



SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL POLICY

Community Academy

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TOGETHER WE EMPOWER EXCELLENCE

Introduction

All schools within the Learning Academy Partnership strive to meet the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development needs of all children. We fully recognise that SMSC is central to the educational entitlement of all children and that it should provide the foundation for the whole curriculum and ethos of each individual academy.

The promotion of SMSC within the Learning Academy Partnership is fundamental to our vision of transforming children's lives and, as part of this, we place the development of the whole child at the heart of all that we do.

We aim to provide all of our children with a world-class education that provides them with opportunities to explore their own values, beliefs, opinions, attitudes and skills within a safe and nurturing environment. We support the children in developing the skills necessary to understand themselves and the world around them in order that they may be respectful, hold knowledgeable conversations and learn how to live well together in diverse and pluralistic societies.

A variety of curriculum opportunities provide experiences for all children to understand and develop their knowledge of social and cultural traditions, of diversity, and to develop a sense of self and identity.

SMSC is approached through all areas of the curriculum and it also incorporates the promotion of Fundamental British Values. This is important in developing children's understanding of themselves, others, the world around them and beyond. It allows them to explore the key areas of the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual tolerance and respect and democracy.

Inclusive of this is the development of personal behaviour for all children within our academies. SMSC forms a strong foundation and it is central to behaviour and the expectations set for all children. Within each academy context, children will be provided with a safe environment in which they are able to explore the difference between right and wrong, the concept of rules, and the importance of rules and expectations for everyone within each academy. Positive behaviour is fundamental within each of our schools and this helps to promote the expectation and development of respect for all. Positive behaviour is celebrated both within the classroom, within the school as a whole and for each individual child. Opportunities to celebrate positive behaviour and achievements are essential and consistently promoted.

Legal Requirements

“Independent schools (including academies and free schools) must meet the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development standard set out in the Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations.”

-Improving the spiritual, moral, social and cultural(SMSC) development of pupils. Departmental advice for independent schools, academies and free schools, November 2013

The importance of SMSC is promoted throughout the OfSTED framework and the responsibility for schools.

Definitions

The following definitions relating to SMSC are taken from the School Inspection Handbook

Spiritual

Provision for the spiritual development of pupils includes developing their:

- ability to be reflective about their own beliefs (religious or otherwise) and perspective on life
- knowledge of, and respect for, different people's faiths, feelings and values
- sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them
- use of imagination and creativity in their learning
- willingness to reflect on their experiences.

Moral

Pupils' moral development is shown by their:

- ability to recognise the difference between right and wrong and to readily apply this understanding in their own lives, and to recognise legal boundaries and, in doing so, respect the civil and criminal law of England
- understanding of the consequences of their behaviour and actions
- interest in investigating and offering reasoned views about moral and ethical issues and ability to understand and appreciate the viewpoints of others on these issues.

Social

Pupils' social development is shown by their:

- use of a range of social skills in different contexts, for example working and socialising with other pupils, including those from different religious, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds
- willingness to participate in a variety of communities and social settings, including by volunteering, cooperating well with others and being able to resolve conflicts effectively

- acceptance of and engagement with the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. They will develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.

Cultural

Pupils' cultural development is shown by their:

- understanding and appreciation of the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their own heritage and that of others
- understanding and appreciation of the range of different cultures in the school and further afield as an essential element of their preparation for life in modern Britain
- ability to recognise, and value, the things we share in common across cultural, religious, ethnic and socio-economic communities
- knowledge of Britain's democratic parliamentary system and its central role in shaping our history and values, and in continuing to develop Britain
- willingness to participate in and respond positively to artistic, musical, sporting and cultural opportunities
- interest in exploring, improving understanding of and showing respect for different faiths and cultural diversity and the extent to which they understand, accept and respect diversity. This is shown by their respect and attitudes towards different religious, ethnic and socio-economic groups in the local, national and global communities.

British Values

As of November 2014, all schools are required to promote Fundamental British Values as part of their curriculum. Advice taken from the DFE states that British Values should be promoted through the provision for SMSC.

As stated in the School Inspection Handbook from September 2015, 'fundamental British Values' are:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith

These values originated as part of the Prevent Strategy (2011) and also intended to support the Equality Act of 2010.

Advice outlined from the Department for Education relating to British Values can be found here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/380595/SMSC_Guidance_Maintained_Schools.pdf

Within the Learning Academy Partnership, we promote British Values throughout a variety of curriculum opportunities, SMSC provision, Religious Education and Collective Worship.

Mutual Respect and Tolerance is also an integral part of our Safeguarding Policy. Any views which oppose that of British Values are challenged; this also encompasses all forms of extremist views which are counter to British Values. Within all of our academies, we will actively challenge any views that are expressed by children, staff or members of the wider school community that are contrary to the promotion of these British Values.

SMSC Practice

Within all of our academies, individual approaches are taken to ensure that all areas of SMSC as outlined are met. These approaches are carefully considered and planned to meet the needs of all children within their individual school contexts. We strive to provide thoughtful and meaningful opportunities for all children that give a rich variety of experiences to promote all areas of SMSC. This also incorporates the physical and mental well-being of all children. We ensure that all children are supported to develop the skills needed and to have a range of experiences to allow them to develop as active, positive members within society.

SMSC is threaded throughout all areas of the curriculum. Opportunities to develop learning and to reflect are core elements that allow children to develop a sense of self, compassion for others, an understanding of the world around them and a sense of the beyond. Children are able to also develop an enjoyment for learning, an understanding of the need for perseverance when faced with challenges and the necessary skills to overcome difficulties.

All curriculum areas should include opportunities to learn from a range of different cultural contexts, religions and worldviews where appropriate.

Visitors are welcomed into school to support, as part of planned curriculum opportunities, the promotion and development of SMSC. All visitors are required to work in line with our safeguarding policy requirements.

Relationships with parents and carers and also essential to the promotion and development of SMSC. It is important for staff, children and parents/carers to have positive relationships to ensure that all children are supported through effective parent partnership.

Each academy supports local and/or national and/or international charities as part of their development of SMSC. The charities that are supported will be chosen within each academy.

We strive to ensure that SMSC underpins a curriculum provision and ethos within each of our academies that enables all of our children to live life to the full and that achieves excellence for all.

Monitoring

SMSC is monitored and reviewed on a regular basis by the Local Governance Committees through learning walks, speaking with children, visiting Ethos Days and through the Head of Academy Local Governance Committee reports and is amended as required and when appropriate.