



Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Policy

Key Document Details

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Author: H Clapton

Owner: A Hill

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Overview

The aim of this policy is to promote positive attitudes and values throughout the life and work of the whole community at The Ridgeway School & Sixth Form College so students feel a sense of belonging to the school and wider community. Through Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development, we seek to equip students with the knowledge, skills, confidence and character needed to thrive in modern Britain and in their future lives.

SMSC development contributes significantly to students' personal development by helping them become responsible, respectful and active citizens who demonstrate resilience, empathy, integrity and respect for others. It supports students to understand diversity, maintain positive physical and mental wellbeing, make informed decisions and contribute positively to society.

SMSC development is promoted through the curriculum, pastoral programme, enrichment activities, leadership opportunities, careers education and the wider life of the school.

The school is committed to ensuring that SMSC and personal development opportunities are accessible to all pupils, including disadvantaged pupils, pupils with SEND and those from underrepresented groups. Participation and engagement will be actively promoted to ensure equality of opportunity.

Spiritual Development has to do with the search for meaning and purpose in life and for values by which to live.

Moral Development refers to students' knowledge, understanding, intentions, attitudes and behaviour in relation to what is right and wrong.

Social Development refers to students' progressive acquisition of the competences and qualities needed in order to play a full part in society.

Cultural Development has to do with students' increased understanding and command of those beliefs, values, customs, knowledge and skills which, taken together, form the basis of identity and cohesion in societies and groups.

British Values refer to an appreciation of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

Linked Policies

Equality and Diversity Statement; Curriculum; Teaching and Learning; Behaviour and Wellbeing; Sex and Relationship Education; Drugs Education, Safeguarding

A. Policy for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

During the course of their time at The Ridgeway School & Sixth Form College, and extending to their life beyond the school, students will be encouraged to develop and foster within themselves:

1. Spiritual Development

- a) Spiritual Development is concerned with: that which gives meaning to life; a search for meaning and purpose in one's life in the world and universe; a sense of awe and wonder; beliefs; self-knowledge; relationships and respect towards one another; creativity and the creative ability within the individual; feelings and emotions.
- b) Beliefs which they hold personally, and the ability to give some account of these, to reflect on these beliefs and evaluate the impact of these beliefs on their lives.
- c) Knowledge of the central beliefs, ideas and practices of major world religions and philosophies
- d) An understanding of how people have sought to explain the universe through religious, historical, aesthetic and scientific interpretations.
- e) Attitudes and behaviour which derive from spiritual knowledge and understanding and from personal belief, and which show awareness of the relationship between belief and action.
- f) Personal response to issues and questions concerning the purpose of life, and relating to the experience of human values and concepts such as love, beauty, pain and suffering.

2. Moral Development

- a) Moral Development is concerned with knowledge, understanding, skills, attitudes, values and behaviour in relation to what is right and wrong.
- b) The ability to distinguish between right and wrong.
- c) An understanding and recognition of varying ethical stances, principles and led with the ability to evaluate these.
- d) The ability to recognise that people act in accordance with moral or religious principles.
- e) The ability to take responsibility for actions

- f) Recognition of long-term and short-term consequences of actions to oneself and others.
- g) The ability to articulate, rationalise, evaluate and justify attitudes and values.
- h) Recognition of a moral dimension to situations.
- i) Enable students to make informed and safe choices, both offline and online.
- j) Development of a set of socially/morally acceptable values and principles.
- k) The ability to evaluate, refine and re-evaluate attitudes and values over a period of time.

3. Social Development

Social Development is concerned with knowledge, skills, attitudes, values and behaviour, which enable students to become confident and capable people who are able to contribute fully and generously to the life of the school, society and the wider community.

- a) The ability to make a positive personal contribution to the well-being of groups to which they belong, including family, friends, school and in the wider community, and to form effective relationships within them.
- b) Development of attitudes which show the ability to adjust to a range of social situations by using appropriate and sensitive behaviour.
- c) Promote positive mental health, emotional wellbeing and healthy relationships.
- d) Development of an understanding of how individuals relate to each other within school and society.
- e) Development of responsibility, initiative and co-operation within the school and in the wider community.
- f) Development of knowledge and understanding of the structures, institutions and processes of society, and of how societies function and are organised.
- g) The ability to take on a range of roles within the school and in the wider community, such as leadership and being a team member.
- h) Students will have access to high-quality careers education and guidance, enabling them to understand employment opportunities, develop workplace skills and make informed decisions regarding future education, training and career pathways.
- i) Students will learn how to engage safely, responsibly and respectfully in digital environments. They will develop an understanding of online safety, media literacy, responsible use of technology and the impact of their online behaviour on others.

4. Cultural Development

Cultural Development is concerned with knowledge, skills, attitudes and values.

- a) Awareness and understanding of the diversity of religious, social, aesthetic, ethnic and political traditions and practices, locally, nationally and internationally.
- b) Knowledge of the nature and sources of their own cultural traditions and practices and the key features of other major cultural groups within their own society.
- c) The ability to respond to, and to develop skills in, a range of cultural dimensions, including literature, music, science and technology, art and design, drama, dance and sport.
- d) The ability to relate what is learnt within the school curriculum to the wider cultural aspects of society.
- e) The ability to evaluate the quality and worth of cultural achievements.
- f) The ability to reflect upon and evaluate the nature of our society.

5. British Values (taken from the DfE guidance 'Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools' Nov 2014)

The school will also promote British values, as required, by:

- a) enabling students to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence;
- b) enabling students to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England;
- c) encouraging 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;
- d) enabling students to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England;
- e) promoting further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling students to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures;
- f) encouraging respect for other people; and
- g) encouraging 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.

B. Procedures

Opportunities are created for the development of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development through the curriculum in each subject area and in other wider school opportunities.

1. Spiritual Development

- a) The curriculum as a whole
- b) The Religious Studies curriculum
- c) Assemblies
- d) The Personal Development tutoring programme and RSHE programme
- e) School events, immersion days and other opportunities

2. Moral Development

- a) The curriculum as a whole
- b) The Religious Studies curriculum
- c) Assemblies
- d) The implementation of the Behaviour and Wellbeing Policy
- e) The Personal Development tutoring programme and RSHE programme
- f) School events, immersion days and other opportunities
- g) Student leadership opportunities including the School Council
- h) Online safety and digital citizenship education

3. Social Development

- a) The curriculum as a whole
- b) Extra-curricular activities
- c) Educational visits
- d) School events and immersion days
- e) Student leadership opportunities including the School Council, Prefects and Peer Mentors

- f) The mentoring and RSHE programme, including enrichment
 - g) Sponsored Activities Days e.g. Comic Relief and Children in Need
 - h) The Duke of Edinburgh programme.
 - i) The House System
 - j) Mental health and wellbeing programmes.
 - k) Careers programme and guidance eg engagements with a wide range of employers
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4. Cultural Development

- a) The curriculum as a whole
- b) Assemblies
- c) The Religious Studies curriculum
- d) The Personal Development tutoring programme and RSHE programme
- e) Extra-curricular activities
- f) Educational visits
- g) School events, immersion days and other opportunities such as awards evenings, sports fixtures, art exhibitions and school productions.

5. British Values

- a). The Personal Development tutoring programme and RSHE programme
- b) Mock Elections
- d). Educational visits eg Mock trial, visits to Parliament.
- e) Religious Studies Curriculum
- f) Student Voice opportunities
- g) Student Council