



# Hope Tree School

*Where difference is valued*

## **Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development Policy 2025 (Inclusive of Collective Worship and British Values)**

At Hope Tree School we provide many opportunities for our students to learn about other cultures, faiths, religions and lifestyle choices, to prepare them for the next stage of their life.

### ***Spiritual Development:***

As children develop physically they also develop emotionally and psychologically. Through study and experience, students gain knowledge and skills which shape their personal beliefs and identities.

The spiritual development of students is shown by their:

- ability to be reflective about their own beliefs, religious or otherwise, that inform their perspective on life and their interest in and respect for different people's faiths, feelings and values
- sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them
- use of imagination and creativity in their learning
- willingness to reflect on their experiences.

### ***Moral Development:***

Children enter different phases of education with degrees of moral understanding defined by their families and friends and by their previous schooling. They should be encouraged to take personal responsibility for their words and actions. They should be expected to reject any form of bullying, discrimination or cruelty. They should be helped to deal with any moral dilemmas they may face.

The moral development of students is shown by their:

- ability to recognise the difference between right and wrong, readily apply this understanding in their own lives and, in so doing, respect the civil and criminal law of England
- understanding of the consequences of their behaviour and actions
- interest in investigating and offering reasoned views about moral and ethical issues, and being able to understand and appreciate the viewpoints of others on these issues.

### ***Social Development:***

As members of the community at Hope Tree School students learn social skills and values that will determine their future lives as responsible citizens.

The social development of students' is shown by their:

- use of a range of social skills in different contexts, including working and socialising with students from different religious, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds
- willingness to participate in a variety of communities and social settings, including by

- volunteering, cooperating well with others and being able to resolve conflicts effectively
- acceptance and engagement with the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs; the students develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.

### ***Cultural Development:***

At Hope Tree School students should develop an awareness of their own cultural roots. They should also be able to appreciate the diversity and evolution of cultural traditions that society has, how conflicts between them occur, and how they can be reconciled.

The cultural development of students is shown by their:

- understanding and appreciation of the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their own heritage and that of others
- understanding and appreciation of the range of different cultures within school and further afield as an essential element of their preparation for life in modern Britain
- knowledge of Britain's democratic parliamentary system and its central role in shaping our history and values, and in continuing to develop Britain
- willingness to participate in and respond positively to artistic, sporting and cultural opportunities
- interest in exploring, improving understanding of and showing respect for different faiths and cultural diversity, and the extent to which they understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity, as shown by their tolerance and attitudes towards different religious, ethnic and socio-economic groups in the local, national and global communities.

We actively promote Spiritual Moral Social and Cultural education through our curriculum, through educational visits and through extra-curricular activities. These activities include:

- Visits to a places of worship
- A multi-cultural food festival featuring foods from around the world
- An art exhibition featuring students' work inspired by British artists
- Whole school events to mark major public celebration
- Students raising money for local charities
- Guest speakers in from local charities
- Visitors from other faiths or who live alternative lifestyles talking to students about their beliefs and life choices.

### **Collective Worship:**

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school, meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers students an opportunity to reflect through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Our students have a range of needs which can make it difficult for them to engage with assemblies. At Hope Tree School collective worship will take the form of short gatherings, which may involve physical involvement of the students in games, discussions or activities around a carefully planned schedule of topics. The taught curriculum, and extra-curricular activities also offer opportunities for reflection and personal development.

Collective Worship contributes to the ethos of Hope Tree School and it is our aim that it is a time when the Hope Tree School community can:

- share common aims and values

- celebrate achievement and special times
- explore together the world in which we live
- develop a community spirit

Collective Worship contributes to the development of the student as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- worship that which is considered worthy
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- develop their own spirituality
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate and respond

Collective Worship will at times feature in aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of students by reflecting on the work done in classes. At times, Collective Worship will enrich classwork through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives.

To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it will address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide students with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

At Hope Tree School the Collective Worship programme is devised to cover a wide range of topics and provide regular opportunities for spiritual development and worship in its widest sense. The content of will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all students. Our school community may contain members of different faiths, as well as some staff and students who have no faith. In this light, Hope Tree School ensures that collective worship will not have a requirement to include an explicit religious element, but that all will have opportunities for reflection.

Where relevant, readings and teachings from a particular faith, in particular Christianity, may be used as required. The collective worship programme lists themes, special occasions and events, but will be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues.

