



OXFORD HOUSE SCHOOL

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Policy

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Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Policy (SMSC)

SMSC Policy Rationale

At Oxford House School, we recognise that the personal development of pupils, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, plays a significant part in their ability to learn and achieve. We therefore aim to provide an education that provides pupils with opportunities to explore and develop their own values and beliefs, spiritual awareness, high standards of personal behaviour, a positive, caring attitude towards other people, an understanding of their social and cultural traditions and an appreciation of the diversity and richness of the cultures. The school will ensure that children should understand how the culture(s) in which they live influences individual thinking. We promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

At Oxford House British values and SMSC are an integral part of our fundamental school day whether it be through our enriched curriculum, assemblies including guest speakers with opportunities for workshops and our pastoral care. All curriculum areas have a contribution to make to the child's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and opportunities for this should be planned in each area of the curriculum. Staff should model and promote expected behaviour, treating all people equally as unique and valuable individuals and showing concern and respect for pupils and their families. All curriculum areas should seek to use illustrations and examples drawn from as wide a range of cultural contexts as possible. The school community will be a place where pupils can find acceptance for themselves as unique individuals and where forgiveness and the opportunity to start again is fundamental to the ethos of the school.

Pupils should learn to differentiate between right and wrong. They should be aware that their actions affect other people. They will be encouraged to value themselves and others. Pupils will be encouraged to understand the need for rules and the need to abide by rules for the good of everyone. School and classroom responsibilities reflect, reiterate, promote and reward acceptable behaviour and provide opportunities to celebrate pupils' achievements.

Aims

- To ensure everyone connected with Oxford House School is aware of our values and principles.
- To ensure a consistent approach to the delivery of SMSC issues through the curriculum and the general life of the school.

- To ensure that a pupil's education is set within a context that is meaningful and appropriate to their age, aptitude and background.
- To ensure that pupils know what is expected of them and why.

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- To enable pupils to begin to develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment and an appreciation of the many cultures that now enrich our society.
- To give each pupil the opportunity to explore social and moral issues, and develop a sense of social and moral responsibility.

Spiritual Development

Spiritual development is essential to helping pupils to value everyone as a unique human being. It involves reflecting on organised religion and the concept of a deity as an important focus of faith for many people but also on different belief structures not based on religion per se. Spiritual development includes opportunities for pupils to encounter all the positive aspects of human experience.

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

- Sustain their self-esteem in their learning experience.
- Feel happiness, pride, forgiveness and responsibility.
- Develop their capacity for critical and independent thought.
- Exercise their capacity for creativity, curiosity, questioning and exploring.
- Foster their emotional life and express their feelings.
- Experience moments of stillness and reflection.
- Form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships.
- Empathise with others at times of joy and tragedy.
- Reflect on, consider and celebrate the wonders and mysteries of life.

Moral development

Moral development enables pupils to value and improve their relationships and is central to the smooth running of our school and wider community.

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.

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- Take initiative and act responsibly with consideration for others.
- Distinguish between right and wrong.
- Show respect for the environment.
- Make informed and independent judgements.

Social Development

Social development is the foundation for education in PSHE and extra-curricular activities at Oxford House School.

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

- Develop an understanding of their individual and group identity.
- Learn about service in the school and wider community.
- Contribute confidently to the well-being of friendship groups and the wider community.
- Learn to work with others for the common good.

Cultural Development

Cultural development enables pupils to appreciate that creativity and imagination is stronger because of the communities and society to which they belong.

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

- Recognise the value and richness of cultural diversity in Britain, and how this has influenced individuals and society.
- Develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment.
- Develop an understanding of Britain's local, national, European, Commonwealth and global dimensions.

Teaching & Organisation

Development in SMSC will take place 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. Teaching across the school will encourage the

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skills and attitudes that enable pupils to develop socially, morally, spiritually and culturally – e.g. empathy, respect, open mindedness, sensitivity, critical awareness, etc.

Class discussions will give pupils opportunities to:

- Talk about personal experiences and feelings.
- Express and clarify their own ideas and beliefs, share thoughts and feelings with other people.
- Speak about difficult events, e.g. bullying, death etc.
- Explore relationships with friends/family/others, considering others needs and behaviour.
- Show empathy.
- Develop self-esteem and a respect for others.
- Develop a sense of belonging.

Many curriculum areas provide opportunities to:

- Listen and talk to each other.
- Learn an awareness of treating all as equals, and accepting people who are physically, mentally, culturally and spiritually different.
- Agree and disagree.
- Take turns and share equipment.
- Work co-operatively and collaboratively.

Links with the wider community

- Visitors are welcomed into school to enrich the curriculum.

- The development of a strong home-school link is regarded as very important, enabling parents and teachers to work in an effective partnership to support the pupil.
- Pupils will be taught to appreciate their local environment and to develop a sense of responsibility for it.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Provision for SMSC should be monitored and reviewed by: Mrs Leyshon / Mrs Knight
- Monitoring of lesson plans and the observation of teaching and learning.
- Audit of policies and schemes of work.
- Sharing of classroom work and practice.
- Review of Assembly themes.

Created By: Mrs Kate Golding October 2015

Review: October 2017