Pace

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Policy (SMSC)	2026

Aims

Our children and their learning are at the very centre of every decision made at Pace. We aim to develop passionate learners who are responsible for and proud of their achievements.

All of the people who come into our school will be valued as individuals in their own right and will be entitled to respect and consideration. In turn we expect them to behave responsibly and to behave appropriately towards all the members of our community.

The school aims to help students to develop an inner discipline, to make their own decisions about appropriate behaviour and to take responsibility for their actions.

Throughout the school day we will look for opportunities to develop our students, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally; not only through formal lessons but also during the many occasions where we come together as a community.

The school will preclude the promotion of partisan political and religious views in the teaching of all subjects and actively encourage respect for the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Definitions

Spiritual development is demonstrated by

- beliefs, religious or otherwise, which inform their perspective on life and their interest in and respect for the feelings and values of different people
- a sense of enjoyment and wonder in learning about themselves, others and the world around them – the physical and the intangible
- the use of imagination and creativity in their learning
- the willingness to reflect on experience.

Students will be given the opportunity to reflect on the meaning of spiritual experiences and the school will develop a climate within which pupils can grow and flourish while respecting others and being respected themselves.

Moral development is demonstrated by:

- the ability to recognise the difference between right and wrong and apply this understanding to their own lives
- understanding the consequences of the actions
- investigating and offering considered views about moral and ethical issues.

Morally aware pupils will demonstrate a range of skills including the ability to, distinguish between right and wrong; think through the consequences of their actions and the actions of others; make

reasoned reasonable judgements; respect the needs, feelings and interests of others; explore their own views and the views of others in an open and non-prejudicial manner.

Students will be provided with a consistent moral code which promotes all forms of equality. Across the curriculum they will be provided with opportunities to explore and develop moral concepts and values within an open and safe learning environment. Expressions of moral insight and examples of good behaviour will be acknowledged and rewarded. Students will be encouraged to take responsibility for their own actions towards themselves, each other and the property and environment around them.

Social development is demonstrated by:

- using a range of social skills in variety of contexts including socialising and collaborating with people from differing religious, ethnic, social and economic backgrounds
- participating willingly in a variety of social settings; cooperating with others and successfully resolving conflicts
- an interest in and an understanding of the different way communities and societies function.

Socially aware students will demonstrate an ability to behave appropriately in a range of social contexts, work well with others and resolve conflict maturely and appropriately. They will demonstrate a respect for people, other living things, property and the environment and show an understanding of how societies function and are organised.

The school will foster a sense of community with shared inclusive values which promote all forms of equality. Students will be provided with opportunities to work collaboratively, engage in the democratic process and participate in the life of the school and its wider community including the world of work.

Students will be provided with opportunities to exercise leadership and responsibility while developing such personal qualities as honesty, respect for difference, awareness of others, independence and moral principles.

Cultural development is demonstrated by:

- understanding and appreciating the wide-ranging cultural influences that have shaped their own heritage
- a willingness to engage with a broad spectrum of opportunities – artistic, musical, sporting, technological, scientific and cultural
- showing an understanding of and respect for cultural diversity through their attitude towards different religious, ethnic, and social-economic groups in a range of different communities.

Students who are culturally aware will be developing an ability to reflect on questions of identity and an awareness of the diversity of other cultures, both within modern Britain and throughout the world.

The school will use cultural imagery and language to extend the knowledge of our students who will be encouraged to think about the special events in life and how they are celebrated. Gifts and talents will be recognised and nurtured across a range of cultural activities including music, drama, art, crafts and other cultural events.

Cultural links will be reinforced through displays, exhibitions and performances and through the development of links with outside agencies such as museums, theatres and galleries.

The House System

Providing opportunities for our students to voice their views and opinions about what happens in the school is an integral part of our approach to their development.

The House System provides opportunities for students to participate on a range of activities which encourage co-operation, collaboration and friendly competition. It also acts as the School Council.

Representatives are elected by the students themselves and following House Group meetings they meet with the Head Teacher to discuss any issues they wish to raise and to request the funding of specific items and activities identified by their peers.

SMSC Audit and Evidence

We actively seek to demonstrate the opportunities we provide for the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our students through the auditing of activities.

We have a planned schedule of weekly assemblies. The activities are focused around giving opportunities to celebrate different cultural events or gain experiences within the arts and music. The classes will also take turns to share their learning with peers.

SMSC Assemblies and Celebrations of Achievement

SMSC Assemblies and Celebrations of Achievement at Pace will celebrate some of the key dates from different religions, mostly represented within our student body. The aim is to celebrate diversity through tolerance, understanding and inclusivity.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from those assemblies which contain an element of collective worship if they wish to.

The Aims of SMSC Assemblies

- To promote a sense of community and inclusion for the school as a whole
- To promote spiritual, cultural and moral development
- To provide opportunity for an experience of reflection
- To reflect on the values and concerns of individuals, the school community and the wider community with particular reference to the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs
- To develop a sense of awe and wonder

- To develop an appreciation of the natural world
- To develop an awareness and acceptance of the fact that life involves choices of belief, attitude and behaviour
- To develop a sense of self worth and the value of others.

Planning and Organisation

Whole school SMSC Assemblies take place weekly through the school year and each day time is set aside for a short period of reflection within the class groups.

The content of the SMSC Assemblies, may also reflect specific religious festivals, special days e.g. birthdays or events in the life of the School. Such assemblies may also provide an opportunity to celebrate personal or collective achievement or focus our thoughts on a specific issue or individual, for example, a child / adult who is ill or in hospital.

Assemblies are planned to foster a sense of the spiritual, by providing time to be still, to be quiet, and for reflection. Music may be played or a candle lit, to instil a sense of calm. On occasions, staff and pupils maybe invited to engage in Acts of Collective worship.

At the end of each term there is a whole school Celebration of Achievement to which parents and carers may be invited. During these assemblies the individual achievements of each pupil are recognised and celebrated by the school community.

Reviewed: October 2026

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Reviewed by: Richard Smith