



WALTHAMSTOW HALL
SEVENOAKS

POLICY ON THE SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (SMSC) OF PUPILS

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Pastoral Care Policy, including PSHEE and with 'Guidelines on Teaching Political Issues at Walthamstow Hall'

The personal development of the pupils in our care is very important to us as a school. Developing our pupils spiritually, morally, socially and culturally is an essential part of their education in its widest sense both for the individual pupil and for society as a whole. SMSC is not an area that is easy to define although it has been described as 'the development of a sense of identity, self-worth, personal insight, meaning and purpose'. As such, therefore, it runs through the curriculum as well as the wider life of the school. Above all, we actively promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. We believe these values are embedded in the ethos of the school.

Furthermore, we aim to actively promote principles which:

- Enable pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence
- Enable pupils to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law
- Encourages pupils to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative and understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the Sevenoaks locality and to society more widely.
- Enable pupils to acquire a broad general knowledge of, and respect for, public institutions and services in England.
- Further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling pupils to acquire an appreciation of, and respect for, their own and other cultures.
- Encourage respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics of the 2010 Equality Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex, sexual orientation)
- Encourage respect and support for participation in the democratic process including respect for the basis on which law is made and applied in England.
- Build pupils' resilience to radicalisation by providing a safe environment for debating controversial issues and helping them to understand how they can influence and participate in decision-making.

Staff are expected to use a variety of teaching styles which encourage pupils to reflect, question and make connections with other aspects of their learning. Details of what each department contributes to the development of pupils' SMSC are given in each Departmental Handbook.

SMSC is infused within the day-to-day operation of the school, with expectations adjusted in accordance with the age and ability of pupils, including those with special needs.

At Walthamstow Hall, pupils have a vast number of opportunities for personal development that enable them to build a framework of moral values and principles that accord with those of the school and equip them with social skills and qualities that enable them to play a full and meaningful part in the wider community in later life. We expect our pupils to know, say and do the 'right' things and behave in a polite and civilised fashion, showing respect for one another in every way. For example:

- The diverse range of school visits and residential trips (e.g. Y8 Bushcraft, Y9 WWI Battlefields, Geography, English Drama and Theatre trips etc.) play an important role in

developing an understanding of issues and cultures as well as key skills such as leadership and team work

- Wall displays aim to reinforce the school's values, promote equality and counter gender stereo-types. The School Code of Conduct is displayed in all form rooms and on other notice boards around the school.
- Occasional Enrichment Days have enabled pupils to consider various important issues such as climate change and related environmental matters, the history values and ethos of the school.
- The study of discrimination, especially in relation to disability, in Y8 PSHEE in the autumn term requires pupils to try and gain an understanding of the consequences of disability and empathise with those who are disabled and suffer discrimination.
- **Prayers/Assembly**– these always have a moral/spiritual message, reinforcing the values and traditions of the school. Prayers take place during period 7 on Mondays and Friday afternoon. They are usually taken by the Headmistress or by one of the Deputy-Heads. Each tutor group in Years 8 - 13 and each House present Prayers once a year.
- External speakers e.g. local magistrates, to deliver elements of the PSHEE programme and speakers within the Sixth Form Lecture programme. Any external speakers invited into school are vetted to check that their views enhance the educational values on which the school is founded. They are appropriately supervised at all times when they are on the school premises.

We aim, therefore, for the following outcomes for the SMSC of our students:

- The 'right' behaviours and attitudes.
- Pupils with a voice on issues and an equal and fair chance to achieve their full potential.
- Pupils have developed necessary character traits of resilience, determination, self-esteem and confidence so that they have effective ways of resisting pressures, including when, where and how to get help.
- The ability to contribute to society at school and beyond.
- To have a school where differences are celebrated and all are accepted and included.
- To have an understanding of the following:
 - How citizens can influence decision making through the democratic process.
 - An appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their well-being and safety.
 - That there is a separation of power between the executive and the judiciary, and that while some public bodies such as the police and the army can be held to account through Parliament, others, such as the courts, maintain independence.
 - That the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is protected by law.
 - That people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour.
 - The importance of identifying and combatting discrimination.

This policy has regard to the advice issued by the Secretary of State.

Walthamstow Hall policies are approved, ratified and reviewed regularly by the Governing Body in the light of statutory requirements.

Reviewed Feb 2020
Next Review Date Feb 2021

Signed.....Date.....

Mrs J Adams
Chairman of the Governing Body