

## **SMSC & British Values**

At SHS we believe that the Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural development of all pupils is essential to ensure that we maintain a strong school ethos, foster positive relationships and ensure pupils leave us well equipped to fulfil their future dreams & aspirations. British Values are promoted as part of SMSC.

The Department for Education state that there is a need “to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.”

Through the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) provision at SHS we seek to address each aspect:

**Spiritual:** 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:** 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:** 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:** 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.

At SHS we teach British Values through planning and delivering a broad and balanced curriculum. The school takes opportunities to actively promote British Values through our assemblies and whole school systems and structures, such as electing and running a successful School Council. We also actively promote the British Values through ensuring our curriculum planning and delivery includes real opportunities for exploring these values. Actively promoting British Values also means challenging students, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including ‘extremist’ views.

At SHS we uphold and teach students about the British Values which are defined as:

- Democracy
- Rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual Respect
- Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

## **Democracy**

Democracy is an important value at our school. Student leadership opportunities exist throughout the School, including our Senior Student and prefect system, peer & learning mentors, House Captains, Department Prefects and the School Council. The election process for the School Council includes the writing of manifestos, a secret ballot and then hustings by potential year representatives. This fosters the concept of freedom of speech and group action to address need and concerns.

## **The Rule of Law**

The importance of laws and rules, whether they are those that govern the class, the school or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days. It is expected that students should understand that while different people may hold different views about what is right and wrong, all people living in England are subject to its law.

At SHS we have a Behaviour for Learning policy which aims to support individual progress, respect for others and the recognition that the school is a shared community with common values. We also work closely with local agencies such as the Police, PCSOs and Youth Offending Service.

## **Individual Liberty**

At SHS students are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. We educate and provide boundaries for our students to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment, a planned curriculum and an empowering education. Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our e-safety teaching and delivery of sessions on alcohol, drugs and relationships and sex education.

All staff & Governors understand that safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone and at SHS we are following the LSCB recommended 6 year training pathway with staff and Governors.

## **Mutual Respect**

Respect is one of the core values of our word cloud. The strong ethos and positive relationships throughout the school are a result of the mutual respect that individuals have and show to each other. Students are encouraged to listen to others, to respect everyone, regardless of their views and beliefs, and to challenge behavior that is not respectful.

## **Tolerance of Those with Different Faiths and Beliefs**

This is achieved through a wide range of curricular and extra-curricular activities, including visiting a range of places of worship and people from different cultures. Students are taught explicitly through a planned and delivered curriculum in RS & RE. Assemblies and discussions are used to explore important aspects of our heritage and that of other cultures as well. The school monitors incidents that involve those of 'protected characteristics' and notifies the local authority of any concerns.