

Policy Name	SMSC and British Values
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Author	Anthony Merriman
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1. Aims
<p>The aim of this policy is to foster a nurturing and inclusive environment at New Avenue School, where students can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Through the development of Social, Moral, Spiritual, and Cultural (SMSC) understanding, the promotion of British values, and the celebration of global events, we aim to empower our students to become responsible and respectful members of society.</p>
2. Developing SMSC
<p>At New Avenue School, we believe in the holistic development of our students, encompassing not only their academic achievements but also their social, moral, spiritual, and cultural understanding. Our approach to developing Social, Moral, Spiritual, and Cultural (SMSC) understanding is embedded throughout the curriculum and encompasses a range of experiences and activities designed to nurture well-rounded individuals who are equipped to thrive in society.</p> <p>Through a combination of reflective practices, ethical discussions, community engagement, and cultural exploration, we aim to foster the values and skills necessary for students to become responsible, respectful, and compassionate members of their communities. Below outlines our core and wider opportunities to embrace SMSC development.</p> <p>Spiritual:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging students in reflective practices such as meditation, mindfulness, and journaling during Tutor Time Programme sessions. • Exploring themes of identity, purpose, and meaning through literature, art, and philosophical discussions. • Providing opportunities for students to connect with nature, appreciate beauty, and explore their spirituality through outdoor activities and nature walks. <p>Moral:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting ethical awareness and decision-making through discussions on moral dilemmas and current affairs. • Encouraging empathy, compassion, and social responsibility through community service projects and volunteering opportunities. • Addressing issues of justice, fairness, and equality through thematic studies and case studies in History and PSHE.

Social

- Fostering a sense of belonging and community through cooperative learning activities, group projects, and team-building exercises.
- Providing platforms for student voice and participation through student council elections, peer mentoring programs, and student-led initiatives.
- Encouraging respect, tolerance, and understanding through inclusive classroom practices and anti-bullying initiatives.

Cultural

- Celebrating diversity and promoting cultural awareness through the inclusion of diverse perspectives, experiences, and traditions in the curriculum.
- Recognizing and acknowledging global events and celebrations such as International Women's Day, Black History Month, and World Refugee Day.
- Providing opportunities for students to learn about different cultures, traditions, and languages through cultural exchange programs, museum trips, and multicultural events.

3. Developing British Values

As a school committed to preparing students for life in modern Britain, New Avenue School places a strong emphasis on the promotion and celebration of British values. These values – democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect – are fundamental to our school ethos and underpin everything we do.

Through a combination of academic study, practical experiences, and active participation, we strive to instil in our students a deep understanding and appreciation of these values, equipping them with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to become active and responsible citizens in a diverse and pluralistic society.

Democracy

- Engaging students in discussions and debates on democratic principles, processes, and current affairs.
- Simulating democratic practices through mock elections, debates, and student-led decision-making processes.
- Encouraging active participation in community and civic engagement activities to promote democratic values and responsibilities.

Rule of Law

- Exploring the importance of laws, rights, and justice through thematic studies and case studies.
- Providing opportunities for students to understand legal processes and principles through mock trials, courtroom simulations, and visits to legal institutions.
- Promoting respect for rules, regulations, and authority through positive behaviour management strategies and restorative justice practices.

Individual Liberty

- Empowering students to exercise their rights and freedoms responsibly through self-expression, choice, and autonomy.
- Encouraging students to explore their interests, passions, and talents through project-based learning and extracurricular activities.
- Promoting self-awareness, self-advocacy, and personal development through reflective practices and self-directed learning opportunities.

Mutual Respect

- Creating a culture of respect, acceptance, and understanding through inclusive classroom practices and positive relationships.
- Addressing issues of bullying, discrimination, and prejudice through proactive measures, education, and support.
- Providing opportunities for students to develop empathy, compassion, and social responsibility through cooperative learning activities, community service projects, and peer support programs.

4. Celebrating Societal and Cultural Events

We will ensure that societal and cultural events by...

- Acknowledging and studying global events and celebrations such as International Women's Day, Black History Month, World Environment Day, and Human Rights Day.
- Integrating relevant themes and topics into the curriculum to raise awareness, promote understanding, and encourage critical thinking.
- Providing opportunities for students to participate in activities, discussions, and projects related to global events and celebrations, fostering a sense of global citizenship and social responsibility.

5. Training

We commit to offering continuous training and professional development opportunities for our staff, aimed at enriching their comprehension and application of SMSC development, the advocacy of British values, and the recognition of diversity. We will engage in partnerships with external organizations, experts, and community stakeholders to deliver specialized training sessions on pertinent subjects like cultural competency, strategies to combat bullying, and the implementation of restorative justice practices.

6. Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed annually by Anthony Merriman, Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

Updates

Dates	Comments