Appendix K

How RE promotes spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

Spiritual development enables people to look within themselves, at their human relationships, at the wider world and at their vision of the divine or the ultimate reality with characteristics such as courage, hope, acceptance, strength, insight and love, so that they can better face all the sufferings, challenges and opportunities of human life.	Religious education provides opportunities to promote *spiritual development* through: ▪ discussing and reflecting on key questions of meaning and truth such as the origins of the universe, life after death, good and evil, beliefs about God and values such as justice, honesty and truth ▪ learning about and reflecting on important concepts, experiences and beliefs that are at the heart of religious and other traditions and practices ▪ considering how beliefs and concepts in religion may be expressed through the creative and expressive arts and related to the human and natural sciences, thereby contributing to personal and communal identity ▪ considering how religions and other world views perceive the value of human beings, and their relationships with one another, with the natural world, and with God ▪ valuing relationships and developing a sense of belonging ▪ developing pupil's own views and ideas on religious and spiritual issues.
Moral development enables pupils to take an increasingly thoughtful view of what is right and wrong, to recognise the needs and interests of others as well as themselves and develop characteristics such as truthfulness, kindness, unselfishness and commitments to virtues such as integrity, justice and the will to do what is right, so that they can live in ways which respect the well-being and rights of each person.	Religious education provides opportunities to promote *moral development* through: ▪ enhancing the values identified within the National Curriculum, particularly valuing diversity and engaging in issues of truth, justice and trust ▪ exploring the influence of family, friends and media on moral choices and how society is influenced by beliefs, teachings, sacred texts and guidance from religious leaders ▪ considering what is of ultimate value to pupils and believers through studying the key beliefs and teachings from religion and philosophy about values and ethical codes of practice ▪ studying a range of ethical issues, including those that focus on justice, to promote racial and religious respect, community cohesion and personal integrity ▪ considering the importance of rights and responsibilities and developing a sense of conscience.

Social development enables pupils to relate to others successfully through an understanding of the responsibilities and rights of being a member of various family, local, national and global communities. It enables them to develop social skills, qualities, attitudes and characteristics such as respectfulness, tolerance, a willingness to get involved, so that they can play a full and fulfilling part in their community and society as, for example, family members, citizens, learners and workers.	Religious education provides opportunities to promote social development through: ■ considering how religious and other beliefs lead to particular actions and concerns ■ investigating social issues from religious perspectives, recognizing the diversity of viewpoints within and between religions as well as the common ground between religions ■ articulating pupils' own and others' ideas on a range of contemporary social issues, including environmental concerns, issues of equality and community cohesion.
Cultural development enables people to develop their sense of their own place and identity in society, to value and participate creatively in their own culture and appreciate the cultures of others by developing their appreciation of, for example the arts, literature, sport, music, travel and other aspects of culture. Cultural development makes its contribution to human wellbeing through enabling participation in diverse varieties of cultural life for the enrichment of individuals and communities. Cultural development enables people to develop understanding of qualities and attitudes which lead to appreciation or participation in local, regional, national, European and global cultures.	Religious education provides opportunities to promote cultural development through: ■ encountering people, literature, the creative and expressive arts and resources from differing cultures ■ considering the relationship between religion and cultures and how religions and beliefs contribute to cultural identity and practices ■ promoting racial and interfaith harmony and respect for all, combating prejudice and discrimination, contributing positively to community cohesion and promoting awareness of how interfaith cooperation can support the pursuit of the common good.