Policy Information Sheet

Name of Policy:	**Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Education Policy**
Delegated Authority	☒ Trust Board ☐ Nominated Committee ☐ CEO ☐ CFO ☐ Other _____
Policy review cycle	☐ Annual ☒ 3 years ☐ 4 years ☐ Other – 2 years
Statutory policy	☒ Yes ☐ No
Published online	☐ Statutory ☒ Trust recommended ☐ No

Document Control	
Created by (author)	Lorna McLean
Date created	08/05/2024
Approved by	Trust Board
Date approved	May 2024
Next Review Date	May 2027
Recorded in minutes	

Document History			
Version	Author	Revisions	Final approval date

1. **Rationale**

At Hartlepool Free School the promotion of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and multicultural development is considered to be a whole school issue and is the responsibility of all staff.

The SMSC lead provides an SMSC calendar on a termly basis to ensure coverage of SMSC is explicitly delivered as well as SMSC being infused throughout the curriculum. Tutors follow the calendar and deliver the topics in a way that is appropriate to their individual groups. The calendar is not inclusive of all topics which are promoted, but suggested ideas including those that are non-negotiable for whole school coverage.

SMSC is delivered in line with the school standards to ensure that pupils' development in non-academic terms will enable them to play a confident, informed role in society, have a fully developed value system, and be able to interact with other people in a positive way.

Values and attitudes are formed in childhood. People's values and attitudes may change over time; however, it is those formed in early life that are most likely to prevail over an adult's role as a citizen.

We at Hartlepool Free School have a duty to provide a positive influence whilst at the same time allowing children and young people freedom of expression and the ability to reach decisions for themselves. The example set by adults in the school and the quality of relationships is of particular importance in promoting spiritual, moral, social and multicultural development.

Our values of inclusion and equality for all support the importance of growth and development for pupils in all areas of SMSC within Hartlepool Free School.

2. Aims

Hartlepool Free School aims to:

Embed the school ethos of being Kind, Personal responsibility, Resilience and Growth MIndset to support SMSC development in the following areas

- promote inclusion;
- provide a safe and welcoming learning environment where children and young people can build self-esteem;
- challenge and support pupils in their learning;
- ensure that all pupils have access to a broad and balanced curriculum;
- provide learning experiences that offer pupils opportunities to explore and develop, discuss and reflect and upon their own values and beliefs, spiritual awareness, a positive, caring attitude towards others, an understanding of their social, cultural traditions and heritage and an appreciation of the diversity and richness of other cultures;
- provide each pupil with the opportunity to explore social and moral issues, and develop a sense of social and moral responsibility;
- ensure that all curricular areas contribute to the SMSC development of all pupils;
- ensure that the integrity and spirituality of all faith backgrounds are respected;

- have staff that will act as positive role models, treating pupils with respect and dignity and by promoting positive behaviour by pupils at all times;
- ensure that all connected with the school community are aware of the values and principles that underpin the life of the school.

3. Spiritual Development

- At Hartlepool Free School we aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable pupils to develop their spiritual awareness and understanding by:
- building their confidence and self-esteem;
- developing their capacity for critical and independent thought;
- fostering their emotional wellbeing;
- experiencing moments of stillness and reflection;
- discussing beliefs, feelings, values and responses to personal experiences;
- forming and maintaining trusting and positive relationships;
- reflecting on, considering and celebrating the wonders and mysteries of life;

4. Moral development

As a school we aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable pupils 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;
- accept responsibility for their actions;

5. Social development

At Hartlepool Free School we aim to promote opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- develop an understanding of their uniqueness as an individual;
- develop their understanding and importance of group participation;
- learn about good citizenship and service in the school and wider community;

6. Multicultural Development

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

- recognise the value and ethos of British culture;
- recognise the richness of cultural diversity in modern day United Kingdom;
- develop an understanding of the social and multicultural environment;
- develop an understanding of the United Kingdom's local, national, European,

Commonwealth and global dimensions;

7. How we will meet our aims

SMSC will take place during tutorial, during off site education events such as Outdoor Learning days and across all curriculum areas, within activities that encourage pupils 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 attitude and lifestyle.

