

SMSC Education at Strive



Definition

At Strive we recognise that the personal development of students, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, plays a fundamental role in their ability to learn and achieve. We aim to provide opportunities and an environment in which students can explore and develop their own values and beliefs as well as foster high standards of personal behaviour and a caring attitude. As such, SMSC is not just a curriculum focus, but infiltrates into the ethos of the school through the development of positive attitudes and values.

Principles

Strive is committed to offering students the opportunities to:

- Identify, reflect on and explore experiences
- Understand the differences between right and wrong
- Discuss and take an interest in moral issues
- Celebrate a diversity of cultures within the school and beyond
- Develop and talk about their own attitudes and values
- Take responsibility for and make well-informed decisions
- Develop an understanding of social responsibilities and citizenship

What is SMSC?

Spiritual – the development of a sense of identity, self-worth, personal insight, meaning and purpose.

Moral – the building of a framework of moral values; the development of students' understanding of society's shared and agreed values and the ability to distinguish between right and wrong.

Social – the development of skills and personal qualities necessary for living and working together; being able to function in a multi-racial, multi-cultural society and the development of the inter-personal skills necessary for successful relationships.

Cultural – the understanding of a student's own culture and other cultures in their town, region, their own country, Europe and the rest of the world.

SMSC development is crucial for individual students, and it is crucial for society. We believe it is the heart of what education is all about – helping students grow and develop as people and this is at the heart of Strive.

Teaching and Learning –

Development in SMSC will take place across all curriculum areas, within activities that encourage students to recognise the spiritual dimension of their learning, reflect on the significance of what they are learning, and to recognise any challenges that there may be to their own attitude and lifestyle.

All curriculum areas should seek illustrations and examples drawn from as wide a range of cultural contexts as possible.

Class discussions will give students opportunities to:

- Talk about personal experiences and feelings.
- Express and clarify their own ideas and beliefs.
- Speak about difficult events and issues, eg bullying, bereavement, LGBT etc.
- Share thoughts and feelings with other people.
- Explore relationships with friends/family/others.
- Consider others' needs and behaviour.
- Show empathy.
- Develop self-esteem and a respect for others.
- Develop a sense of belonging.
- Develop the skills and attitudes that enable pupils to develop socially, morally, spiritually and culturally — e.g empathy, respect, open mindedness, sensitivity, critical awareness

Many curriculum areas provide opportunities to:

- Listen and talk to each other.
- Learn an awareness of treating all as equals.
- Agree and disagree.
- Take turns and share equipment.
- Work cooperatively and collaboratively.

Curriculum links –

At Strive key elements of SMSC and British Values are delivered across the curriculum. It is an expectation at Strive that all staff, in all subjects, can and should contribute to the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development of students through the taught curriculum and through the use of appropriate teaching and learning strategies such as discussion, reflection and student participation.

There is a key focus on SMSC within our PHSE, Living Independently and form time tasks.

Extra curriculum –

Strive offer students the opportunity to engage in an extra curriculum activity once a week.

We also deliver an enrichment programme for all students on a Friday PM which allows them to participate in activities such as: boxing/ football.

Links with the local community –

Visitors are welcomed into school.

Links with our host schools for our alternative provision students are fostered through visits, staff collaboration on support for the students.

The development of a strong home-school link is regarded as very important, enabling parents and tutors to work in an effective partnership to support the student.

