

COWLEY INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural (SMSC) Policy

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Links to College Aims

- To promote the fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs
- To encourage students and staff to embrace the meaning of being a 'Cowleian'.
- To maintain an orderly, caring, safe, challenging and stimulating environment.
- To promote equal opportunities for all.
- To offer a wide range of cultural, sporting and other challenging activities.
- To encourage students to embrace moral values, to respect other people and themselves and abide by the college's procedures for good order and discipline.

Links to College Improvement Plan

- Continue to implement a programme which develops students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development with a particular focus on citizenship.
- Achieve 100% good or better with 40% outstanding teaching judgements.
- Embed best practice to ensure that all students are participative, independent learners and maintain positive attitudes to learning.

Links to teachers' standards Document (DfE 2012)

Teachers uphold public trust in the profession and maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour, within and outside school, by:

- treating pupils with dignity, building relationships rooted in mutual respect and at all times observing proper boundaries appropriate to a teacher's professional position
- having regard for the need to safeguard pupils' well-being, in accordance with statutory provisions
- showing tolerance of and respect for the rights of others
- not undermining fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs
- ensuring that personal beliefs are not expressed in ways which exploit pupils' vulnerability or might lead them to break the law

SMSC Policy

1. Introduction

At Cowley International College the personal development of students to become good and successful Cowleians is a fundamental part of the academic and pastoral work of the college. To this end, we endeavour to develop students spiritually, morally, socially and culturally ensuring that everyone is treated as individuals and students are being prepared for a modern Britain.

The College Motto is

Semper Ad Altiora – Non Sis Sed Omnibus (Aim ever higher – Not for one but for all).

2. Definitions

Spiritual Development

Spiritual development is essential to helping students to value everyone as themselves as a unique human being. It involves reflecting on organised religion and the concept of a deity as an important focus for faith of many people, but also on the different belief structures not based on religion per se. Spiritual development includes providing opportunities for students to encounter all the positive aspects of human experience, for example:

- Feeling happiness, pride, forgiveness and responsibility
- Exercising imagination, curiosity, creativity and intuition
- Exploring, searching, questioning and engaging
- Experiencing order, peace, wonder and calm
- Surviving hardship, pain and grief
- Empathising with others at times of joy and tragedy

A lack of life experience that promote spiritual development can cause us to be defensive, aggressive and cynical.

Moral Development

Moral development enables students to value and improve their relationships and is central to the smooth running of a school and wider community. Moral development involves:

- The understanding of the concept of right and wrong
- The ability to deal effectively with moral conflict and temptation
- The understanding that people choose their behaviour and those choices have consequences
- The determination to choose wisely with the consideration for self and others
- The understanding of danger of acting against one's conscience
- The willingness to engage in self-reflection
- The ability and willingness to exercise compassion, understanding and forgiveness

Social Development

Social development is the foundation for education in collaboration to learn and develop together. Social development involves the growth of desire and ability to:

- Set aside self-interest to work with others for the common good
- Negotiate disagreements fairly and compromise willingly when necessary
- Contribute confidently to the well-being of friendship groups and community
- Understand, appropriately express, recognise and respond to emotions in others.

Cultural Development

Cultural Development enables students to appreciate the creativity and imagination is stronger because of the communities to which they belong. Cultural understanding can defuse tension,

enabling pupils to respond appropriately to the views and values of others. Cultural development is important in the growth of students':

- Understanding of and the respect for how people from their own and other cultures think and live.
- Sense of belonging within the local, regional, national and international cultures, together with a willingness and ability to contribute creatively to these cultures.

3. Implementation of the Policy

Cowley International College has a very clear ethos in terms of the way we treat ourselves and others this is evident in the:

- Teaching and Learning
- Assemblies
- Form time
- Cowleian Characteristics
- Collective worship policy
- Behaviour Policy and Rewards system
- Extracurricular activities
- Citizenship Curriculum

Teaching and Learning

Certain curriculum topics lend themselves more easily to making links to SMSC during lessons. However every member of staff will exemplify aspects of the SMSC in lessons either by the content, individual conversations with students, rewards and sanctions and the use of the Cowleian Characteristics.

Assemblies

Each student has two assemblies every week. The assemblies are a chance to explore SMSC topics which are identified in the assembly rota.

Collective Worship

Cowley continues to provide opportunities for collective worship for all students which is delivered in a sensitive way to respond to other staff and students' beliefs and views.

Form Time

Forms at Cowley are considered a wider family and students are supported to reflect on all aspects of SMSC (including citizenship sessions) to create a caring and considerate start to the day which they carry and build on in lessons and social time.

Citizenship Curriculum

All students study citizenship as a discrete subject during allocate form time.

Cowleian Characteristics

The 5 characteristics form the basis of the rewards system and giving identity to students. Staff and Governors use these continuously with students and model these in everything they do.

- Aspirations
- Considerate
- Healthy
- Good Communicator
- Independent

Behaviour Policy

The policy is based on the premise of Rights and responsibilities and is communicated to students, staff and parents about each of their rights and responsibilities at college. The rewards system links directly to the Cowleian Characteristics where students and parents can access information online to how and when students are being rewarded at college.

Curriculum

Students are given first hand opportunities to study and experience aspects of SMSC to learn, meet and explore people, communities with different views, religions, heritage and belief structures to those in St Helens.

Extracurricular

Cowley prides itself in a vast and varied range in extracurricular activities from sports, performing arts to international trips. These trips and visits build a wide range of experiences for students to experience local, regional and international communities and cultures. These are celebrated and communicated to the Cowley community in assemblies, the college website and newsletters.

The College SMSC policy should be read in conjunction with the College Collective worship and Behaviour Policies.