

SOCIAL, MORAL, SPIRITUAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

POLICY

At My Choice School we recognise that the social, moral, spiritual and cultural development of students is significant in their ability to learn and achieve. We aim to provide an education that provides students with opportunities to explore and develop their own 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 all cultures in Britain.

All areas of our curriculum have a contribution to make to the students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and opportunities for this will be planned for and provided for throughout the timetable and through the enrichment opportunities at My Choice School.

All staff will model and promote expected behaviour, treating all people as unique and valuable individuals and showing respect for students, their friends and their families.

The school and home community will be a place where students can find acceptance for themselves as unique individuals and where they will be encouraged to accept the uniqueness of others.

Students will learn to differentiate between right and wrong, and to recognise the impact of their actions on themselves and others. They will be encouraged to value themselves and others and make appropriate choices.

Students will understand the need for rules and expectations and the need to abide by rules and to meet expectations for the good of everyone. School and classroom rules will reflect, reiterate, promote and reward acceptable behaviour and provide opportunities to celebrate students' work and achievements.

All curriculum areas 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 and resourcing.

General Aims

- To ensure that everyone connected with the school 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 school
- 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 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 give each student the opportunity to explore social and moral issues, and develop a sense of social and moral responsibility

Spiritual Development

As a school 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

Moral Development

As a school we aim 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 judgements

Social Development

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

- Develop an understanding of their identity as individuals and within a group
- Learn about their roles and responsibilities in the school, home and wider community

Cultural Development

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

- Recognise the value and richness of cultural diversity in the UK, and how these influence individuals and society
- Develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment
- Develop an understanding of other cultures

SMSC development will also include the understanding and promotion of **Fundamental British Values** (Promoting Fundamental British Values as part of SMSC in schools Nov 2014). The values will be embedded throughout the school week, in lessons, assemblies, and through the ethos of My Choice School. The fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs will be the values education that is at the heart of all we do.

Teaching and Organisation

SMSC development will take place across all curriculum areas and will be given specific delivery paths through PSHE, Citizenship, Beliefs and Values, assemblies, Feel Good Friday, Word of the Week, Health and Wellbeing Week. SMSC development will also be delivered within activities that encourage students to recognise the spiritual dimension of their learning, reflect on the significance of what they are learning, and to recognise any challenges that there may be to their own attitudes and lifestyle.

All curriculum areas should seek illustrations and examples drawn from as wide a range of cultural contexts as possible.

Discussions in class will give students opportunities to:

- Talk about personal experiences and feelings.
- Express and clarify their own ideas and beliefs.
- Speak about difficult events eg bullying, bereavement, loss etc.
- Share thoughts and feelings with other people.
- Explore relationships with friends / family / others.
- Consider others needs and behaviours.
- Develop empathy.
- Develop self-esteem and a respect for others.
- Develop a sense of belonging.
- Develop a range of skills and attitudes that enable students to develop socially, morally, spiritually and culturally – eg empathy, respect, open mindedness, sensitivity.

Many curriculum areas provide opportunities to:

- Listen and talk to each other.
- Learn an awareness of treating all as equals, and accepting people who are different in any way.

- Agree and disagree.
- Take turns and share equipment.
- Work co-operatively and collaboratively with peers and with adults.

Democracy

Students will be encouraged to make decisions and voice their opinions through the Student Voice, Student Council meetings held fortnightly, through the elections for Student Council; this encourages negotiation and an understanding of boundaries and the decision making process.

The rule of law

The importance of rules and laws are reinforced throughout the school day, whether they are rules that govern the school day or whether they are rules that govern society as a whole. Students are encouraged to learn about laws that are applicable to their lives in order to provide context for their importance and learn about civil and criminal law, rights and responsibilities through their independence preparation. Authorities such as YOS, Community Police Officers, Network Rail and the Fire Service can be used support and educate students.

Individual liberty

Students are encouraged to make choices within the safe and supportive environment of their home and school; choices about their behaviour, about exercising their personal freedoms wisely, safely and effectively and choices about allowing others to exercise their personal freedoms.

Mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

Students are encouraged to respect each other and to work and live together respectfully, sharing classroom space and living space. Tolerance of different faiths, beliefs and cultures is encouraged through cultural days promoting understanding of difference and commonality, through anti bullying work as part of PSHE challenging prejudice, and prejudice based bullying and discrimination, and through the acceptance and exploration of a diverse staff team. Feel Good Friday explores different cultures; sharing customs, cuisine, language and facilitating acceptance of all.

Links with the wider community

- Students will be taught to appreciate their local community and to develop a sense of responsibility to their community; this includes the school's neighbours and the town
- Local services and facilities will be used (eg libraries, recreational facilities) to develop a sense of belonging to their community

- Links with colleges will be encouraged for Yr10 and Yr11 students where provision is available

Monitoring and Evaluation

Provision for SMSC will be monitored and reviewed on a regular basis and the policy will be developed and reviewed on an annual basis. This will be achieved by:

- Monitoring of Medium Term Plans and teaching and learning, by the Headteacher
- Discussion at teacher meetings and whole school meetings, sharing of classroom work and practice
- Monitoring of the whole school approach through reviews of the Independent School Standards by the Head of Education
- Monitoring of impact through DSL meetings

Policy links:

Curriculum

Computer and internet

Acceptable User Agreement

Safeguarding

Behaviour management

Reviewed May 2025

Review due June 2026

