Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Developments in Science

Spiritual – Science at Hartwell Primary School uses evidence to make sense of the world around us. It has the ability to make us feel both insignificant (e.g. compared to the scale of the universe) and significant (e.g. we are genetically unique). It helps us to understand our relationship with the world around us (e.g. how the physical world behaves, the interdependence of all living things). Making new discoveries increases our sense of awe and wonder at the complexities and elegance of the natural world. For scientists, this is spiritual experience and drives us onwards in our search for understanding.

Moral – Whether it is the ethics behind certain medical treatments or the environmental impact of deforestation, moral decisions are an important aspect of Science here at Hartwell Primary School. Scientific discoveries and inventions need to be used responsibly and decisions made on evidence (not prejudice). As teachers, we encourage pupils to be both open-minded (generating a hypothesis) and critical (evidence) and to under their understanding of the world around them in a positive manner (e.g. recycling).

Social – Scientists are collaborators. Sharing ideas, data and results are key principles of the scientific method at Hartwell Primary School. We encourage pupils to work together on scientific investigations and to share and discuss results. Science has a major impact on the quality of our lives and in science lessons, pupils consider this.

Cultural – Science permeates modern culture, and has played a key part in developing it. It is both currently and historically an international activity. In science lessons at Hartwell Primary School, we explore and celebrate research and developments that take place in many different cultures (both past and present). We explore how scientific discoveries have shaped the beliefs, cultures and politics of the modern world.

Specific examples of Spiritual, Moral Social and Cultural Develop in Science include:

- Learning about the scientific perspective on the start of the universe and the evolution of life (with consideration of religious beliefs)
- Studying and discussing the impact on human beings on the environment, the problems created by industry and possible solutions.
- Investigating the impact of significant scientists from around the world
- Debating and discussing ethical issues in science, such as climate change
- Studying the scientific method and how scientists collaborate to share and test ideas.