

POLICY FOR THE PROMOTION & DEVELOPMENT OF EVERY CHILD'S SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL EDUCATION

Policy number 11E

Ratified by EMAT sub-committee meeting on:.....

Signature (+ date) Chair Curriculum & Achievement Committee

Signature (+ date) Proprietor:Mrs Beverley-Sarah White

Signature (+ date) Principal of SchoolVicki Williams

Date of next review: April 2023 (Reviewed at Bi- Annually)

Contextual Statement

As a school that has been recognised by Surrey LEA as 'providing for some of the county's most vulnerable children many of whom have been difficult to place' and recognised by Ofsted as 'unique' we are very aware of the importance of ensuring that the whole child is nurtured. We want to create a sense of purpose and aspiration in our young people, taking them to new levels of understanding and involvement in their communities. Much of our work is around helping young people develop a better understanding of their 'whole self' in order to value their own existence (and thus prevent acute anxiety or even suicide attempts) SMSCE is therefore both integral and essential to all we do.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development is promoted not only through all the subjects of the curriculum but also through the ethos of the school and through the development of positive attitudes and values. In our particular setting it really is at the heart of what we do as our students are often 'outside' of society having been isolated due to a variety of mental health conditions, and our role is to get them engaging with society, themselves, their families and learning once more. This policy supports and reinforces the aims of our school, valuing all children and staff equally and as individuals.

Principles

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development is crucial for individual pupils and it is crucial for society as a whole. We believe it is the heart of what education is all about - helping pupils grow and develop as people and effective participants in modern Britain and effective world citizens also. Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development is cross curricular and promotes the aims and principles of the policies for PSHCE, RE, Drug Education, Sex Education, Race Equality, Disability and Equal Opportunities. These policies all underpin the Curriculum model as putting the child at the centre of all we do. SMSC Development is also key to the therapy work which is our core purpose – encouraging students to have strong mental health, positive attitudes and to make progress with social and learning anxiety.

It is an expectation at Arun Court School that all staff, in all subjects, can and should make a contribution to the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development of pupils through the curriculum and through the use of appropriate teaching and learning strategies e.g. discussion, reflection, pupil participation, circle time etc. The importance of relationships between all school staff, parents and the wider community is crucial. These relationships will be characterised by mutual respect, by positive attitudes, by the willingness to listen and be listened to and by the valuing of all pupils.



Spiritual Development

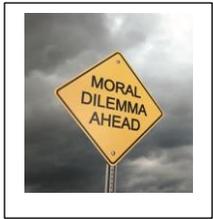
This relates to the quest for individual identity and the search for meaning and purpose in our existence. It leads towards the understanding of self and others. It has to do with feelings, emotions, attitudes and beliefs. It is not linked solely to a particular doctrine or faith and spiritual development is therefore accessible to everyone.

Aims for Spiritual Development

- ✓ The ability to listen and be still 'in the moment' – we actively teach meditation and mindfulness
- ✓ The ability to reflect – to consider self-growth with a positive mindset
- ✓ The ability to sense wonder and mystery in the world – to experience joy and amazement through learning
- ✓ The ability to sense the special nature of human relationships – to enjoy company in a way that is not anxiety inducing

Objectives for Spiritual Development

- ✓ To develop the skill of being physically still, yet alert
- ✓ To develop the skill to use all ones' senses
- ✓ To develop imagination
- ✓ To encourage times for quiet reflection throughout the school day
- ✓ To develop individual self confidence



Moral Development

Students are encouraged to understand the need for a common code and to follow it from conviction rather than because of sanctions or consequences. At Arun Court School we work towards an understanding of what is right and wrong. From this basis pupils may develop the ability to make judgements and to become increasingly responsible for their own actions or and behaviour.

Aims for Moral Development

- ✓ To understand the principles lying behind decisions and actions
- ✓ To be able to distinguish between right and wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law in England.
- ✓ To be able to make decisions, accepting and understanding consequences of their actions
- ✓ To move gradually through a 'taught morality' to taking responsibility for their own moral decisions

Objectives for Moral Development

- ✓ To tell the truth
- ✓ To respect the rights and property of others
- ✓ To help others less fortunate than themselves
- ✓ To be considerate to others
- ✓ To take responsibility of own actions
- ✓ To exercise self discipline
- ✓ To develop high expectations and a positive attitude
- ✓ To conform to societal rules and regulations to promote order for the good of all



Social Development

This enables pupils to become conscientious participants in their family, class, school, the local and wider community and make a positive contribution to the lives of others in society. Within this there should be a balance of the positive, satisfying elements of belonging to a group or society along with the demands, obligations and cooperation such membership requires.

