

SMSC

SMSC stands for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development, which encompasses personal development across the curriculum. SMSC requires schools to think about the kind of people we aspire to be, the kind of world we aspire to create, and the kind of education we aspire to provide. SMSC underpins our curriculum intent to develop well-rounded young people who are ready to positively contribute to society following their time at St Joseph's. "...our curriculum is characterised by Academic Excellence and aims to allow our students to achieve their full potential and prepare them for the world of work and life beyond school."

Spiritual: Explore beliefs and experience; respect faiths, feelings and values; enjoy learning about oneself, others and the surrounding world; use imagination and creativity; reflect.

- ability to be reflective about their own beliefs, religious or otherwise, that inform their perspective on life and their interest in and respect for different people's faiths, feelings and values
- sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them
- use of imagination and creativity in their learning
- willingness to reflect on their experiences.

Moral: Recognise right and wrong; respect the law; understand consequences; investigate moral and ethical issues; offer reasoned views.

- ability to recognise the difference between right and wrong and to readily apply this understanding in their own lives, recognise legal boundaries and, in so doing, respect the civil and criminal law of England
- understanding of the consequences of their behaviour and actions
- interest in investigating and offering reasoned views about moral and ethical issues and ability to understand and appreciate the viewpoints of others on these issues.

Social: Use a range of social skills; participate in the local community; appreciate diverse viewpoints; participate, volunteer and cooperate; resolve conflict; engage with the 'British values' of democracy, the rule of law, liberty, respect and tolerance.

- use of a range of social skills in different contexts, for example working and socialising with other pupils, including those from different religious, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds
- willingness to participate in a variety of communities and social settings, including by volunteering, cooperating well with others and being able to resolve conflicts effectively
- acceptance and engagement with the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs; they develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.

Cultural: Appreciate cultural influences; appreciate the role of Britain's parliamentary system; participate in culture opportunities; understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity.

- understanding and appreciation of the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their own heritage and those of others
- understanding and appreciation of the range of different cultures within school and further afield as an essential element of their preparation for life in modern Britain
- knowledge of Britain's democratic parliamentary system and its central role in shaping our history and values, and in continuing to develop Britain
- willingness to participate in and respond positively to artistic, musical, sporting and cultural opportunities
- interest in exploring, improving understanding of and showing respect for different faiths and cultural diversity and the extent to which they understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity, as shown by their tolerance and attitudes towards different religious, ethnic and socioeconomic groups in the local, national and global communities.

SMSC within the Curriculum

We strive to make the SMSC and FBV relevant and accessible to learners of all age, culture, disability, gender, sexual orientation, religion or social class. The resources we use reflect the multicultural society in which we live. We will not reinforce stereotypes and will challenge prejudice. The nature of autism means learners mature at different rates and that learners will only benefit from learning about concepts for which they developmentally ready.

British Values

These are accessed through a range of opportunities such as Form time activities/Assemblies/ Student Council/ Drop Down Days to promote a wider understanding of the world around us.

We aim to:

- Support learners to feel respected and that their opinions are valued
- Promote equal opportunities for all
- Promote community participation
- Develop the social communication skills of all learners
- Promote wellbeing and develop the self-esteem of all learners
- Support each learner to understand themselves and the impact their autism has on them
- Encourage the development of safe and healthy lifestyles
- Provide appropriate sex and relationships education to support learners through their development
- Support learners to develop skills at making informed choices
- Support learners to develop 'learning to learn' skills
- Respect cultural diversity
- Prepare learners to take an active role as citizens
- Enable learners to make a successful transition to adulthood by developing their vocational and independent living skills
- Enable all learners to lead health, rewarding and fulfilling lives
- Increase the range of opportunities available to the young people that we support

- Enable learners to develop emotional regulation skills
- Ensure learners have an active involvement, and are included in, all aspects of school life

How the curriculum contributes to SMSC

The Contribution of English

English contributes to our students' SMSC development through:

- Developing confidence and expertise in language, which is an important aspect of individual and social identity.
- Enabling students to understand and engage with the feelings and values embodied in high quality poetry, fiction, drama, film and television.
- Developing students' awareness of moral and social issues in fiction, journalism, magazines, radio, television and film.
- Helping students to understand how language changes over time, the influences on spoken and written language and social attitudes to the use of language.

