



ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE
READING • BERKSHIRE

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Policy

Policy Owner Head	Associated documents	Legal Framework
Review by SLC	Review frequency Annually	Next Reviewed date January 2026



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Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Policy

This policy relates to all sections of St Joseph's College, including the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Introduction

At St Joseph's College we aim to raise the awareness of our pupils in all aspects of SMSC as they develop through the College. Within the teaching of the curriculum there are many opportunities to develop the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural awareness of the pupils. These are highlighted through Department Schemes of Work and can be found in the relevant departmental handbooks. The PSHEE/RSE programme, morning routine, charity initiatives and cultural experiences are all additional ways in which SMSC development is enhanced throughout the College for all pupils.

The College Community

Our Catholic community, built on mutual respect, personal responsibility and making a positive contribution to the College and wider community, all enhance the development of SMSC within our students. Our aim is that the relationships between staff and students and all other members of our community should provide tangible evidence of SMSC in action.

Spiritual

Spiritual development is promoted in a variety of ways, including

- Promoting an ethos where all pupils can grow, flourish and respect each other as individuals
- Through prayer & liturgy, assembly and celebrations, utilising the pupils talents in music and drama
- High quality displays which reflect the College's distinctive ethos
- The Senior School Choir regularly contributes to liturgy in the Diocese and beyond, including participation during Music tours to Italy
- The College enjoys and fosters a close link with its local parish, whose parish priest plays a pivotal role in the spiritual and sacramental life of the College
- Form led and coordinated assemblies presented to the section which include spiritual and moral themes
- Opportunities for outside school spiritual experiences e.g. Year 7, Year 9 and Year 12 Retreat to Kintbury, Year 10 church and synagogue visits, Flame, RISE Theatre, CAFOD young leaders
- Celebrations of the Word for the whole College mirror the liturgical year, with scripture reading, moral theme and led by various Middle and Senior Leaders
- Prayer is a regular and purposeful part of College life for both pupils and staff
- The liturgical life of the College is well planned, shared in and participated in by all of the College community
- Exploration of wonder and awe, beauty, love and truth through Celebrations of the Word and the wider curriculum



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- Opportunities to plan mass and attend voluntary mass throughout the year for students, especially the Chaplaincy and Charities Committee

Moral

Moral development is promoted in a variety of ways, including:

- A wide range of fundraising activities engaged in by pupils across the whole College to support people in need, ranging from local to international charities. Examples of these are displayed throughout the College
- Form led and co-ordinated assemblies/prayer/celebration of the word presented to the whole school
- A positive rewards policy understood and used by all
- Promotion of a preventive approach to behaviour management, but when the occasion to correct is required, it exercises an ethos of forgiveness and reconciliation
- Pupil behaviour is of a very high standard – expected code of conduct is contained in planners/homework diaries and displayed in form rooms (Year 3 and above) and understood
- Pupils are presented with appropriate role models, both from within the staff body, student body and beyond
- Pupils are encouraged to recognise their own worth and the worth of others. This leads to tolerance and acceptance of individual difference through the promotion of Fundamental British Values.
- Regular opportunities to celebrate the achievements of pupils through weekly assemblies, displays and special celebration assemblies at the end of terms
- Through curriculum subjects especially RE, PSHEE and RSE, pupils have opportunities to explore and develop moral concepts and values, including distinguishing right from wrong, respecting democracy, distinguishing between religious and state law and respecting public institutions and services
- Actively promoting in pupils a sense of responsibility for their environment
- Actively promoting equality and tolerance especially in connection with race, gender, neurotype and religion

Social

Social development is promoted in a variety of ways, including:

- Clearly agreed key values and principles on which our community is based
- A very active House System engaging students of all ages to work together
- Promotion of fundamental British values through whole school celebration of the word, assemblies, PSHEE and RSE based on racial, religious and other forms of equality
- Through positive group experiences e.g. school trips, drama and music productions, sports teams etc.
- Providing opportunities for leadership through the Prefect System, Head Students, House System, Sports Captains, Chair of Student Voice Committees etc.
- Through the School Council and other student chaired, student voice committees which give a very active student voice within our school community



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- Promoting positive links with the outside community through participation in local and national initiatives including a pilgrimage to Lourdes and a trip to support a community in Uganda
- Promoting and helping pupils to develop the personal qualities valued in society, e.g. honesty, respect, independence, inter-dependence and self-respect through PSHEE, RSE, assemblies and curriculum teaching

Cultural

Cultural development is promoted in a variety of ways, including:

- Easter and Christmas celebrations include pupils from other cultures through dance, movement, music and readings
- Overseas language trips to France and Spain, Ski trips to Norway, Canoe Trip to Sweden, Sports tour to Amsterdam, Sixth Form trips to Berlin and the recent trip to support a community in Uganda
- Music tours to Rome, Venice and Florence in recent years
- Numerous opportunities for pupils to participate in drama, music and visual arts activities both inside and outside College
- Trips to museums, theatres, art galleries, concert halls etc. to extend pupil's cultural awareness
- A wide range of display material throughout the College to promote cultural development
- Recognising the wide range of gifts and talents within College through assemblies, presentations and special events
- Promoting an awareness of pupil's own cultural values and knowledge of public institutions and services through curriculum and assembly programme
- Student initiative to run a cultural day in school to allow students the chance to celebrate and showcase their own cultural heritage
- Promoting the values and traditions of diverse cultures, especially addressing racism and promoting race equality