Any parent who objects to their child attending an act or acts of Collective Worship may request that their child is withdrawn. Parents are encouraged to discuss this with the Head of Learning. Any student who is withdrawn from an act or acts of Collective Worship will be supervised during that time by a member of staff.

### **Promoting British Values & Diversity at Hope Tree School:**

Schools are required to provide for the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of their students. Part of this requirement means that they actively promote fundamental British Values and diversity. Fundamental British Values are defined as:

- Democracy
- The Rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual Respect and Tolerance of Different Faiths and Beliefs

At Hope Tree School, our students have a wide range of needs which affect their social communication and interaction. Many of our students have difficulties with

understanding

themselves, with interpreting the actions and intentions of others and with processing information from the wider world.

As a school we are committed to working together to enable our students to develop their knowledge and independence, their communication skills and their ability to manage their anxieties and emotions. When they leave us we want them to be confident, happy and ready for the next stage of their lives. We want them to become active adults who can function in, and contribute towards society. A shared understanding of fundamental British Values is essential to this process, as it enables our students to understand the world in which they live.

Promoting these fundamental British Values is now a central part of teaching and learning. By doing this, we aim to help children and young people become well rounded members of society. These British Values are promoted throughout the curriculum and across the whole school. They are also reflected in the Hope Tree School values, ethos and policies, collective worship, special events and cultural celebrations. Below are some examples of how each of the fundamental British Values may be promoted at Hope Tree School.

### **Democracy:**

At Hope Tree School we aim to promote this British Value by demonstrating how democracy works by discussion, decision making and voting. We achieve this through:

- Encouraging students to know that their views count and their opinions are important.
- Encouraging students to accept that others will have opinions that differ from their own, and that these opinions and views are valid.
- Encouraging students to make choices and decisions individually and together, informally in social situations and more formally.
- Encouraging our students to see the bigger picture and relate themselves and their futures to wider society.

### **The Rule of Law:**

At Hope Tree School we promote this fundamental British Value by demonstrating the need for rules and laws to keep everyone safe and happy. We want all Hope Tree School students to be active citizens who make a positive contribution to society. Our students must understand that society is governed by rules and laws, and that there are consequences for breaking them. We work with our students to enable them to understand which forms of behaviour are socially acceptable or socially unacceptable. We do this through:

- Having clear student responsibilities that are communicated to all members of our community.
- Having a clear consistent approach to behaviour management, boundaries and consequences, to enable our students to feel safe.
- Educating students about the legal and criminal implications of inappropriate behaviour.
- Working with other agencies to ensure that students have an understanding of the different professional roles in society that keep us safe.
- Working with students to enable them to understand their feelings, behaviours and needs.
- Working with students to manage relationship conflict.
- All adults connected to our community being role models, modelling respectful, tolerant

and socially acceptable behaviour across the school at all times.

- Encouraging and supporting students to learn how to distinguish right from wrong.
- Supporting our students in becoming responsible citizens who show respect and tolerance for others.

### **Individual Liberty:**


At Hope Tree School we promote this fundamental British Value through promoting individual freedoms to choose faiths, beliefs, personal identities, so that students can express themselves without fear of repression, prejudice or judgement. We do this through:

- Difference being actively and visibly celebrated and welcomed throughout the school.
- Openly discussing differences between people, such as religion, ethnicity, disability, gender, gender identity or sexuality.
  - Challenging and taking seriously all forms of discriminatory and anti-social language or actions. Any disciplinary measures taken will be applied consistently, fairly and reasonably and will take account of any special educational needs or disabilities.
- Working with all students to promote self-esteem, confidence and emotional, physical and mental wellbeing.
- Working with our students in the areas of wellbeing, achievement, communication, and independence to enable them to become active participants in society.
- Promoting opportunities for our students to make choices and express their personal preferences.
- Enabling our students to talk about their experiences at public events.

### **Mutual Respect and Tolerance of Different Faiths and Beliefs**

At Hope Tree School we promote this fundamental British Value by demonstrating respect and tolerance towards other beliefs and faiths. We do this through:

- Difference being actively and visibly celebrated and welcomed throughout the school.
- Creating an environment that includes values and promotes different faiths, cultures, views and races.
- Providing students with links to the wider community through volunteering, visits to places of worship, and access to visitors to the school, speakers and advocates.
- Encouraging our students to learn about other faiths, cultures, traditions, family models, communities and ways of life.
- Encouraging our students to learn about, and engage with, the wider world around them.

Signed:  Head of Pastoral Care

Signed:  Head of Learning

Date: September 2025

Review Date: September 2026