



SMSC
(Social, Moral,
Spiritual &
Cultural)
Policy

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Social, Moral, Spiritual & Cultural (SMSC) Education and British Values Policy

Context

At Rowan Education, the promotion of pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development is recognised as a vitally important aspect of school life.

We recognise that the various strands of SMSC education are interrelated and dependent on one another for the overall development of individuals and the school community. Within our curriculum we strive to meet the interests and needs of all our pupils. In lessons, all pupils are challenged to broaden their knowledge and understanding of the world. In reflective and WILT time and lessons pupils are encouraged to discuss key issues, so developing, understanding and sharing a range of perspectives.

As a school we use restorative justice if any individual shows intolerant attitudes. This is based on an approach that education changes understanding and so behaviour.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development is promoted through all the subjects of the curriculum, through the ethos of the school where the development and sharing of positive attitudes and values is key and the shared celebration of progress, success and diversity is important.

Principles

SMSC Development is crucial for individual pupils, for communities and for society as a whole. We believe it should be at the heart of education, helping pupils grow and develop as people so they will engage fully in the education process and develop into citizens who actively contribute to society whilst living happy and fulfilled lives.

It should be evidenced across the curriculum and is supported by the aims and principles of other relevant policies which underpin the curriculum, care for pupils and place the pupils at the centre of all we do.

All staff make a contribution to SMSC Development of pupils through the subject and pastoral curriculum, the after schools programme, school events and in every interaction they have with pupils and other adults in the school community.

Promoting SMSC development is central to how we show due regard to the general equality duty, fostering positive relationships and understanding between all members of the school community, parents/carers and governors and towards society in general.

General Aims for SMSC Development

We recognise that effective promotion of SMSC development means that our pupils are better able to achieve their full potential because they are better prepared for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. They are more respectful towards differences in gender, ethnicity, belief, sexual orientation, age, disability, socio-economic group and more inspired to have a love of learning. They are better able to think independently and become more responsible and considerate towards others.

We aim:

- To promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of our pupils,
- To prepare our pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life,
- To promote respect and consideration in our pupils towards differences in gender, ethnicity, belief, sexual orientation, age, socio-economic group,
- To help each pupil achieve their full potential,
- To inspire, stimulate and motivate our pupils in order to foster a love of learning and enquiry,
- To enable our pupils to be independent thinkers and to equip them with key life skills in order for them to thrive in our fast changing society,
- To help our pupils understand the world in which they live,
- To develop a sense of responsibility, consideration for others, self-respect and self confidence,
- To promote good relationships between home, school and the local and wider communities.

Spiritual Development

This relates to the quest for individual identity and the search for meaning and purpose in our existence. It leads towards the understanding of self and others. It has to do with feelings, emotions, attitudes and beliefs and is not linked to any particular faith or belief system. Spiritual development is therefore accessible to everyone. An awareness and understanding of faiths and their different interpretations and ways of thinking about aspects of the world, enhances individual spiritual development, as does being encouraged to examine and analyse our own beliefs.

Aims for Spiritual Development

- To listen thoughtfully to others,
- To reflect about ideas and information,
- To ask questions about the world,
- To offer a range of perspectives about an idea,
- To consider the feelings of others as well as oneself in a range of situations,
- To demonstrate considered and mature responses in a range of situations,
- To interact and communicate with others with emotional intelligence,
- To demonstrate an understanding for different points of view and perspectives,
- To value the variety of human relationships,
- To develop a sense of awe, wonder and reverence,
- To recognise, experience and appreciate the life enhancing possibilities of the arts,
- To be aware of the interconnections across the world.

Objectives for Spiritual Development

- To develop the skills to use all of one's senses,
- To develop an awareness of how individuals feel and respond in a range of situations,
- To develop an understanding of one's own emotions and those of others and the skills to manage emotions in a range of situations,
- To develop the skill of being aware of one's impact on those around and therefore develop the emotional intelligence skills to inform interactions with others,
- To develop a variety of perspectives for analysing information,
- To develop positive, considerate interactions with others,
- To develop an understanding of life and the interconnections of communities,
- To develop an understanding of humankind's interdependence with and responsibility towards the global environment.

Moral Development

Pupils know the difference between right and wrong and the consequences of their actions. At Rowan Education, they are encouraged to understand the need for rules and consequences to keep themselves and others safe, to behave in a way that allows them to become valuable members of the school and wider community and to ensure that they are learning. Pupils are encouraged to develop an understanding of a wide range of ethical issues and to consider a range of perspectives when considering any moral issues. All members of the school community are expected to discuss ethical issues showing an awareness of and respect for differing points of view.

Aims for Moral Development

- To understand that values underpin decisions and actions,
- To be able to identify their own and others' values,
- To understand that there will be a range of views on any particular ethical issue,
- To be able to consider a range of perspectives in any given situation,
- To be able to make informed decisions, accepting and understanding the consequences of their actions.

Objectives for Moral Development

- To tell the truth,
- To respect the rights and property of others,
- To be considerate and supportive of others,
- To take responsibility for own actions,
- To develop a positive attitude.

Social Development

This enables pupils to use a range of social skills in different contexts, including working and socialising with people from different religious, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds.

