

SMSC POLICY

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1. Introduction

SMSC, or spiritual moral, social and cultural development, in the curriculum is a whole College issue. We recognise that the personal development of students, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, plays a significant part in their ability to learn and achieve.

We therefore aim to provide an education that provides students with opportunities to explore and develop values and beliefs, spiritual awareness, high standards of personal behaviour, a positive, caring attitude towards other people, an understanding of their social and cultural traditions and an appreciation of the diversity and richness of other cultures.

2. Curriculum Planning

All curriculum areas have a contribution to make to each student's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and opportunities for this will be planned in each area of the curriculum. The integrity and spirituality of all students will be respected. The diversity of spiritual traditions will be recognised.

Adults will model and promote expected behaviour, treating all people as unique and valuable individuals and showing respect for students and their families. The College will be a place where students can find acceptance for themselves as unique individuals, and where opportunities for personal development are fundamental to the ethos of the College.

Students will learn to differentiate between right and wrong in as far as their actions affect other people. They will be taught to value themselves and others. Students must also understand the need for rules and the need to abide by rules for the good of everyone. Our College and classroom rules reflect, reiterate and promote acceptable behaviour and provide opportunities to celebrate students' work and achievements.

Each curriculum area will seek to use illustrations and examples drawn from as wide a range of cultural contexts as possible. This will be reflected in teachers' planning of lessons and sequences of lessons.

3. General Aims

The aims of this policy are:

- To ensure that everyone connected with the College is aware of our values and principles.
- To ensure a consistent approach to the delivery of SMSC issues through the curriculum and the general life of the College.
- To ensure that a student's education is set within a context that is meaningful and appropriate to their age, aptitude and background.

- To ensure that students know what is expected of them and why.
- To give each student a range of opportunities to reflect upon and discuss their beliefs, feelings and responses to personal experience.
- To enable students to develop an understanding of their individual and group identity.
- To enable students to begin to develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment and an appreciation of the many cultures that now enrich our society
- To ensure that there is a non-partisan approach in all that the College does in terms of curriculum delivery, resources and including trips and visitors
- To give each student the opportunity to explore social and moral issues, and develop a sense of social and moral responsibility

4. Spiritual Development

As a College we aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable students to:

- Sustain their self-esteem in their learning experience.
- Develop their capacity for critical and independent thought.
- Foster their emotional life and express their feelings.
- Experience moments of stillness and reflection.
- Discuss their beliefs, feelings, values and responses to personal experiences.
- Form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships.
- Reflect on, consider and celebrate the wonders and mysteries of life.

5. Moral development

We aim to govern, lead and teach with moral purpose and to provide learning opportunities that will enable students to:

- Recognise the unique value of each individual.
- Listen and respond appropriately to the views of others.
- Gain the confidence to cope with setbacks and learn from mistakes.
- Take initiative and act responsibly with consideration for others.
- Distinguish between right and wrong.
- Show respect for the environment.
- Make informed and independent judgments.

6. Social Development

As a College we aim to promote opportunities that will enable students to:

- Develop an understanding of their individual and group identity.
- Learn about service in the College and wider community.
- Develop a concern for the disadvantaged.

7. Cultural Development

As a College we aim to promote opportunities that will enable students to:

- Recognise the value and richness of cultural diversity in Britain, and how these influence individuals and society.
- Develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment.
- Develop an understanding of Britain's local, national, European, Commonwealth and global dimensions.

8. Teaching and Organisation

Development in SMSC will take place across all curriculum areas, within activities that encourage students to recognise the spiritual, moral, social and cultural dimensions of their learning, reflect on the significance of what they are learning, and to recognise any challenges that there may be to their own attitude and lifestyle. All curriculum areas should seek illustrations and examples drawn from as wide a range of cultural contexts as possible.

Class discussions will give students opportunities to:

- Talk about personal experiences and feelings.
- Express and clarify their own ideas and beliefs.
- Speak about difficult events, e.g. bullying, death etc.
- Share thoughts and feelings with other people.
- Explore relationships with friends, family and others.
- Consider others' needs and behaviour.
- Show empathy.
- Develop self-esteem and a respect for others.
- Develop a sense of belonging.
- Develop the skills and attitudes that enable students to develop socially, morally, spiritually and culturally e.g. respect, open mindedness, sensitivity, critical awareness

Many curriculum areas provide opportunities to:

- Listen and talk to each other.
- Learn an awareness of treating all as equals.
- Agree and disagree.
- Take turns and share equipment.
- Work cooperatively and collaboratively.

9. Links with the wider community

The development of strong home-College links is regarded as very important, enabling parents and teachers to work in an effective partnership to support students' development. Students will be taught to appreciate their local environment and to develop a sense of responsibility to it.

10. House Groups, Assemblies and Activity Days

As well as SMSC being a part of the curriculum and part of PSHE for senior school students, we embed these elements into our House Groups which meet weekly. The school has six House Groups and students from GCSE Intensive upwards are assigned to a House Group composing of a mix of year groups to encourage integration, communication and cohesion and a sense of school spirit.

Each week, students, and their House Group leaders have a particular theme to discuss. These issues frequently relate to SMSC issues and incorporate these elements as part of the College's House Group programme.

Further, we hold whole school assemblies where such issues are discussed.

The College has also scheduled Activity Days into the school planner where all classes will be suspended for the day and all year groups will partake of other activities which again which include aspects of SMSC.

11. Review

Provision for SMSC is monitored and reviewed on a regular basis and the policy reviewed annually.