



SMSC Policy

**Reviewed by Mayfield
February 2016**

Introduction

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural education helps children develop personal qualities, which are valued in a civilised society. For example, thoughtfulness, honesty, respect for difference, moral principles, independence, and self-respect. At Oasis Academy Mayfield we seek to teach these qualities across the curriculum and throughout school life. It is linked closely to our school values and ethos.

Oasis Ethos

- a passion to include everyone
- a desire to treat everyone equally,
- respecting differences
- a commitment to healthy and open relationships
- a deep sense of purpose that things can change and be transformed
- a sense of perseverance to keep going for the long haul

Definitions:

Oasis Mayfield uses the following definitions of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural:

SPIRITUAL

Beliefs, religious or otherwise, which inform students' perspective on life and their interest in and respect of different people's feelings and values; Sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them, including the intangible; Use of imagination and creativity in their learning willingness to reflect on their experiences.

MORAL

Ability to recognise the difference between right and wrong and students' readiness to apply this understanding in their own lives; Understanding of the consequences of their actions; Interest in investigating and offering reasoned views about moral and ethical issues.

SOCIAL

Use of a range of social skills in different contexts, including working and socialising with students from different religious, ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds; Willingness to participate in a variety of social settings, cooperating well with others and being able to resolve conflicts effectively; Interest in, and understanding of, the way communities and societies function at a variety of levels.

CULTURAL

Understanding and appreciation of the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their own heritage; Willingness to participate in, and respond to, for example, artistic, musical, sporting, mathematical, technological, scientific and cultural opportunities; Interest in exploring, understanding of, and respect for cultural diversity and the extent to which they understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity, as shown by their attitudes towards different religious, ethnic and socioeconomic groups in the local, national and global communities.

BRITISH VALUES

As of November 2014, schools must now promote British values. The promotion of British values within Oasis Academy Mayfield is to develop and foster attitudes within SMSC and weekly PSHE sessions. The fundamental British values that students will be fostering and adhering to are democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith.

Students at Oasis Academy Mayfield will develop a clear sense of British values which will enable their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence. Students are able to distinguish right from wrong and to respect civil and criminal laws of England. Students are encouraged to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative and understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the school and society. Students acquire a broad general knowledge and respect for public institutions. Tolerance and respect for different cultures and people is acquired; as well as respecting their own personal heritage.

Aims of SMSC:

At Oasis Academy Mayfield we share, support and strive to achieve the Ofsted 2012 pupil aims for SMSC:

- 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 an 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
- Overcoming 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.

How the curriculum contributes to SMSC:

The Contribution of English

English contributes to our pupils SMSC development through:

- Developing confidence and expertise in language, which is an important aspect of individual and social identity
- Enabling students to understand and engage with the feelings and values embodied in high quality poetry, fiction, drama, film and television
- Developing students' awareness of moral and social issues in fiction, journalism, magazines, radio, television and film
- Helping students to understand how language changes over time, the influences on spoken and written language and social attitudes to the use of language.

The Contribution of Mathematics

Mathematics can provide a contribution to pupils' SMSC by:

- Spiritual development: through helping students obtain an insight into the infinite, and through explaining the underlying mathematical principles behind natural forms and patterns
- Moral development: helping students recognise how logical reasoning can be used to consider the consequences of particular decisions and choices and helping them learn the value of mathematical truth.
- Social development: through helping students work together productively on complex mathematical tasks and helping them see that the result is often better than any of them could achieve separately
- Cultural development: through helping students appreciate that mathematical thought contributes to the development of our culture and is becoming increasingly central to our highly technological future, and through recognising that mathematicians from many cultures have contributed to the development of modern day mathematics.

The Contribution of Science

Science contributes to our pupils SMSC development through:

- Encouraging students to reflect on the wonder of the natural world
- Awareness of the ways that Science and Technology can affect society and the environment
- Consideration of the moral dilemmas that can result in scientific developments
- Showing respect for differing opinions, on creation for example
- Co-operation in practical activity
- Raising awareness that scientific developments are the product of many.