The Contribution of Mathematics

Mathematics contributes to our students' SMSC development through:

- Spiritual development: through helping students obtain an insight into the infinite, and through explaining the underlying mathematical principles behind natural forms and patterns.
- Moral development: helping students recognise how logical reasoning can be used to consider the consequences of particular decisions and choices and helping them learn the value of mathematical truth.
- Social development: through helping students work together productively on complex mathematical tasks and helping them see that the result is often better than any of them could achieve separately.
- Cultural development: through helping students appreciate that mathematical thought contributes to the development of our culture and is becoming increasingly central to our highly technological future, and through recognising that mathematicians from many cultures have contributed to the development of modern day mathematics.

The Contribution of Science

Science contributes to our students' SMSC development through:

- Encouraging students to reflect on the wonder of the natural world.
- Awareness of the ways that Science and Technology can affect society and the environment.
- Consideration of the moral dilemmas that can result in scientific developments.
- Showing respect for differing opinions, on creation for example.
- Co-operation in practical activity.
- Raising awareness that scientific developments are the product of many.

The Contribution of Information Communication Technology

ICT contributes to our students' SMSC development through:

- Preparing the students for the challenges of living and learning in a technologically enriched, increasingly interconnected world.
- Making clear the guidelines about the ethical use of the internet.
- Acknowledging advances in technology and appreciation for human achievement.

The Contribution of History

History contributes to our students' SMSC development through:

- Looking at the creation and evolution of British society.
- Enabling students to reflect on issues such as slavery, the holocaust and Imperialism.
- Showing an awareness of the moral implications of the actions of historical figures.

The Contribution of Geography

Geography contributes to our students' SMSC development through:

- Opportunities for reflection on the creation of earth and its' origins, future and diversity.
- Reflection on the fair distribution of the earth's resources and issues surrounding climate change.
- A study of people and physical geography gives our students the chance to reflect on the social and cultural characteristics of society.

The Contribution of Religious Education/Reflection

RE makes a distinctive and substantial contribution to the delivery of SMSC:

- Students learn about beliefs, values and the concept of spirituality.
- RE reflects on the significance of religious teaching in their own lives.
- Develops respect for the right of others to hold beliefs different from their own.
- Shows an understanding of the influence of religion on society.
- Fosters appreciation and understanding of different cultures, religions and traditions.

The Contribution of Art

Art contributes to our students' SMSC development through:

- Art lessons develop students' aesthetic appreciation.
- In turn, Art evokes feelings of 'awe' and 'wonder'.
- Giving students the chance to reflect on nature, their environment and surroundings.
- Studying artists with a spiritual or religious theme, issues raised by artists which concerns ethical issues, such as War paintings.

The Contribution of Design and Technology

Design and Technology makes a contribution to students' SMSC development through:

- Reflecting on products and inventions, the diversity of materials and ways in which design can improve the quality of our lives.
- Awareness of the moral dilemmas created by technological advances.
- How different cultures have contributed to technology.
- Opportunities to work as a team, recognising others strengths, sharing equipment.

The Contribution of Food Technology

Food Technology contributes to our students' SMSC development through:

- Giving the opportunity to examine cultural differences in food and diet.
- Reflecting on the social issues around food such as price and income.
- Acknowledging government guidelines for health and dietary requirements.
- Reflecting on the moral issues concerning food production in third world countries.

The Contribution of Music

Music contributes to our students' SMSC development through:

- Teaching that encourages students to be open to the music of other cultures.
- Discussing and reflecting upon a range of personal experiences (own performance) and observed experiences (trips, concerts and peer performances).
- Lead students to appreciate aesthetic order, beauty and on occasion ambiguity, for example through listening activities, where possible beyond their common experience.
- Looking at the way music can change moods and behaviour.
- Offer a range of high quality off-timetable music enrichment activities, for example access to individual instrumental/vocal/theory lessons with specialist peripatetic teachers.

The Contribution of Physical Education Students

SMSC development is actively promoted though PE by:

- Activities involving co-operation, teamwork, competition, rules, self-discipline and fair play.
- Exploring the sports and traditions of a variety of cultures.
- Individual activities that provide the opportunity for self-reflection, awareness and challenge.