

The Friary School

SPRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL & CULTURAL POLICY



Introduction

This policy covers our school's approach to delivering our social, moral, spiritual and cultural (SMSC) aspects of our curriculum which is integral to the wider development of our students so that they are well-equipped to grow and flourish in national and international society.

Our school takes our SMSC commitments very seriously as part of our whole-school curriculum and has obtained the Gold Award for the [SMSC Quality Mark](#) from the [Young Citizens](#) Awarding Body.

More broadly, our school strives to set the highest standards in our broader curriculum by welcoming in external specialists and assessors in order to evaluate our provision and support improvement. This is reflected in our [Holocaust Beacon School Status](#), our [School Gardening Awards](#), our [ArtsMark Status](#), our [Online Safety Award](#) and our [Eco-School Status](#).

Key Definitions

We define SMSC provision as follows;

- **Spiritual**
The opportunity to explore beliefs, experience and faiths, feelings and values; enjoy learning about oneself, others and the surrounding world; use imagination and creativity and reflect on experiences.
- **Moral**
The opportunity to learn what is right and wrong and respect the law; understand consequences; investigate moral and ethical issues and offer reasoned views.
- **Social**
The opportunity to use a range of social skills to participate in the local community and beyond; appreciate diverse viewpoints; participate, volunteer and cooperate; resolve conflict.
- **Cultural**
The opportunity to explore and appreciate cultural influences; appreciate the role of Britain's parliamentary system; participate in cultural opportunities; understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity.

Intrinsically linked to our SMSC provision is our promotion of British Values which we define as follows:

- **Democracy**
The recognition that we inhabit in a culture built upon freedom and equality, where everyone is aware of their rights and responsibilities.
- **The Rule of Law**
The recognition that there is an essential need for rules which enables us to be happy, secure and safe in our living and working environment.
- **Individual Liberty**
The recognition that we have a right and responsibility to uphold the protection of our own rights as well as the rights of others.
- **Mutual Respect**
The recognition that we have a responsibility to respect others and a right receive that respect in return.
- **Tolerance of Different Faiths and Beliefs**

The recognition that we may not all share the same beliefs and values, but that there is a responsibility to respect opposing values, ideas and beliefs, and an expectation not to impose our own thinking on others.

SMSC Provision

Our whole-school curriculum places SMSC provision centrally and is systematic in ensuring that all strands are covered with depth and range in order to facilitate, build on and apply an empathetic and informed awareness and understanding.

This SMSC provision is approached through three main strands:

1 - Focus Weeks

Our Focus Week programme carefully maps in SMSC - as well as British Values - into every theme and is updated annually to remain current and societally contextualised.

For example, the 2023-2024 programme focuses on the roles and responsibilities tied into the return to school from COVID lockdown; the promotion of respect in terms of moral, social and cultural implications of concepts such as #BLM and #MeToo; environmental awareness; and the individual and shared responsibilities to support spiritual and personal mental health and well-being.

The Focus Week programme is produced annually - see example below - and builds in a wide range of curricular aspects included SMSC, British Values, PSHE, etc:

Week Beginning	Week	Focus Week Topic	Lead
5 September	B	Welcome Back	MAN
12 September	A	The Year Ahead / Ganesh Chaturti (30 Aug)	MAN/SWH
19 September	B	The House of the Rising Student	HoH
26 September	A	World Teachers Day (5 Oct)	SSN
3 October	B	International Day of Older Persons (1 Oct)	HoH
10 October	A	World Mental Health Day (10 Oct) (Y8 PHSE)	ROD/HBT
17 October	B	Black History Month (Oct)	MAN
31 October	A	All Saints Day / Halloween (31 Oct)	LHN
7 November	B	Anti-Bullying Week (14-18 Nov)	SWH
14 November	A	Alcohol Awareness Week (18-25 Nov) (Y9 PHSE)	SSN/HBT
21 November	B	UK Parliament Week (14-20 Nov)	HoH/HBT
28 November	A	National Tree Week (27 Nov - 5 Dec)	RBS
5 December	B	Hannukah (10-18 Dec)	HoH
12 December	A	House Celebration 1	HoH
2 January	B	World Braille Day (4 Jan)	MAN
9 January	A	Farmhouse Breakfast Week (23-27 Jan)	ROD
16 January	B	World Religion Day (15 Jan)	HoH
23 January	A	Holocaust Memorial Day (27 Jan)	CPY/RBS
30 January	B	Respect For All Week (13-17 Feb)	HoH
6 February	A	Safer Internet Day (14 Feb) (Y7 PHSE)	SNE/HBT
13 February	B	British Heroes - Charles Dickens (7 Feb)	SDS/SSN
27 February	A	Fair Trade Fortnight (20 Feb - 5 Mar)	LHN
6 March	B	International Women's Day (8 Mar)	MAN/CKY
13 March	A	National Careers Week (6-11 Mar) (Y11 PHSE)	HBT
20 March	B	World Theatre Day (27 Mar)	SFR/LHN

