

## **SMSC Policy – St Andrew's Academy** *Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development*

### **Introduction**

This policy outlines the approach to the teaching, learning, organisation and management of SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development) at St Andrew's Academy. It aligns closely with the school's mission statement and supports the overall aims and values of the academy.

SMSC development is the shared responsibility of all staff—both teaching and support—who work directly with students. The monitoring and evaluation of this policy are overseen by the Subject Leader and the Senior Leadership Team (SLT).

St Andrew's Academy is proud to have been awarded the **SMSC Quality Mark Silver Award in June 2023**, in recognition of our sustained commitment to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all learners. This award reflects the strength of our provision, the impact of our curriculum and the inclusive, reflective ethos embedded across our school.

### **Vision and Aims**

SMSC development at St Andrew's Academy underpins our vision of nurturing well-rounded, thoughtful and compassionate individuals. It lays the foundation for all students to flourish — academically, socially, and personally, enabling them to lead fulfilling, purposeful lives.

Our aims are to:

- Promote creativity, enquiry and independent thinking.
- Foster personal responsibility, self-awareness and a lifelong love of learning.
- Prepare students to be respectful individuals, active citizens and confident contributors to society.

SMSC at St Andrew's Academy is not taught in isolation. It is woven into the fabric of our academy life — through assemblies, enrichment activities, community links, pastoral care and our restorative approach to behaviour. It informs how we teach, how we support wellbeing and how we prepare students to contribute meaningfully to the world beyond school.

SMSC is embedded across all areas of our curriculum, particularly complementing our *Preparing for Life* and *Inspiring Futures* programmes.

### **SMSC in the Curriculum**

We integrate SMSC across all subject areas to:

- Develop executive functioning, critical thinking and co-operative skills.
- Encourage self-awareness, confidence and thoughtful decision-making.
- Develop our students' sense of self and understanding of their needs and diagnosis.
- Stimulate curiosity and imagination through open-ended questioning.
- Foster reflection, respectful debate and a desire to explore the world.
- Promote integrity, mutual respect and a strong sense of social responsibility.
- Broaden understanding of cultural diversity and global perspectives.

## Outcomes for Students

Through rich and varied SMSC learning experiences, students will:

- Experience personalised learning tailored to their individual needs.
- Engage with learning that inspires awe, wonder and curiosity.
- Think creatively, reflect critically and make informed choices.
- Understand that actions carry consequences and that everyone has rights and responsibilities.
- Build positive, respectful relationships with others.
- Develop empathy and appreciation for diverse beliefs, backgrounds and traditions.
- Actively participate in the school and wider community.
- Begin to understand their place in a global society.
- Explore and express their own values while respecting the perspectives of others.
- Collaborate effectively with peers and contribute meaningfully to group settings.

## Teaching Approaches to SMSC

When delivering SMSC, staff will:

- Provide daily opportunities for awe, wonder and meaningful reflection.
- Introduce students to new and enriching experiences.
- Use varied teaching methods — discussions, role-play, multimedia and community engagement.
- Create inclusive, hands-on and interactive learning environments.
- Design tasks that promote participation, curiosity and problem-solving.
- Encourage moments of quiet reflection and stillness to foster mindfulness and appreciation of the world.

All staff receive regular training and guidance on embedding SMSC across the curriculum, ensuring consistency of approach and continued professional growth.

## Planning and Implementation

SMSC is embedded in every lesson across all Key Stages and recorded in our curriculum overviews. It is closely linked with our PSHE and RSE curriculum.

- We have six theme days across the year which focus on our learning for life skills and have activities that integrate SMSC values.
- We have an SMSC display in school which is rotated each month in line with SMSC calendar dates. This has specific books and resources that can be adapted for each class in school and used as able.
- SMSC and events are marked on each half term's scheme of work document with the expectation that it accessed in class in a way that is suitable for them.
- Every student is offered numerous residential school trips during their time at St Andrew's Academy. We take students to new and different places with the view to them having new experiences of awe and wonder.
- Students will have the opportunity to go to sporting events, the theatre, out for meals and on educational trips throughout each year.

The PSHE Co-ordinator and SLT are responsible for monitoring the delivery, quality and impact of SMSC across the academy.

## Global and community links

Students at St Andrew's Academy actively engage with both the local and global community through charitable initiatives, environmental projects and cultural exchanges, helping them to develop empathy, global awareness and a sense of purpose.

## **Equal Opportunities**

St Andrew's Academy is committed to ensuring all students have equal access to SMSC learning opportunities, regardless of race, culture, gender, ability or socio-economic background.

Teachers actively challenge stereotypes and promote inclusive representation to ensure students gain a balanced and fair understanding of the world. We believe that nurturing respect for all cultures and identities is essential for developing compassionate, informed and tolerant young people.

## **Inclusion**

SMSC is delivered to all students, regardless of their individual needs or abilities. We adapt teaching strategies to ensure that every learner can engage meaningfully and make progress. Our approach aims to support the development of the whole child, academically, emotionally and socially.

## **Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

The implementation and impact of SMSC provision are reviewed regularly through lesson observations, curriculum audits, student voice activities and external benchmarking such as the SMSC Quality Mark.

## SMSC POLICY

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