



SMSC Policy 2015-2017



Our Ethos:

‘Everyone in our school community has a right to learn and grow, be treated with respect and feel safe. Each has a responsibility too to conduct themselves in a way that helps promote these rights helping us to ensure that we continue to develop a culture and ethos in which every person feels valued and knows how to value the contribution of others.’

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Policy

Introduction

All maintained schools must meet the requirements set out in section 78 of the Education Act 2002 and promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of their pupils. Through ensuring pupils' SMSC development, schools can also demonstrate they are actively promoting fundamental British values. Actively promoting the values means challenging opinions or behaviours in school that are contrary to fundamental British values. Attempts to promote systems that undermine fundamental British values would be completely at odds with schools' duty to provide SMSC. The Teachers' Standards expect teachers to uphold public trust in the profession and maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour, within and outside school. This includes not undermining fundamental British values.

The 'Children's Act' (2004), based on the Green paper "*Every Child Matters*" (2003) outlines five key provisions for young people:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well-being

In its SMSC policy and practice, South Somerset Partnership School promotes the underlying principles of the act to ensure that learners are provided with a safe learning environment in which to develop their understanding of the world in which they live.

Through the provision of SMSC, SSPS aims to:

- enable students to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence;
- enable students to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England;
- encourage students to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative, and to understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the school and to society more widely;
- enable students to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England;
- further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling students to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures;

- encourage respect for other people; and
- encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England.

The list below describes the understanding and knowledge expected of pupils as a result of schools promoting fundamental British values.

- an understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process;
- an appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety;
- an understanding that there is a separation of power between the executive and the judiciary, and that while some public bodies such as the police and the army can be held to account through Parliament, others such as the courts maintain independence;
- an understanding that the freedom to choose and hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law;
- an acceptance that other people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour; and
- an understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination.

Our SMSC policy aims to prepare learners by providing opportunities for spiritual, social, moral and cultural development.

Across the whole school SMSC education will be found integrated into the curriculum, mentoring sessions and the daily life of the whole school community.

Centre displays reflect the promotion of SMSC education within South Somerset Partnership School.

At South Somerset Partnership School we promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness within students via a wide range of subjects and activities.

Spiritual Development

South Somerset Partnership School seeks to help learners to become more aware of the spiritual dimension within them by providing opportunities to question and reflect. The school's ethos and values, as well as the explicit teaching and learning within the school, aim to provide learners with the knowledge to develop, explore and respect the spiritual dimension of their lives and the lives of others, which might include those learners with specific religious beliefs. We will use teaching resources from a wide variety of sources to help pupils understand a range of faiths

Moral Development

South Somerset Partnership School seeks to encourage learners to develop moral values by providing opportunities to look at choices, focusing on right and wrong and the idea of justice. It aims to develop characteristics such as honesty, responsibility and integrity so that learners can live in ways that respect the well - being and rights of others.

We will include in suitable parts of the curriculum, as appropriate for the age of pupils, material on the strengths, advantages and disadvantages of democracy, and how democracy and the law works in Britain, in contrast to other forms of government in other countries;

We will ensure that all pupils within the school have a voice that is listened to, and demonstrate how democracy works by actively promoting democratic processes.

Social Development

The school seeks to encourage learners to develop the skills required to become active citizens so that they can participate responsibly in the communities to which they belong. These include the skills of co-operation, teamwork, initiative, responsibility and collaboration. Centres participate in the wider community through voluntary work, work experience and off-site education. These experiences all contribute to the social development of the learner and promote fundamental British Values.

We use opportunities such as general or local elections to promote fundamental British values and provide pupils with the opportunity to learn how to argue and defend points of view;

Cultural Development

South Somerset Partnership School seeks to develop and encourage learners to explore and understand their own cultural identity and the cultural diversity within society. Opportunities are provided to appreciate other people's traditions, values and beliefs in the explicit teaching of Art, English, PFWL and PSHE

Pupils are encouraged to regard people of all faiths, races and cultures with respect and tolerance. It is expected that pupils should understand that while different people may hold different views about what is 'right' and 'wrong', all people living in England are subject to its law. The school's ethos and teaching supports the rule of English civil and criminal law and will not teach anything that undermines it. Pupils will be made aware of the difference between the law of the land and religious law.

Procedures and Implementation

To ensure all learners make a positive contribution to society, students at South Somerset Partnership School are provided with:

- Quality teaching and learning to aid the development of skills and knowledge required to become responsible citizens.
- Opportunities to develop a supportive, caring and respectful attitude towards all members of the school community.
- Opportunities to prepare for life in the wider community

At South Somerset Partnership School SMSC education will be developed through:

- The whole curriculum
- The tutor system
- Extra - curricular activities: workshops, sporting and outdoor activities
- The school ethos
- Clear and unambiguous behaviour expectations, made explicit through reward systems.
- Support Services

Date of issue/revision:

Chair of Management Committee:

Headteacher:

Date:

Sept 2015