

Spiritual Moral Social and Cultural Curriculum

British Values are at the heart of the curriculum and the daily life at Thomas Gray. Teachers have received training in a particular classification of character strengths and virtues, known as the Values in Action classification www.viacharacter.org from education advisor Jenny Fox Eades, who teaches on values in education internationally. The language of these values is interwoven into lessons, into feedback to the children and parents and into the physical and auditory environment of the school. It is used to provide particularly to discussion of values and to provide children and adults with a framework and vocabulary in which to discuss spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues across the curriculum. For example, in History, as children explore the establishment of multicultural Britain, we could highlight the virtues of *friendship, open-mindedness* and *fairness* of British people; in MFL when looking at different cultures, we might highlight our *love of learning, our humour and modesty*.

We highlight these values in assemblies and in lessons employing a variety of direct and indirect teaching methods, in particular through our use of the tradition of oral storytelling, in which we draw on a rich body of traditional, modern, folk and faith stories.

The traditional British values of fairness, friendship, humour, open-mindedness and justice receive particular emphasis within the context of SMSC. We use a community of enquiry approach to ensure that children develop higher order listening and discussion skills and learn that they need not always agree but can engage in a respectful quality of disagreement with those with different views. We also use these skills to help the children engage in discussion of ethical issues, drawing both on current events where appropriate and on wisdom stories from around the world.

We encourage the enjoyment and experience of silence and stillness to enable children and adults to have time for reflection and deep learning and to weave an experience of simple awe and wonder into the children's lives on a daily basis.

"Our Learning environment and Curriculum

- Be curious and express feelings of delight and wonder (scientific investigations, chemical reactions, new life, the global landscape, *beauty in works of art and music, human goodness and virtue*)
- *We aim to provide opportunities for the children to experience and create stillness, silence and beauty*

Moral Development

- We consciously develop a shared language and understanding of the role of character strengths and virtues in our lives, drawing on the VIA classification of strengths and virtues

Social Development

- We use a community of enquiry (P4C) approach as a key teaching strategy. Community of Enquiry has been demonstrated to develop interpersonal skills in children.

Provision of Teaching and Learning

In art

Giving pupils the chance to reflect on nature, their environment and surroundings, *and to appreciate beauty in fine art and craftsmanship*

In Music

Looking at the way music can change moods and behaviour; *we provide opportunities for the children to experience the transcendent impact of great music for themselves."*

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
New Beginnings IIP e-safety care for environment	Respect	Right and Wrong	Keeping Safe	Where I Live	The Wider world
Saving energy, looking after school grounds, litter	Anti-bulling, (Politeness/Kindness week?) what makes a good friend, caring for others; Remembrance/Poppies	Looking at Moral dilemmas	Internet safety, dangers of drugs, tobacco, alcohol, Road Safety, Sun safety	Smile project, local environment, look at features of where we live Location of Bootle, people who help us	
Strengths of the Head: wisdom, open-mindedness, love of learning, curiosity, creativity	Strengths of Meaning: Gratitude, hope, humour, spirituality, love of beauty	Strengths of Action: Courage, persistence, honesty, enthusiasm	Strengths of Self-control: prudence, self-control, forgiveness, modesty, patience	Strengths of the Heart: love, kindness, friendship	Strengths of Community: fairness, teamwork, leadership
Beginnings Festival Key stories: Anansi and the pot of Wisdom, what is an Elephant like, the god who sneezed (and other creation myths)	Harvest/Festivals of Lights Road to Bethlehem; The Spirit of the Corn The little Red Hen Cinderella	Performing Arts Key stories: Caedmon and the first poem; Dear child; Hansel and Gretel	Endings Booklet – rename it ‘Wisdom in Action’ Festival? (Keep it positive..) Key stories: Red Riding Hood, Bad Weather, Tom Tit Tot	Spring (Easter) Festival Key Stories: Rainbow Rider, The Elephant and his Mother, The Queen Bee, One of my Geese is Missing	Our Community Festival Key Stories: The Enormous Turnip, The Sword in the Stone, Melangell and the Hare, The Magic Paint Brush
Enthusiasm Creativity Leadership Love of learning (Open mindedness)	Harvest – modesty Fairness Gratitude Lights- patience Spirituality Hope Humour	Love of Beauty Courage Persistence	Prudence Self-control Forgiveness Wisdom	Love Kindness Friendship	Leadership Teamwork Honesty