Pupils will therefore be able to contribute positively in their family, class, school, the local and wider community. Social development encompasses an interest in and understanding of the way community and society functions at many levels. An understanding that being part of a supportive group means we all have responsibilities towards others around us, including being able to resolve conflicts effectively.

Aims for Social Development

- To relate positively and considerately to others,
- To participate fully and take responsibility in class and school,
- To use appropriate behaviour at all times,
- To work cooperatively with others,
- To be a positive role model to others,
- To represent the school positively to the wider community,
- To be an active citizen.

Objectives for Social Development

- To be aware of and sensitive to the needs and feelings of others,
- To work well as part of a group,
- To behave in a way that enables everyone to work, develop and achieve, interacting positively with others,
- To contribute to the school ethos so that everyone feels safe and able to contribute,
- To take part in events,
- To support others appropriately.

Cultural Development

Cultural development links developing a sense of personal identity, whilst acquiring awareness, understanding and tolerance of the cultural traditions and beliefs of others. Rowan Education is a school where cultural diversity is shared and celebrated.

Aims for Cultural Development

- To develop a sense of pupils' own cultural backgrounds, whilst recognising diversity within our community,
- To share different cultural experiences,
- To respect different cultural traditions,
- To take part in cultural events,
- To build a future that embraces cultural diversity and recognises culture is dynamic and enables individuals to develop their own aspirations, self-awareness and self-confidence to follow their own dreams and work together with others.

Objectives for Cultural Development

- To develop an awareness, recognition and appreciation of the Arts from all traditions,
- To develop the skills to participate in artistic creation and production,
- To develop a love for learning,
- To develop an understanding of different cultures and beliefs,
- To develop understanding that we have many social identities,
- To appreciate the values and customs of the range of ethnic and faith groups which make up modern British society, and the world beyond,
- To develop confidence and clarity about our own chosen diverse identities.

We will evaluate the policy by:

- Pupil outcomes - value continues to be added to the learning of all year groups,
- Pupil engagement – shows attendance continues to be high and take up of school activities, such as cultural events, community event and school conferences
- Pupil behaviour – incidents of bullying or poor behaviour are reduced.

The impact of this policy:

To support the pupils, staff and parents in meeting the core purpose of being a school where everyone achieves. All pupils, whatever their background or starting point can achieve their very best in whatever field they choose. This will be shown by pupil outcomes in all areas.

Promoting British Values at Rowan Education

Rowan Education is committed to the promotion of British Values as defined by the UK Government. These values are promoted implicitly and explicitly through the ethos, academic and pastoral curriculum that all pupils benefit from. The work that we do fulfils the school's duty to promote British Values as set out in the DfE document "Promoting fundamental British values through SMSC in schools".

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/promoting-fundamental-british-values-through-smsc>

At Rowan Education we take all opportunities we can to promote the fundamental (but not exclusively so) British values of:

- Democracy,
- The rule of law,
- Individual liberty,
- Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

At times, promotion of these values may mean challenging pupils, staff, parents, carers or any other stakeholders that may express opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including any extremist view.

Value 1: Promoting Democracy

Some examples of how we promote this value at Rowan Education include:

- We offer pupils meaningful leadership opportunities and model a representative democracy to pupils.
- In the PSHE curriculum, pupils will learn about the British democratic system and compare this to other political systems. They learn about public institutions and services and how these are held to account,
- The reflective time and WILT are used to inform pupils about key political events and give a forum for discussion and engagement with politics and democracy,
- Pupil voice is central to informing school improvement, and will form part of a school improvement programme.

Value 2: Promoting the Rule of Law

Some examples of how we promote this value at Rowan Education include:

- Pupils are actively taught to distinguish between right and wrong and, where needed, restorative justice is used as part of a resolution if something has gone wrong,
- The behaviour policy and processes show pupils that there are consequences (positive and negative) for our behaviour and pupils are treated in a consistent and fair manner,
- Our school will invite a Community Police Officer to support the legal education of pupils to protect all members of our community,
- We publish and adhere to our equalities policy.

Value 3: Promoting individual liberty (commonly referred to as 'Human Rights')

Some examples of how we promote this value at Rowan Education include:

- Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely, for example through eSafety work in computer science and PSHE,

- Stereotypes are challenged by staff in all situations where they are observed and work has been undertaken when developing the curriculum to ensure that a diversity of examples, authors, scientists etc are taught about, with their struggles for equality also being explored,
- Bullying, although rare, is taken seriously and addressed swiftly,
- The History curriculum teaches pupils about the struggle for individual liberty over time,
- The PSHCE curriculum covers human rights and their abuses.

Value 4: Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

Some examples of how we promote this value at Rowan Education include:

- Any prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour is challenged and recorded, with pupils being made aware of the seriousness of such behaviour (working with the police as necessary),
- One of our expectations of pupils is that they are respectful to others. (*Our expectations are that they are ready for learning, behave safely at all times and are respectful to all members of our school community*)
- Rowan Education is a multi-cultural and multi-faith community (in pupils, staff and parents/carers) and this is consistently celebrated and presented as an area of strength.

Linked Policies

- [Behaviour Policy](#)
- [Equality & Diversity Policy](#)
- [Curriculum Policy](#)