27 March	A	House Celebration 2	HoH
17 April	B	National Pet Month (May)	RBS
24 April	A	STD Awareness Week (Y9 PHSE)	SWH/HBT
1 May	B	Global Campaign for Education Action Week (2-8 May)	HoH
8 May	A	Sun Awareness Week (6-13 May)	LHN
15 May	B	British Heroines - Mary Seacole (14 May)	LRE
22 May	A	Global Day of Parents (1 June)	KFS
5 June	B	Clean Air Day (3 June)	SGE
12 June	A	World Ocean Day (8 June)	SGE
19 June	B	Refugee Week (20 June)	HoH
26 June	A	Gay Pride Week (1 July) (Y10 PHSE)	MAN/HBT
3 July	B	National Insect Week (19-23 June)	DBN/HBT
10 July	A	2022-2023 Review Week	MAN
17 July	B	House Celebration 3	HoH

These Focus Weeks contain a wide range of activities tied into whole-school events, House and pastoral projects and tutor time activities.

2 - Whole-School Projects

The school operates a series of regular whole-school events which support SMSC provision across the school. These include:

- Y7 Dedication Service at Lichfield Cathedral
- House Charity Events
- Student-Led Stakeholder Presentations
- Residential Trips; Eg - Normandy, Edale, etc
- Governor Meetings
- House Celebration Assemblies
- The Summer Sizzler
- Encore Variety Show
- Community Partnerships
- Student Leadership Programmes
- Peer Support Programmes
- University / Apprenticeship Links
- Xmas Carol Concert at Lichfield Cathedral
- House Elections
- Employment / Careers Experiences
- Field Visits; Eg - London, Warwick, etc
- Prize-Giving Evening
- Student-Led Assemblies
- Battle of the Bands
- Whole-school Shows; Eg - Chicago, Joseph
- Local Political Partnerships
- World Challenge / Projects Abroad
- Bikeability
- Transition Support Programmes

Additionally, The Friary Ethic - Friendship / Responsibility / Independence / Aspiration / Resilience / You - is an integral part of school life and pastoral provision. It is the basis for the Year 8 Character Award which provides a structure for teaching and independent projects to develop the character necessary to operate in our school and within modern British society.

Furthermore, our extensive PHSE programme - which is both scheduled and discrete across our curriculum provision - covers a wide range of themes within the Focus Weeks which help to shape individual's SMSC identity and understanding.

3 - Subject Area Provision

All individual subject areas have a set responsibility to deliver and develop their SMSC and British Values provision in order to ensure the depth and range of provision is retained.

This is achieved and evaluated through annual audits by all subject areas which are reviewed and collated to maintain a full picture of provision.

The annual SMSC audits are as follows:

SMSC CURRICULUM AUDIT - SEPT 2022

The following audit records the respective subject areas SMSC provision in accordance to the SMSC definitions are taken from the OFSTED School Inspection Handbook:

DEPT	
HoD	

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT...		
The spiritual development of pupils is shown by their:		SMSC Evidence
Sp1	ability to be reflective about their own beliefs, religious or otherwise, that inform their perspective on life and their interest in and respect for different people's faiths, feelings and values	
Sp2	sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them	
Sp3	use of imagination and creativity in their learning	
Sp4	willingness to reflect on their experiences.	

