

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)***

And:

***Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools Departmental advice for
maintained schools (November 2014)***

That students 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, is central to our ethos.

Our school aims are that 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. Our students come from a wide range of backgrounds and this creates an enriching and inclusive atmosphere. Within this principled, caring and friendly community, students learn to lead and to work together for mutual benefit. We 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.

In accordance with the guidance given by the Department of Education Studio West understands SMSC as:

Spiritual Development: the development of the non-material element of a human being which animates and sustains us and, depending on our point of view, either ends or continues in some form when we die. It is about the development of a sense of identity, self-worth, personal insight, meaning and purpose. It is about the development of a pupil's 'spirit'. Some may call it the development of a pupil's 'soul'; others as the development of 'personality' and 'character'.

Moral Development: enabling pupils to build a framework of moral values, aligned with the law of the land, which regulates their personal behaviour. It is also about the development of pupils' understanding of society's shared and agreed values. It is about understanding that there are issues where there is disagreement and it is also about understanding that society's values change. Moral development is about gaining an understanding of the range of views and the reasons for the range. It is also about developing an opinion about the different views.

Social development: young people working effectively with each other and participating successfully in the community as a whole. It is about the development of the skills and personal qualities necessary for living and working together in harmony and making a positive contribution to the school community and wider society. It is about functioning effectively in a multi-racial, multi-cultural society and developing into a tolerant and helpful human being. It involves growth in knowledge and understanding of society in all its aspects. This includes understanding people as well as understanding society's institutions, structures and

characteristics, economic and political principles and organisations, roles and responsibilities, and life as a citizen, parent or worker in a community. It also involves the development of the interpersonal skills necessary for successful relationships.

Cultural Development: helping pupils to develop an understanding of their own culture and other cultures in their city, region and in the country as a whole. It is about understanding cultures represented in Europe and elsewhere in the world. It is about understanding and feeling comfortable in a variety of cultures and being able to operate in the emerging world culture of shared experiences provided by television, art, theatre, travel and the internet. It is about understanding that cultures are always changing and coping with change. Promoting pupils' cultural development is intimately linked with Studio West's attempts to value cultural diversity and prevent racism.

Studio West promotes and adheres to the appreciation and understanding of fundamental British values:

- We aim to enable students to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England;
- We aim to encourage students to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative, and to understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the school and to society more widely;
- We aim to enable students to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England;
- We aim to promote tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling students to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures;
- We aim to encourage respect for other people;
- We aim to encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England.
- We encourage our students to understand how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process;
- We encourage students to appreciate and understand that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety.
- We promote an understanding 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;
- We teach our students an understanding that the freedom to choose and hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law;
- We encourage an acceptance that other 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; and
- We encourage an understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination.

Equal Opportunities:

Studio West is committed to equality of opportunity which will allow all adults and children to realise their potential, socially, academically physically and spiritually, and to make the maximum contribution to the school and wider community, both now and in the future. Equality of opportunity should be experienced and expected by everyone within all areas of school life. Students are encouraged to have respect for other people, paying particular regard to: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation (as set out in the Equality Act 2010).

How 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. Assemblies may also cover global issues and controversial topics and encourage students to think for themselves
 - 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, Remembrance 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 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.
 - Through the many events held in school designed to develop community links and provide enrichment to members of the local community.
- Through the promotion of Student Voice – this is an important aspect of school life. Students enjoy the democratic process and see the results of their own opinions.

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.