the diverse ethnic backgrounds of all pupils and families and celebrate the individuality of each child. We want to support every child to grow to adulthood, able to live in a multi-cultural society with positive attitudes to themselves and others and be able to make a valuable contribution to society. All children are encouraged to share their beliefs and backgrounds with their peers so that we can learn about what makes us unique and value our differences.

Our broad and balanced curriculum ensures that every child develops spiritually, morally, socially and culturally. We value these aspects of the curriculum and always endeavour to promote them in all we do.

Spiritual Development

We encourage spiritual development through a broad range of assemblies and lessons which allow time for thought and reflection. We teach the children to understand that people have different faiths and beliefs and that all are valued and respected. We celebrate different views and ways of thinking. Harvest Festival, Diwali, Christmas, Hanukkah, Chinese New Year and Easter are regular features of our curriculum.

Our PSHE lessons promote discussion and enquiry as well as tolerance and kindness. We mainly follow the SEAL programme (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) which focuses on all of these things. We also supplement this curriculum with scenario based resources to promote discussion and contemplation. At the same time, all of our staff have had Prevent training and we are mindful of the dangers of extremism and radicalisation and we are aware of potential warning signs.

Moral Development

Through stories and drama, we teach the children to think about different situations, with empathy. They are taught to consider right from wrong and are asked open ended questions to make them think carefully about the choices they make.

Our assemblies regularly cover moral issues such as behaviour, conflict, lying, the refugee crisis and poverty. The themes of our assemblies are recorded we are proud of the wide range of themes and the children's engagement with them.

Social Development

From the Early Years, we begin teaching children how to take turns, and how to work and play co-operatively. Throughout key stage 1 and 2 we use collaborative approaches in our teaching. There is a strong emphasis on showing sensitivity to others' needs and feelings through the development of empathy. The residential trip in Year Six is a highlight for the children and tests their ability to look after each other and to work as part of a team as well as developing their independence away from home. We are proud of our creative and personalised curriculum because we believe that when children leave us they are ready for their next step. Secondary colleagues comment on how confident the children from Park Grove are, when they move to their new schools. For children who find this aspect of development more challenging we provide additional social skills support.

Our termly behaviour targets focus on manners, respect and kindness to others and are written by the school council. A copy of the target is displayed in each classroom and discussed regularly.

Cultural Development

We teach the children about their own and other cultures. Our involvement in the Children's University helps them to appreciate their local community and all it has to offer. We learn about other places as well as where we live. Every child in Key Stage 2 is learning to speak French and has one hour per week of teaching in this subject. We are involved in the Global Learning Partnership which is improving pupil knowledge and understanding of global issues and their role within the global society.

Our enrichment days often have a multicultural theme. We draw on the diversity within our school community to support our learning by involving parents from other cultures where possible.

Our Core Values

In conjunction with staff, governors, parents and children, we have created our Vision, Mission and Core Values. We always seek to live by our Core Values and the children are taught the importance of these values in all lessons. The Core Values at Park Grove are: Inspiration, Inclusion, Excellence, Fun, Creativity and Individuality. To find out more about each of our Core Values, please refer to our website www.parkgroveprimary.co.uk.

Excellence

At Park Grove, we believe that every child can and should excel to reach their full potential. Whether their talent lies within maths, art, music, sport or languages, it is our job to find out what they can do and help them to be the best that they can be. We offer a broad and balanced curriculum and love to see children thrive in subjects such as drama and music. We have professional coaches who come in to teach specialist PE and we offer a wide range of extracurricular activities. We also recognise the importance of the basic skills and aim to achieve excellent academic results in reading, writing, maths and science every year. Our test results speak for themselves and we are proud that our children are challenged within a creative and enjoyable curriculum.

Inspiration

At Park Grove, we inspire our learners to be independent. Our creative curriculum engages children so that they want to find out more. Our teachers work together to plan and deliver exciting lessons that capture the interests of individuals so that they can take their own learning to the next level in a direction that they wish to explore further. We personalise the experiences for children to suit their own interests. We aim to capture the enthusiasm of children and help them shape their ideas. We plan in themes and topics across Key Stages so that pupils have the chance to work with children of different ages and abilities for topic work. Our themed, creative days allow children to explore topics in detail and throughout the course of the year we aim to find something that will captivate each and every child.

Inclusion

*At Park Grove, we recognise that every child is unique and we celebrate and encourage individuality. Every child has a right to learn in a safe and comfortable environment and we are proud that our children are so welcoming and accepting of each other. From Early Years all children are taught about diverse backgrounds through the discussion of people and communities, this allows all children to feel welcomed and included. When children begin their time at our school, they immediately become part of the Park Grove family and we aim to get to know them as soon as possible so that they can begin to shine. We have an excellent Pupil Support Team in place (including our fully trained SENCO and two highly skilled Children and Family Support workers) who ensure that every child's individual needs are met. Take a look at the **Pupil Support Team section** of our website to find out more.*

Individuality

At Park Grove, we celebrate the individuality of every child. We are proud of our creative and personalised curriculum because we believe that when children leave us they are ready for their next step. Secondary colleagues comment on how confident the children from Park Grove are, when they move to their new schools. Our staff are highly trained professionals who are passionate about seeing children develop their skills and talents and we are proud of the successes of every member of our Park Grove community. We celebrate difference and listen to the views of all our children. Every child has a voice and they are encouraged to speak out and tell us what they think. Our fantastic School Council representatives have regular meetings with the headteacher to express the views, concerns or suggestions of each class. We don't have a uniform at Park Grove and the children see this as an opportunity to express themselves and stand out from the crowd.