MORAL DEVELOPMENT...		
The moral development of pupils is shown by their:		SMSC Evidence
Mo1	ability to recognise the difference between right and wrong, readily apply this understanding in their own lives and, in so doing, respect the civil and criminal law of England	

Mo2	understanding of the consequences of their behaviour and actions	
Mo3	interest in investigating and offering reasoned views about moral and ethical issues, and being able to understand and appreciate the viewpoints of others on these issues.	

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT...		
The social development of pupils is shown by their:		SMSC Evidence
So1	use of a range of social skills in different contexts, including working and socialising with pupils from different religious, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds	
So2	willingness to participate in a variety of communities and social settings, including by volunteering, cooperating well with others and being able to resolve conflicts effectively	
So3	Acceptance and engagement with the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs; the pupils develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.	

CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT...		
The cultural development of pupils is shown by their:		SMSC Evidence
Cu1	understanding and appreciation of the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their own heritage and that of others	
Cu2	understanding and appreciation of the range of different cultures within school and further afield as an essential element of their preparation for life in modern Britain	
Cu3	knowledge of Britain's democratic parliamentary system and its central role in shaping our history and values, and in continuing to develop Britain	
Cu4	willingness to participate in and respond positively to artistic, sporting and cultural opportunities	
Cu5	interest in exploring, improving understanding of and showing respect for different faiths and cultural diversity, and the extent to which they understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity, as shown by their tolerance and attitudes towards different religious, ethnic and socio-economic groups in the local, national and global communities.	

These SMSC audits are similarly produced to review the coverage of British Values across all subject areas.

Monitoring & Development of SMSC

We ensure that SMSC - and related British Values - are carefully monitored to ensure strong delivery and that we work to continually improved and develop our provision.

The Focus Week programme is mapped out on an annual basis by the Headteacher and the PHSE Co-Ordinator and whole-school themes - designed to inter-connect with contemporary trends and principles - are identified to ensure the topics remain current and live. The Focus Weeks have a comprehensive scheme of work - though there is also the flexibility for leaders to additionally develop and enhance the provision independently.

The whole-school events programme is mapped in by the Headteacher and SLT Leadership & Management Lead and is cross-referenced to this policy to ensure consistent and sustained development of key SMSC principles and concepts.

The subject area provision is reviewed by the Headteacher and the SLT Quality of Education Lead on an annual basis to review provision and to build a dialogue on existing and development of SMSC practice.

Each year the school targets set SMSC-related objectives in order to maintain and develop provision further so that standards never remain static, are always kept fresh, and are always improving. For 2023-2024 the following priorities will be addressed:

No.	Focus	Lead
1	<u>Development of Varsity Culture in Sixth Form</u> To further develop our Sixth Form culture so that there is an extensive and all-embracing provision of opportunities for personal growth and wider development * Well-Being / Mental Health * Personal Development * Competitive Opportunism	MA / HBT
2	<u>Development of a Memory / Spiritual Garden:</u> To secure the construction of a reflective area - representing spirituality, loss and personal well-being - as a courtyard garden during Summer / Autumn 2023: * Planning * Student Voice * PTFA Involvement * Community Sponsorship * Extension of Gardening Club - linking to allotment / garden plan on main fields	MAN / LHN
3	<u>Re-Establishment of Post-COVID Whole-School Provision:</u> On-going re-embedding of school schedules and provision across 2023-20224 to embed school routines, expectations and experiences, whilst also providing a key strand of socio-emotional catch-up for all students: * School Calendar * Focus Week programme * Extras-Curricular programme * Field Visits / Residentials	MAN / LHN
4	<u>Re-Development of PSHE Programme:</u> Our extensive PSHE programme will be re-branded and restructured in order to be more explicit and more targeted on specific learning points: * Explicit Timetabling * Focus Week Programme * PSHE Appointments * PSHE Assessment PSHE Assembly Milestones	MAN / HBT

Strategic Oversight

This policy and the SMSC directives and schemes are reviewed annually although updates on SMSC provision is also provided through Quality of Education updates to governors throughout the academic year.

Reviewed By	Full Governors	Implementation Date	Mar 2025	Review Date	March 2027
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