The Contribution of Information Communication Technology

ICT contributes to our students SMSC development through:

- Preparing the students for the challenges of living and learning in a technologically-enriched, increasingly interconnected world
- Making clear the guidelines about the ethical use of the internet
- Acknowledging advances in technology and appreciation for human achievement.

The Contribution of History

History makes a contribution to SMSC by:

- Looking at the creation and evolution of British society
- Enabling students to reflect on issues such as slavery, the holocaust and Imperialism
- Showing an awareness of the moral implications of the actions of historical figures.

The Contribution of Geography

Geography contributes to our students SMSC development through:

- Opportunities for reflection on the creation, earth's origins, future and diversity
- Reflection on the fair distribution of the earth's resources and issues surrounding climate change
- A study of people and physical geography gives our students the chance to reflect on the social and cultural characteristics of society.

The Contribution of Modern Foreign Languages

Modern Foreign Languages contributes to the pupils SMSC development through:

- Students' may gain insights into the way of life, cultural traditions, moral and social developments of other people
- Social skills are developed through group activities and communication exercises
- Listening skills are improved through oral/aural work.

The Contribution of Religious Education

RE makes a distinctive and substantial contribution to the delivery of SMSC:

- Students learn about beliefs, values and the concept of spirituality
- Reflect on the significance of religious teaching in their own lives
- Develop respect for the right of others to hold beliefs different from their own.
- Show an understanding of the influence of religion on society
- Appreciation and understanding of different cultures, religions and traditions.

The Contribution of Art

Art contributes to SMSC by:

- Art lessons develop students' aesthetic appreciation
- In turn, Art evokes feelings of 'awe' and 'wonder'
- Giving students the chance to reflect on nature, their environment and surroundings
- Studying artists with spiritual or religious theme, issues raised by artists which concerns ethical issues, such as War paintings.

The Contribution of Design and Technology

Design and Technology makes a contribution to students SMSC development through:

- Reflecting on products and inventions, the diversity of materials and ways in which design can improve the quality of our lives
- Awareness of the moral dilemmas created by technological advances
- How different cultures have contributed to technology
- Opportunities to work as a team, recognising others' strengths, sharing equipment.

The Contribution of Food Technology

Food Technology contributes to SMSC by:

- Giving pupils the opportunity to examine cultural differences in food and diet
- Reflecting on the social issues around food such as price and income
- Acknowledging government guidelines for health and dietary requirements
- Reflecting on the moral issues concerning food production in third world countries.

The Contribution of Music

Music contributes to SMSC by:

- Teaching that encourages pupils to be open to the music of other cultures.
- Discuss/reflect upon a range of personal experiences (own performance) and observed experiences (trips, concerts and peer performances)
- Lead students to appreciate aesthetic order, beauty and on occasion ambiguity, for example through listening activities, where possible beyond their common experience
- Looking at the way music can change moods and behaviour
- Offer a range of high quality off-timetable music enrichment activities, for example access to individual instrumental/vocal/theory lessons with specialist peripatetic teachers.

The Contribution of Physical Education

Students SMSC development is actively promoted through PE by:

- Activities involving co-operation, teamwork, competition, rules, self-discipline and fair play
- Exploring the sports and traditions of a variety of cultures
- Individual activities that provide the opportunity for self-reflection, awareness and challenge.

Beyond the Curriculum

We deliver SMSC through a variety of ways beyond the curriculum:

- The Academy Chaplain leads on SMSC embedding the Oasis ethos and values throughout the Academy
- Chaplaincy Team
- Student Leadership
- Sports Leadership Programme
- Peer Mentor Programme
- House assembly's have a Spiritual, Moral, Social or Cultural theme
- Through our global links with Oasis Belgium and Oasis Mozambique
- Through community projects, for example Community fair, 'Make a Difference Day'
- Our extensive extra-curricular programme
- School productions (latest Treasure Island).

Monitoring and Implementation of the Policy

- Provision for SMSC is monitored and reviewed by the ALT, teachers, students and members of the academy council
- Regular discussions are held at staff meetings
- Staff share classroom work and practice
- The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of all staff.