Creativity

At Park Grove we empower children through a creative curriculum. We plan lessons that will excite and motivate them so that they want to work independently to find out more. Around our school there are clear examples of the beautiful artwork that has been produced by our amazing team of staff and children.

Our children attend workshops at the Theatre Royal in York to learn about performance and drama. We run choirs and music clubs for those interested in singing and playing instruments. Park Grove has a reputation for providing children with a wide range of creative activities, whether they are inside or out of the classroom.

Our children do very well academically but more importantly they leave us as well rounded individuals who can think for themselves and have interests that they wish to pursue further. We pride ourselves on our creative approach and our talented staff are fully trained to deliver the curriculum in a fun, challenging and exciting way.

Fun

Our website shows a range of activities that take place at Park Grove and from the large selection of photographs, it is clear to see that the children are happy and engaged. We believe that children learn best when they are having fun! We always encourage the children to help with planning and designing the curriculum by building upon their interests. We use their ideas and input in all areas – for example each class plans and delivers their own class assembly for parents.

Our homework policy is one example of how we think carefully about what motivates children to work hard... we give them projects that interest them. Our extracurricular activities aim to inspire children to develop their interests. Our variety of exciting trips and visits, including a residential visit in Year 6, show that our staff go the extra mile to make life at Park Grove more than just coming to school. We believe in an education that reaches 'beyond the classroom' and we only need to speak to our children to know that they enjoy their learning. The staff at Park Grove love coming to work and all agree that having a sense of humour is an important part of the job.

At Park Grove, we teach the fundamental British values in the following ways.

Democracy

One of the ways in which the children are taught about democracy is through the election of representatives for the school council. Each year we hold ballots within every class to elect one male and one female school councillor. We also encourage children to debate a variety of different issues and use this as an activity within English and topic lessons. Many decisions that affect individual classes, such as what reward system to use, are discussed and voted on within the class.

The rule of law

At Park Grove, we have school and class rules that the children are expected to follow. We encourage the children to understand why these rules are important. We have high standards of behaviour and we find that the children rise up to our expectations.

Local residents have commented on the excellent behaviour of our children in the playground and also when they visit places of interest on school trips.

The children are taught about the rule of law outside the school with visits from Community police officers who give talks in assemblies and in class. In addition, Childline also work with older children.

We want our children to grow into caring and law abiding citizens and we teach them the difference between right and wrong through the curriculum as well as in the way we talk to them at all points throughout the day.

An understanding of different faiths, cultures and beliefs

From the very earliest years in which our children start Park Grove, we teach them about different cultures, faiths and religions. Children share in traditional stories, food and costumes from other places and cultures.

We have a high proportion of children from different cultures and those who have English as an additional language. This allows all children to learn first-hand about different languages and backgrounds which leads to them accepting and celebrating individuals. We celebrate our differences and focus on every child as a unique individual.

Our core values encourage tolerance and respect and we feel this is a strength of our diverse learning environment.

Equality

Equality is essential to us and we believe strongly that all children should have an equal chance of success at school regardless of all other factors within their lives. At Park Grove, we recognise that every child is unique and we celebrate and encourage individuality. Every child has a right to learn in a safe and comfortable environment and we are proud that our children are so welcoming and accepting of each other. We have a Pupil Support Team in place which works to ensure that children's additional needs are met and barriers to equality of opportunity are minimised.

For this year, we have chosen two key priorities for equality and these will adapt and grow each year.

- 1) To ensure that we narrow the gap between boys and girls in the EYFS in reading and writing.
- 2) To ensure that the gap narrows between EAL children (English as an Additional Language) and their peers in reading, writing and maths as they move up through the school.

We have set ourselves these targets to ensure that we are always focussed on the issue of equality and that all staff are on board with narrowing gaps for children.

Next steps

Our curriculum is constantly evolving and developing to promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspects of learning. We want to continue to embed everything we have already put in place. We also want to be able to react and adapt our curriculum in response to the changing needs of the society our children live in. The development of the whole child through a broad and balanced curriculum is essential to us and will continue to underpin everything we do.

Our Vision, Mission and Core Values are central to our teaching and we build our philosophy around these principles. Our aim is that visitors to our school will feel our ethos of mutual respect, tolerance, team work and fun as they enter our building.

Our mission statement says:

'At Park Grove, we inspire children to achieve excellence through our unique and creative approach. We value the individuality of every child and empower them to fulfil their ambitions. We offer a vibrant and exciting learning environment where children thrive through challenge and fun. Our strong community is built on the foundations of respect, inclusion and friendship. Together we provide an outstanding education for our children'.

Our vision 'is to be recognised as outstanding by the whole community'. We believe that we are well on our way to achieving this.

Empowering Children through Creative Learning