

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development at Bexhill Academy

SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development) is promoted across the entire school curriculum and all aspects of school life. Our full policy sets out our vision and practice in ensuring that all students have the opportunity to develop an understanding of right and wrong; an appreciation of the Arts in all their forms and practise the skills and attitudes required for them to participate fully in a democratic society.

Spiritual development encompasses students’:

- ability to be reflective about their own beliefs, religious or otherwise, that inform their perspective on life and their interest in and respect for different people’s faiths, feelings and values
- sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them
- use of imagination and creativity in their learning
- willingness to reflect on their experiences.

Moral development encompasses students’:

- ability to recognise the difference between right and wrong, readily apply this understanding in their own lives and, in so doing, respect the civil and criminal law of England
- understanding of the consequences of their behaviour and actions
- interest in investigating and offering reasoned views about moral and ethical issues, and being able to understand and appreciate the viewpoints of others on these issues.

Social development encompasses students’:

- use of a range of social skills in different contexts, including working and socialising with pupils from different religious, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds.
- willingness to participate in a variety of communities and social settings, including by volunteering, cooperating well with others and being able to resolve conflicts effectively
- acceptance and engagement with the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs; the pupils develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.

Cultural development encompasses students’:

- understanding and appreciation of the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their own heritage and that of others
- understanding and appreciation of the range of different cultures within school and further afield as an essential element of their preparation for life in modern Britain
- knowledge of Britain's democratic parliamentary system and its central role in shaping our history and values, and in continuing to develop Britain
- willingness to participate in and respond positively to artistic, sporting and cultural opportunities
- interest in exploring, improving understanding of and showing respect for different faiths and cultural diversity, and the extent to which they understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity, as shown by their tolerance and attitudes towards different religious, ethnic and socio-economic groups in the local, national and global communities
- understanding and appreciation of the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their own heritage and that of others

SMSC development is promoted through our daily tutor time, PSHE, Drop Down Enrichment Days, our Assembly programme and are embedded within the general ethos of our school community – FAIR.

Themes to support assemblies, Tutor Time and PSHE

We operate on a yearly plan where we have broad subject areas relating to SMSC, which interweave with PSHE, Assemblies and Tutor discussions where

possible. Parents are informed of the assembly plan and information will be on the website to support the themes across the whole school community.

The school is always open to adapting quiet spaces according to our cohorts' needs and requests for contemplative prayer and worship.

Religious Festival Assemblies such as Celebrating Hanukkah or Ramadan are also performed during an academic year.

SMSC in Citizenship

Key Stage 3:

- Students learn about identity, diversity and Human Rights. They consider how the rights of people are sacrificed through discrimination and bullying on a local, national and global scale.
- Students learn about the importance of democracy, focusing on local, national and world events. Students may write and distribute questionnaires to find out what needs changing in the local community as part of developing campaign skills through active citizenship.
- Students debate issues relevant to the current news. They will learn and develop their speaking skills through identifying the needs, beliefs and opinions of others, as well as their own.
- Students will consider how the media influences the beliefs that people hold and what impact this has on society.
- Students will consider their role within society by examining rights and responsibilities of citizens through topics such as crime and justice, political participation and the economy.

Key Stage 4:

- Students will develop their active citizenship skills by planning and delivering activities responding to issues in the local and national sphere. This will support the development of students' awareness of local

charities as well as being an opportunity for students to consider the impact that we, as citizens, can have.

- Students debate a range of global issues in tutor time as part of the Newsround Activities, which informs their perspectives on issues such as the impact of asylum seekers.
- Students learn about different campaigns which have brought about change, respecting people's feelings and values e.g. Mental Health Awareness Week
- Students learn about the impact of war and other actions by international bodies and debate their impact.

Parent/Carer Information

Bexhill Academy now have a parent/carers information website where information on a number of key issues can be accessed

The government has launched an online tool for schools across the country to give parents the best possible advice and tips on preparing their children for adult life. The online service, called [Parent Info](http://parentinfo.org/), will give parents the information they need to help them navigate the issues children can now face on everything from spotting the warning signs of self-harm, to having a healthy body image and managing money in a digital world. As well as giving them the confidence and support to speak to their children on

such sensitive issues, it will also provide them with pathways for where they can go for more hands on support on specific issues.