

# SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND CITIZENSHIP POLICY

<b>Policy Title:</b> Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural and Citizenship Policy	<b>Effective Date:</b>	September 2023
<b>Staff Member Responsible:</b> Headmistress	<b>Review Date:</b>	September 2024

Through a comprehensive PSHE Programme, Westonbirt aims to prepare all its pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life by providing spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. It also recognises itself as a school which promotes Fundamental British Values, encourages the use of these on a global stage and encourages pupils to respect other people, even if they choose to follow a lifestyle that one would not choose to follow oneself.

## 1. Spiritual Development.

1.1 The curriculum, particularly RS and PSHE, will provide pupils with opportunities to investigate and reflect on their own beliefs and values. All subjects are considered as being 'infused' with values entrenched in SMSC values.

1.2 Pupils should:

- Develop the ability to use their senses
- Be aware of and enjoy using their own imaginative potential
- Develop self confidence in expressing their inner thoughts in a variety of ways
- Find inner confidence and peace
- Practice quiet reflection through our chapel and underlying Christian foundation.
- Consider the mystery of God and the wonder of His creation, if the child's faith leans in this direction.

## 2. Moral Development

2.1 Pupils will develop an understanding of the difference between right and wrong, moral dilemmas, the will to do what is right, a willingness to consider others with concern and the ability to cope with moral conflict.

2.2 Pupils should:

- Accept that people are of, and have different faith or belief systems.
- Take responsibility for their own actions
- Respect the rights and property of others
- Appreciate the feelings and concerns of others
- Help those less fortunate than themselves
- Tell the truth
- Keep a promise
- Exercise self-discipline
- Develop high expectations
- Develop positive attitudes
- Conform to rules and regulations for the good of all

# SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND CITIZENSHIP POLICY

## 3. Cultural Development

3.1 Cultural development refers to the development of knowledge and understanding of differing cultural beliefs, customs and traditions. At the heart of cultural development lies the encouragement of pupils to question, analyse, evaluate and reflect on their response and the responses of others within a range of different cultural contexts and aesthetic experiences.

3.2 The pupils should:

- Develop an awareness and recognition of their own cultural assumptions and values and all that a cultured person appreciates in terms of music, art, drama and literature
- Develop a love of learning
- Develop an understanding of British cultural tradition, including Christianity and the influences that have shaped their own cultural heritage
- Appreciate cultural diversity and accord dignity and respect to other people's values and beliefs, thereby challenging racism and valuing racial equality
- Develop the ability to value current cultural enthusiasms, icons, music, media, critically and independently of peer pressure

## 4. Social Development and Citizenship

4.1 Social development is about young people working effectively with each other and participating successfully in the community as a whole. It is about functioning effectively in a multi-racial, multi-cultural, global society and 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 responsibility and life as a citizen, parent or worker in a community. It also involves reinforcing the promotion of British Values and the development of the inter-personal skills necessary for successful relationships.

4.2 The pupils should:

- Show sensitivity to the needs and feelings of others
- Develop an understanding of citizenship and experience being part of a caring community
- Share emotions such as love, joy, hope, fear and reverence
- Show respect for people, living things, property and the environment
- Develop leadership and responsibility
- Interact positively with others

4.3 In order to promote opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, the school will:

- Encourage pupils to express their creativity and imagination
- Foster a sense of respect for the integrity of each person
- Create an atmosphere which enables pupils and staff to speak freely about their beliefs
- Create opportunities within the curriculum across all subject areas
- Encourage extra-curricular opportunities throughout the school
- Encourage off timetable events and whole school events
- Support Chapel assemblies
- Encourage staff, Study One, Year 11 Prefects and senior pupils, to act as good role models throughout the school.

In line with the commentary in the ISI guidelines, this school believes that the principles applied to the policy and the activities that run alongside the development of our pupils through the PSHE Programme, creates pupils who:

# SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND CITIZENSHIP POLICY

- Can develop self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence;
- Can distinguish right from wrong;
- Can accept responsibility for their behaviour;
- Acquire a broad knowledge and respect for institutions in Britain and beyond;
- Are tolerant of other cultures and work to create harmony where there may be tension;
- Respect one another, regardless of faith, colour or gender;
- Encourage respect in others and institutions which are democratic and the basis on which law is made and applied.

This policy works in conjunction with the PSHE timetabled lessons. Additionally, this school has identified six characteristics based upon educational research and in consultation with pupils, staff and parents. These characteristics reflect the Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural and Citizenship values which pupils at Westonbirt Senior School should be encouraged to develop during their time at school. The characteristics represent a shared language and a shared understanding for considering how to develop the whole child. Through assemblies, tutor times input sessions, and tutorial week sessions, pupils will be reminded of the importance of these characteristics. Pupils will be offered a wide range of opportunities to develop these characteristics in a range of different contexts and to an age-appropriate stage; such as pupils in year 9 developing respect by involvement in the June Jacobs programme, planning an initiative to support minority groups, whilst pupils in year 13 would be encouraged to develop respect through activism in the community such as through a Study One role in Charities and Service. All pupils self-reflect upon these characteristics during tutorial weeks each term and in one-to-one conversation with their personal tutors.