Aims for Social Development

- ✓ To relate positively to others
- ✓ To participate fully and take responsibility in class and school
- ✓ To use appropriate behaviour across a range of situations
- ✓ To work cooperatively with others
- ✓ To use own initiative responsibly
- ✓ To understand and value our place in our family, school and society
- ✓ To encourage 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.

Objectives for Social Development

- ✓ To share emotions such as love, joy, hope, anguish and fear
- ✓ To be sensitive to the needs and feelings of others
- ✓ To work as part of a group
- ✓ To interact positively across a range of situations, e.g. clubs, sports activities, visits, religious services, music festivals etc.
- ✓ To develop an understanding of citizenship and to experience being a part of a caring community
- ✓ To show care and consideration for others e.g. sharing and turn taking
- ✓ To realise that every individual can do something well and have something to offer



Cultural Development

At the heart of cultural development lies the necessity to develop a sense of personal identity, whilst at the same time acquiring awareness, understanding and tolerance regarding the cultural traditions and beliefs of others.

Aims for Cultural Development

- ✓ To develop a sense of belonging to pupils' own culture and being proud of their cultural background.
- ✓ To challenge opinions or behaviours in school that are contrary to British values
- ✓ To respond to cultural events
- ✓ To share different cultural experiences
- ✓ To respect different cultural traditions
- ✓ To understand codes of behaviour, fitting to cultural tradition
- ✓ To develop a balanced approach to retaining the traditions of our Christian society in the UK, whilst perceiving in a positive light the contribution of other cultures, past and present as well as valuing the opinions of those of a humanistic, agnostic and atheistic view.

Objectives for Cultural Development

- ✓ To enable pupils to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England
- ✓ To develop an awareness, recognition and appreciation of the Arts, i.e. Music, Art, Drama, Literature etc.
- ✓ To develop a love for learning
- ✓ To develop an understanding of different cultures and beliefs, including Christianity

- ✓ To appreciate the values and customs of other ethnic and faith groups which make up modern British society, and the world beyond
- ✓ To develop the ability to value these independently

General Aims for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

We aim:

1. To promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and in society
2. To prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life
3. To enable pupils to distinguish right from wrong, to respect the civil and criminal law of England and to appreciate the rule of law is essential for well-being and safety
4. To enable pupils to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England and to respect and support participation in the democratic process
5. To promote respect and consideration for differences in gender, race, religion
6. To help each pupil achieve their full potential across all areas of the curriculum
7. To develop the individual strengths of all pupils and to help and provide support in areas for development
8. To inspire and stimulate the pupils in order to foster a love of learning and enquiry, to reason rationally and to apply themselves to tasks and physical skills
9. To help our pupils towards independent learning and to equip them with all life skills in order for them to take their place in a fast changing society.
10. To ensure there is continuity and progression in skills, knowledge and understanding in all areas of the curriculum
11. To develop respect for religious and moral values and understanding of other races, religions and ways of life while challenging opinions or behaviours in school that are contrary to British values
12. To help the pupils understand the world in which they live
13. To develop a sense of responsibility, consideration for others, self respect and self confidence
14. To promote good relationships between home, school and the local and wider communities

What is particular to this setting?

Whilst this is a cross curricular 'subject' we in particular as a therapy and well-being based facility have many specific opportunities available to us to further enhance the experience and understanding of our students. Like many settings we follow a comprehensive PSHCE and RE scheme. We also ensure that questions relating to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development are raised within other subject areas such as English, geography and history.

In addition we:

- ✓ Have an active therapy programme for all students (see policy)
- ✓ We actively teach meditation and breathing techniques, some children also learn yoga
- ✓ At least 2 assemblies a week is dedicated discussion on 'Philosophy, morality and ethics' questions
- ✓ At least 2 assemblies a week is dedicated to positive mental attitude and growth mindset
- ✓ The centre has a Scandinavian approach to rules and students have a high degree of both freedom and responsibility based around a single rule of 'mutual respect'
- ✓ We teach Hygge approaches about valuing small, cosy moments
- ✓ Staff – student relationships are coaching in nature, and students are taught social skills in context such as visiting the café, park etc
- ✓ We visit places of spirituality outside of the RE curriculum as well as within it
- ✓ We prepare students for life in the adult world through individualised social skills programmes and experiences
- ✓ We encourage companionship for all; and for students who are naturally not socially seeking within their own peer group we will use therapy animals, older mentoring students and other sources of friendship – we always try to think outside the box!

