

Policy for Common Values and SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social, and Cultural Development)

Introduction

We are committed to serving our community and recognises the multi-cultural, multi-faith and ever-changing nature of the United Kingdom. We also understand the vital role the academy plays in ensuring that groups or individuals within the academy are not subjected to intimidation or radicalisation by those wishing to unduly, or illegally, influence them.

We follow equality guidance which endeavours to ensure there will be no discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status, or similar. We are dedicated to preparing students for their adult life beyond the formal, examined curriculum and ensuring that it promotes and reinforces British values to all our students

Our school is committed to promoting British values and the holistic development of students through Spiritual, Moral, Social, and Cultural (SMSC) education. This policy outlines how we integrate these principles into the curriculum and school life to foster a supportive and inclusive environment. We use the language of Common values, rather than specifically British Values as a way of communicating that these values can be shared across communities rather than limited to observance by British people. This allows us to add our own values seamlessly, so see Common Values as an extension rather than a replacement.

Aims

- To ensure all students understand and respect Common values and how they relate to British values.
- To promote spiritual, moral, social, and cultural growth.
- To prepare students for life in modern Britain and Global Citizenship.
- To encourage active citizenship and community involvement.

Common Values

Our Common values encompass the following principles and take into account British values:

1. Democracy:

- Encourage student participation in school decision-making processes.
- Provide opportunities for students to vote on school matters and express their views.
- Promote active citizenship through the academic and supra-curricular activities in school.

2. The Rule of Law:

- Teach the importance of laws and rules in school and society.
- Develop an understanding of the justice system and its role in maintaining order.
- Work with Police and other bodies to encourage familiarity and active engagement.

3. Individual Liberty:

- Support students in making well-informed choices in a safe and supportive environment.
- Promote the freedom to hold and express opinions and belief, even if we don't agree.

- Teach active citizenship and rights-based legislation.

4. Mutual Respect and Tolerance:

- Foster an environment of respect for others, regardless of differences.
- Educate students about different cultures, religions, and lifestyles.
- Learn to disagree agreeably.
- Promoting CNS Ethos (3Ps for example)

Spiritual, Moral, Social, and Cultural Development (SMSC) and how it promotes common values

1. Spiritual Development:

- Encourage reflection on personal beliefs and experiences.
- Provide opportunities for students to explore different values and beliefs.
- Promote creativity, imagination, and curiosity.
- Develop a sense of awe and wonder through the materials we engage with.

2. Moral Development:

- Teach the difference between right and wrong through the curriculum and school ethos.
- Develop an understanding of the consequences of actions.
- Appreciate the moral and legal dimensions of academia and professional environs.
- Encourage respect for others and the importance of ethical behaviour.

3. Social Development:

- Develop social skills through collaborative projects and group activities.
- Understand importance of working with others for diversity of thought.
- Encourage participation in community service and extracurricular activities.
- Promote understanding and appreciation of diversity.

4. Cultural Development:

- Expose students to a variety of cultural experiences through the curriculum and events.
- Foster an appreciation for cultural diversity and heritage.
- Develop a rich understanding of British heritage and contributions to history.
- Understand the complexities of identifying with a culture.
- Promote participation in cultural activities and discussions.

Implementation

Curriculum Integration:

- Embed Common values and SMSC principles across all subjects.
- Use of Tutor Time to develop broad cultural literacy.
- Use assemblies, special events, and themed weeks to highlight key values and issues.

Pastoral Care:

- Provide support through a robust pastoral system to address individual student needs.
- Encourage mentoring and peer support programs.
- Clear support pathways for students demonstrating potentially harmful ideologies.
- Clear safeguarding procedures which support Equalities Act 2010 protections.

Staff Training:

- Offer professional development for staff on promoting Common values and SMSC.
- Provide regular updates on changes to statutory guidance and frameworks as appropriate.
- Ensure staff understand their role in supporting students' holistic development.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

- Regularly review the effectiveness of SMSC and Common values education.
- Gather feedback from students, parents, and staff to inform improvements.

Stakeholder Responsibilities**- School Leadership:**

- Ensure the policy is implemented effectively.
- Monitor the impact of SMSC and British values initiatives.

- Staff:

- Integrate Common values and SMSC principles into teaching and interactions.
- Serve as role models for students in accordance with professional standards.

- Students:

- Engage with SMSC activities and respect British values.
- Participate in school and community events.

- Parents and Guardians:

- Support the school's efforts in promoting Common values and SMSC.
- Encourage discussions about these principles where appropriate.

Conclusion

Our commitment to Common values and SMSC ensures that our students are well-prepared to become responsible, respectful, and active citizens. By integrating these principles into all aspects of school life, we aim to create a positive and inclusive environment that supports the development of every student.