



Learning that Connects

SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Policy date: September 2016

Review date: September 2018

Chair of Governors: Bob Paton

Governors Approval: 28th September 2016

Please note that Simon Hanson is our Chair of Governors as from 29th November 2016

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is concerned with the students' self-knowledge, self-esteem, self-confidence, awareness and understanding of moral issues. Developing their ability to relate to others and to take responsibility for their behaviour, as well as their contribution to the community and their knowledge of public institutions and services are among the core aims of the school.

The school follows the guidance and advice given in the following publication:

Improving the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Development of Pupils; Departmental advice for Independent schools and Academies / Free Schools Version 2 – February 2013 (DfE)

That students will develop as individuals and gain an enhanced understanding of themselves within the community of the school, within their families, within society, and their responsibilities as global citizens in the world at large, will be central to our ethos.

Our school aims are that the students develop habits of mind that include independence of thought, reflective learning and flexible thinking, and the ability to maintain an open mind and to reach a balanced judgement. We offer an exciting range of intellectual, creative and physical challenges and opportunities, encouraging the development of individual passions and particular skills alongside the self-esteem and confidence with which to succeed in unfamiliar situations. As the students will come from a wide range of backgrounds this will create an enriching and inclusive atmosphere. Within this principled, caring and friendly community, students will learn to lead and to work together for mutual benefit. We will encourage students to learn about local, national and global issues and in so doing we believe they will become considerate, compassionate and courageous young individuals who fully expect to take active responsibility for the community and the environment in which they live, as well as for themselves, both now and in the future.

How will we put these aims into practice? Examples include:

- Through the CREATE framework and the development of communication skills, relating to others, enterprise, applied learning, thinking skills and emotional intelligence
- Through assemblies which may have a spiritual or moral tone, or which may involve the celebration of students' achievements in any area, or which may showcase students' talents in a particular area.

- Through whole school events which have a spiritual or moral tone which express the collective values of the school, for example, Children in Need, Red Nose Day,
- Through our expectations of students' behaviour in relation to themselves and others (see Behaviour Policy).
- Through lessons. Many subjects will provide opportunities for students' awareness and experience of spiritual, moral, social and cultural education to be developed.
- Through workshops and presentations, both those in-house or given by visitors to the Studio West. These may be in project based learning, speaker events, the Sixth Form enrichment curricular programme, etc.
- Through our PSHE programme which runs throughout the school and which includes careers guidance and careers education.
- Through all aspects of the extra-curricular programme including performance opportunities, visits and trips, especially those of a residential nature. Team building sessions at the start of each PBL activity will enhance aspects of students' personal development and link to their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- Through the expectation that students will actively involve themselves in supporting others, for example, the development of a Christmas Tea Dance for local elderly residents and a series of opportunities for voluntary work from year 10 to Post 16.
- Through specific events, for example, Harvest Festival, the celebration of festivals of major faiths in assemblies.
- Through the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme offered to all students.
- Through the opportunity to participate in School Council and take part in leadership training days.
- Through the opportunity to hold posts of responsibility/leadership at form level, subject level, and whole school level.

Team, the class representatives and the whole school committee.

- Through the many events held in school designed to develop community links and provide enrichment to members of the local community (The Public Lecture Programme, music and choral performances for local residents associations, etc.).

We hope that this wide range of opportunities will allow students the chance to develop personally in such a way that they will become a confident and responsible young person.