



Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural (SMSC) In The PLACE at Arden



Sept 2024

At The Place at Arden, spiritual, moral, social and cultural learning (SMSC) underpins everything we do. We know that children learn through the many different experiences they have, alongside the warm and positive relationships they build with their parents or carers, their families and their teaching teams. The personal development of our children plays a significant role in their ability to learn and to grow into well-rounded members of society.

Our starting point is getting to know our children and families to understand their unique history and experiences. We recognise that every child has their own interests, strengths, characteristics, differences and needs. We aim to fill early experiences that our children may have missed, introduce new opportunities and experiences, which help to challenge existing stereotypes and perspectives. We support little brains to grow, so that children are able to get along with others and become curious, playful and enthusiastic learners.

Spiritual learning ...

Develop an understanding of own and other’s feelings and beliefs and learn to show empathy for others. Show an awareness, curiosity and wonder of their immediate and wider world.

- Continual co-regulation to calm big emotions and work with children to find specific strategies
- Developmentally appropriate approaches to teach children about their brain and how to identify and express how they are feeling
- A culture of compassion and kindness towards all children and all adults
- Parents encouraged to share their child’s life and learning experiences with staff or through Tapestry
- Parents invited to share ways they celebrate their beliefs (e.g., Hindu Festival of Colour)
- A curriculum incorporating children’s specific interests, strengths, current focuses or concerns
- Irresistible developmentally appropriate activities designed to support engagement, imagination and creativity

Moral learning...

Follow rules and expectations; recognise right and wrong. Reflect on the consequences of their behavioural responses. Investigate developmentally appropriate moral and ethical issues; suggest reasoned views.

- Our Place Rules - ‘We are Safe, Brave and Kind’
- Adult guided restorative conversations detailing consequences of actions and supported reparation
- Emotion Coaching to support problem solving
- A play-based curriculum where adults model role-play, scaffolding moral dilemmas
- Stories selected to specifically help children to reflect on current feelings, situations or experiences
- A philosophically rich environment where children are helped to make choices and ask questions
- Adult supported communications to support different views
- Bespoke rewards that are meaningful to the child
- Progress celebrated with parents and home school on Tapestry

Social learning...

Know that opinions, feelings, emotions and needs are important and valued, but that everyone may be different in this respect. Build trust in others and have the confidence to use their ‘voice’ to get along with, and collaborate with other children and adults.

- Playfulness, Acceptance, Curiosity and Empathy (PACE) is used in all adult:child interactions
- A play-based curriculum where adults model role-play, whilst scaffolding interactions and social skills
- Planned activities which involve turn-taking, sharing and collaboration
- The use of visual symbols and adult scaffolding to support communications
- A communicative rich environment where all commentary, wonderings and discussion is welcome
- Parts People and the Language of Parts to teach diversity
- Planned opportunities to practice perspective taking and flexible thinking

Cultural learning...

Develop a sense of identity, a sense of belonging within the class Team and an awareness of topical issues. Know which adults are safe and learn that children, adults and families can be different in many ways, but we need to treat everyone with safety and kindness.

- Our Place Rules - ‘We are **Safe, Brave and Kind**’
- Curriculum clubs - Art, Brick, Cooking, Garden, Woodwork, Sports
- Parts People and the Language of Parts to teach diversity
- Regular visits from Rocksteady, Nutmeg the reading dog, our Art Therapist, visitors linked to curriculum topics
- Birthdays and world-wide events celebrated
- A curriculum based on play and stories carefully selected to follow the children’s interests and a world beyond their lived experience
- A culture of compassion and kindness towards all children and all adults rigorously cultivated
- Regular visits from PC Matt to challenge inaccurate perspectives based on lived experiences