



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'

Our core values are:

Respect
Integrity
Aspiration
Community
Individuality

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.
- Encourage 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 the UK.
- Foster 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, and 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 the UK.
- 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 scheme of work with reference to the personal development criteria of the ISI Inspection Framework.

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 / Blacklands Farm, 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.
- A diversity and inclusion audit of the academic and pastoral schemes of work and curriculum has been carried out during the Autumn Term 2020 in order to identify areas of excellent practice and areas of development. A review of this is scheduled for 2023.
- Wall displays aim to reinforce the School's values, promote equality and counter gender stereo-types. The School Code of Conduct is contained within pupil planners and displayed on notice boards around the Senior School. This will be reviewed annually by the Senior School Council. At Junior School, the Code of Conduct is communicated verbally and by example in every activity. Enrichment opportunities within specific subject areas, year groups or whole-School events enable pupils to consider various important issues such as climate change and related environmental matters, the historical values and ethos of the School.
- The study of discrimination through topics such as bullying, prejudice, peer influence, respect, hidden disabilities, knowledge of the Equalities Act and Protected Characteristics, will enable pupils to gain an understanding of the consequences of 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 afternoons. They are usually taken by the Headmistress and with opportunities taken for Departments, tutor groups from Years 8 – 13, each House and increasingly the student body to present or support Prayers. At Junior School, assemblies are held on Tuesdays and Fridays.
- External speakers e.g. local magistrates, deliver elements of the PSHEE programme and give presentations and lead sessions effectively throughout the School, and most notably 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 and represent an unbiased voice. They are appropriately supervised at all times when they are on the School premises.

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

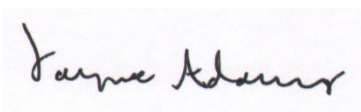
- Behaviours and attitudes that adhere to British values.
- Pupils with a voice on issues and an equal and fair chance to achieve their full potential.
- Pupils have developed necessary character traits of resilience, determination, self-esteem and confidence so that they have effective ways of resisting 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: March 2023
Next Review Date: March 2024



Signed..... Date.....17 March 2023.....

Mrs J Adams
Chairman of the Governing Body