All curriculum areas should seek illustrations and examples drawn from a wide range of cultural contexts as possible. The curriculum provides opportunities for pupils to:

- listen and talk to each other and learn to agree and disagree with each other in a constructive manner;
- take turns and share equipment;
- learn an awareness of treating all as equals;
- work cooperatively and collaboratively;

Many pupils at Hartlepool Free School may have difficulty in expressing their feelings and views due to their complex social needs, however they will be encouraged within a supportive and nurturing environment, in class discussions or in individual sessions and by participating in whole school events to:

- talk about personal experiences and feelings;
- express their ideas and beliefs and listen to the views of others;
- speak about difficult events, e.g. bullying, bereavement and loss;
- share thoughts and feelings with other people;
- explore relationships with friends/family/others;
- consider the needs and behaviours of others;
- show empathy towards others;
- develop self-esteem, a sense of self-worth and a respect for others;
- develop a sense of belonging;
- obtain the skills necessary for life beyond school;

8. Spiritual Development is encouraged through:

- the promotion of positive behaviour;
- a curriculum that has breadth and balance;
- the development of self-awareness and personal responsibility within pupils;
- the promotion of equality of access for all pupils;
- the implementation of procedures on restorative justice;
- the provision of activities that encourage understanding of living within a diverse culture;
- the provision of a safe and nurturing environment in which pupils learn;
- staff who present as positive role models through the promotion of the principles of fair play, tolerance, respect, understanding, honesty, empathy and justice;
- celebrations of success;

- activities to learn about other people in a world context;
- the ethos and climate of the school;
- the values of inclusion and equality that the school upholds and identifies;
- Religious Education and group gatherings;
- a culture where people are listened to and their opinions valued;

9. Moral Development is encouraged through:

- The promotion of positive behaviour, sanctions and rewards and the restorative justice procedures;
- Religious Education, PSHE programmes and celebrations of success.
- Clearly defined policies for dealing with issues such as bullying, social injustice and discrimination with an emphasis of involving the pupil(s) in decision making if appropriate;
- the provision of a safe and nurturing environment in which children and young people are encouraged to express their views and opinions, participation in the Pupil Council;
- encouraging all pupils to be responsible citizens of the school and wider community by accepting responsibility for their actions;
- praise and reward for positive contributions;
- participation in charitable events in order that pupils understand that there are members of the community less fortunate than them;

10. Social development is encouraged through:

- the provision of learning programmes that are appropriate to the needs, age and key stage of pupils;
- opportunities for pupils to work collaboratively and cooperatively as part of a group or team;
- environmental projects;
- the provision of out of school activities that encourage and engender a sense of social responsibility;
- assemblies, PSHE and Religious Education;
- the provision of whole school activities such as open days;
- opportunities to attend cultural events out of school;
- appropriate systems of conflict resolution;
- collation of pupil surveys and taking steps to implement change;
- engendering values of respect, honesty and thoughtfulness throughout the school community;

11. (Multi) Cultural Development will be encouraged through:

- participating in artistic and cultural events both within and out of school
- celebrating our pupils' individual gifts and talents;
- raising pupil awareness of other cultures through assemblies, religious education PSHE and other curricular areas such as humanities;
- encouraging pupils to consider new ideas and considering the contribution they can

make to global citizenship;
- a robust and fair system of addressing and reporting incidents of racism and prejudice appropriately;

12. Monitoring and Evaluation

Tutors and supporting staff track SMSC through a SMSC tracker, this is done in all subjects where applicable. Each individual class group has their own way of evidencing their SMSC coverage, this is documented in scrap books or files and regular tutor sessions with pupils. SMSC is also present within the outdoor education that runs across Hartlepool Free School.

SMSC provision will be monitored throughout the school on an ongoing basis with the policy and procedure being updated taking account of legislative or curricular advice issued by the government. The responsibility for monitoring and reporting this to wider SLT will be the responsibility of classroom teachers/TAs.

SMSC is monitored as a part of every learning walk and lesson observation. Analysis of this information identifies strength in practice and next steps for improvement.