



Spiritual, Moral,
Social & Cultural Policy
(SMSC)

(as at 22. January 2014)

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Policy

Background

The Ofsted 2012 framework gives the following description of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) as follows:

How well the school promotes all pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development by providing positive experiences through planned and coherent opportunities in the curriculum and through interactions with teachers, other adults and the local community as shown by pupils:

- *being reflective about beliefs, values and more profound aspects of human experience, use their imagination and creativity, and develop curiosity in their learning*
- *developing and applying an understanding of right and wrong in their school life and life outside school*
- *taking part in a range of activities requiring social skills*
- *developing awareness of, and respect towards, diversity in relation to, for example, gender, race, religion and belief, culture, sexual orientation, and disability*
- *gaining a well-informed understanding of the options and challenges facing them as they move through the school and on to the next stage of their education and training*
- *overcome barriers to their learning*
- *responding positively to a range of artistic, sporting and other cultural opportunities, provided by the school, including, for example developing an appreciation of theatre, music and literature*
- *developing the skills and attitudes to enable them to participate fully and positively in democratic, modern Britain*
- *understanding and appreciating the range of different cultures within school and further afield as an essential element of their preparation for life*

Introduction

The social, moral, spiritual and cultural development of pupils is inherent in all that Cuckoo Hall Academy stands for. While Cuckoo Hall Academy does not have a specific religious character, Christianity will predominate in terms of the academy's ethos and the overall teaching programme. Cuckoo Hall Academy is situated in an area of Enfield that has very high levels of cultural and ethnic diversity. It is, therefore, a diverse school serving a local community made up of many different cultures, backgrounds and beliefs. As Cuckoo Hall Academy serves a diverse mix of

cultures, we expect that all pupils show respect and tolerance not only to each other but towards upholding the democratic values of the United Kingdom.

General Aims

- To ensure that everyone connected with the academy is aware of our values and principles.
- To ensure a consistent approach to the delivery of SMSC issues through the curriculum and the general life of the school.
- To ensure that a pupil's education is set within a context that is meaningful and appropriate to their age, aptitude and background.
- To ensure that pupils know what is expected of them and why
- To give each pupil a range of opportunities to reflect upon and discuss their beliefs, feelings and responses to personal experience.
- To enable pupils to develop an understanding of their individual and group identity.
- To enable pupils to begin to develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment and an appreciation of the many cultures that now enrich our society.
- To give each pupil the opportunity to explore social and moral issues, and develop a sense of social and moral responsibility.
- To ensure that where political issues are brought to the attention of pupils, they are given a balanced view that does not promote any one partisan opinion.

Spiritual Development

As an academy we aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Sustain their self-esteem in their learning experience.
- Develop their capacity for critical and independent thought.
- Foster their emotional life and express their feelings.
- Experience moments of stillness and reflection.
- Discuss their beliefs, feelings, values and responses to personal experiences.
- Form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships.
- Reflect on, consider and celebrate the wonders and mysteries of life.

Moral Development

As an academy we aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Recognise the unique value of each individual.
- Listen and respond appropriately to the views of others.
- Gain the confidence to cope with setbacks and learn from mistakes.
- Take initiative and act responsibly with consideration for others.
- Distinguish between right and wrong.
- Show respect for the environment.
- Make informed and independent judgments.

Social Development

As an academy we aim to promote opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Develop an understanding of their individual and group identity.
- Learn about service in the school and wider community.
- Begin to understand about social justice and concern for the disadvantaged.

Cultural Development

As an academy we aim to promote opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Recognise the value and richness of cultural diversity in Britain, and how these influence individuals and society.
- Celebrate all major Christian festivals and celebrate and learn about festivals of the five other main religions followed in the UK: Islam, Hinduism, Judaism, Sikhism and Buddhism.
- Develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment.
- Develop an understanding of Britain's local, national, European, Commonwealth and global dimensions.

Teaching and Organisation

Development in SMSC will take place across all curriculum areas, within activities that encourage pupils to recognise the spiritual dimension of their learning, reflect on the significance of what they are learning, and to recognise any challenges that there may be to their own attitude and lifestyle.

All curriculum areas should seek illustrations and examples drawn from as wide a range of cultural contexts as possible.

Class discussions will give pupils opportunities to:

- Talk about personal experiences and feelings.
- Express and clarify their own ideas and beliefs.
- Speak about difficult events, eg bullying, death etc.
- Share thoughts and feelings with other people.
- Explore relationships with friends/family/others.
- Consider others' needs and behaviour.
- Show empathy.
- Develop self-esteem and a respect for others.
- Develop a sense of belonging.
- Develop the skills and attitudes that enable pupils to develop socially, morally, spiritually and culturally, e.g.: empathy, respect, open mindedness, sensitivity, critical awareness

Many curriculum areas provide opportunities to:

- Listen and talk to each other.
- Learn an awareness of treating all as equals.
- Agree and disagree.
- Take turns and share equipment.
- Work cooperatively and collaboratively.

Links with the Wider Community

Visitors are welcomed into Cuckoo Hall Academy.

The development of a strong home-school link is regarded as very important, enabling parents and teachers to work in an effective partnership to support the pupil.

Pupils will be taught to appreciate their local environment and to develop a sense of responsibility to it.

Cuckoo Hall Academies Trust (CHAT) has links with St Alphege Church, Edmonton, Clare College, Cambridge, the Lee Valley Parks Authority and Artstart which provide spiritual, cultural and sporting opportunities for pupils.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Provision for SMSC is monitored and reviewed on a regular basis.

This is achieved by:

- Curriculum Leaders identify aspects within their subjects to be included in teacher planning. Curriculum Leaders monitor teacher plans and their evaluations and assessments.
- SMSC evidence will be identified and logged using the *gridmaker* web-site.
- SLT and Curriculum Leaders will monitor resource provision, identifying shortfalls.
- The Headteacher shall have oversight of this policy and monitor the provision of SMSC.
- The Executive Principal will monitor SMSC provision across all academies run by Cuckoo Hall Academies Trust.