



ASPIRE ACADEMY

SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL and CULTURAL (SMSC)

POLICY AND PROCEDURES

POLICY FIRST ADOPTED AND RATIFIED BY THE TRUST	July 2014
POLICY REVIEWED / REVISED	November 2015
POLICY TO BE REVIEWED ANNUALLY OR AS REQUIRED	

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Date: 2nd November 2015

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CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education Policy (SMSC)

Introduction

At Aspire Academy the teaching of SMSC relates to the academy's aims and objectives by teaching and supporting pupils to develop an understanding of their individual and group identity.

At Aspire Academy we believe in developing pupils' sense of belonging. We therefore utilise the SMSC curriculum (which includes PSHE, RE, Citizenship and careers education to foster, nurture and enable pupils to grow and flourish as socially, morally, culturally and spiritually developed individuals. This in turn drives their self-esteem, self-worth and effectiveness as learners and enables them to fulfil their educational potential. SMSC is a discrete subject and is overseen by the Subject Leader for English & SMSC. It is also mapped throughout the rest of the curriculum using Opeus software to ensure all pupils have access to all four strands.

Social Development

The SMSC curriculum will teach pupils to recognise that individuals are inter-dependent. They will be taught to understand the implications of their actions, both short-term and long-term for themselves, for other individuals, for the whole group and for society as a whole

In SMSC and wider curriculum opportunities, pupils will be supported to develop the following social or community values:

- Compassion
- Forgiveness
- Freedom
- Justice
- Love
- Loyalty
- Peace
- Respect
- Service
- Tolerance

It will enable pupils to relate positively to each other, take responsibility, participate fully in the community and develop an understanding of Citizenship in context. Social development aims to help pupils to take their place in group situations and recognise that the acceptance of group rules is important in communities – academy, class, home, family, friendship group etc.

Moral Development

Moral development will provide a clear definition of what is acceptable and unacceptable and help pupils to reach agreement on an acceptable moral code. Agreed principles will be promoted and applied.

SMSC will help pupils to learn the personal values of:

- Courage
- Empathy
- Honesty
- Humility
- Self-control
- Self-esteem
- Perseverance

This will be achieved through the following activities:

- Logical reasoning
- Exploring differences in pupils' family expectations
- Learning 'good manners'
- Exploring the sources of moral authority
- Exploring what is truly valuable
- Exploring the dilemmas that come with the possession of money
- Exploring the idea of truth and truthfulness
- Exploring the concept of hypocrisy

The curriculum will teach the principles which distinguish 'right' from 'wrong' and give pupils a framework of values with which they can modify their own behaviour.

To what extent a pupil is becoming a 'morally developed' individual will be evaluated against observing them:

- Coping well with difficulties (practical and emotional)
- Expressing their moral values appropriately
- Showing an understanding of their rights and responsibilities and those of others
- Showing an understanding of the principles of equality of opportunity
- Helping others
- Taking note of others' needs
- Recognising what might be done for others
- Showing self-discipline

Spiritual Development

The SMSC curriculum will encourage pupils to become 'spiritually developed' and will be assessed against the following

- Engaging in activities which involve listening, reflecting, puzzling and searching for truth
- Developing an understanding of their own feelings likes and dislikes
- Developing their personal beliefs and values
- Showing insights into deep questions about life, change and death
- Engaging in reflection, prayer or worship
- Engaging in activities which involve questioning, valuing, creating, envisioning, empathising or imagining

- Immersing themselves in constructive work, sacrificing immediate self-interest
- Developing and understanding of their relationships with those near and far
- Enjoying exploring diversity and difference

Cultural Development

SMSC will help pupils to become 'culturally developed' individuals.

Pupils' progress can be observed for example through:

- Showing empathy for others
- Recognising similarities and differences
- Treating others as they would wish to be treated
- Recognising stereotypes and generalisations
- Enjoying exploring cultural diversity

Pupils will be offered activities in which they can:

- Practice asking good questions
- Co-operate on joint projects
- Take part in educational trips and visits
- Practice the skills of participation, empathy, negotiation and critical thinking
- Explore concepts of rights and responsibilities.

Personal and Social Development as a process

Personal and social education operates through a process of developing relationships with our pupils based on mutual trust and respect. It engages their interest and participation, on a voluntary basis, in activities, experiences or issues, which are rooted in their personal experience.

At the same time, the curriculum at Aspire Academy stretches pupils and opens them up to new horizons. It develops inclusive behaviour by engaging them actively in their own development. It encourages them to reflect on their progress in developing social skills, emotional intelligence and self-efficacy in the range of opportunities provided. SMSC allows time for tutor/mentors to reflect with pupils on their progress, affirms their learning and allows them to gain the confidence and self-esteem to practise their self-agency again in new situations.