

How we deliver SMSC in Religious Education

SPIRITUAL education; The Spiritual aspect of SMSC is embedded in our lessons, with students often being given opportunity to reflect on how the things they have learnt can affect and influence their own lives. Students are asked for their own opinion in their evaluation questions, which we discuss at length in lessons. In Key Stage 3 each assessment has an aspect of “learning from religion” in it which is about their personal reflection on the topic being assessed. Students are also given opportunity to reflect in their written work.

MORAL education; The issues of morality flow throughout our courses. At GCSE level the course specifically requires students to consider the moral and ethical issues of the topics that are being addressed, such as the role of humans and the environment, if abortion and euthanasia are morally acceptable and if Capital Punishment is helpful. At Key Stage 3 we also look at how moral issues, such as suffering are affected by religion and we examine the impact of prejudice on society. We also review how the issues we face today can affect the world tomorrow.

SOCIAL education; Within Religious Studies students are given the opportunity to develop their social skills through debate, speaking and listening, group work and using a variety of modern media. We also reflect on issues of community cohesion through inter-faith dialogue and the affect religion has on individuals.

CULTURAL education; Religion, Morality and Social skills are underpinned by the culture we live in. Within Religious Studies we look at issues of how religion is shown in our culture by the media, and how religious beliefs affect the society we live in. We also review world faiths and show the importance of the influence of culture and religion often go hand in hand throughout the world.

Specific examples of Spiritual, Moral Social and Cultural Develop in Religious Studies include:

- In Expressions of faith we address issues about belief in God, suffering and creation. This demonstrates the social & moral issues around suffering as well as spiritual & cultural reflection on creation and belief in God. We think about the Christian theme of service and the impact of charity.
- In Suffering and prejudice we look at how faith changed the world through individuals. We address moral issues such as slavery & trafficking, cultural & social issues such as crime, and about how faith affects people and our response to it. We focus on the Christian theme of compassion.
- In the work on Judaism, pupils study the Holocaust. They have opportunity in this unit to reflect on the affect that the Holocaust has today on the world. Students also reflect on recent genocides as part of one of the lessons and the way that the world has been shaped through this evil. We focus on the Christian theme of endurance.
- In PSHE/RE in year 10 students look at prejudice and discrimination, the role of religion in society, our role in the world as humans and how religion plays a role with medical ethics.