

St Martin-in-the-Fields High School for Girls

A CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY
Service Compassion Justice Perseverance



SMSC POLICY (incorporating British Values)

APPROVED: September 2017
DATE TO BE REVIEWED: September 2021

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Christ is at the centre of our Church of England school community where we live, love and learn together within an inclusive and equalities framework, and where students of all faiths and none are welcomed into our Anglican Christian community. In all that we do, we seek to show God's care for our students. We value, respect and celebrate all faiths and cultures because we are inspired by a welcoming, inclusive and loving God, seen in Jesus Christ and lived out through the Holy Spirit alive in every person.

Our vision is to create a safe, caring, happy and inclusive community underpinned by our Christian values of service, compassion, justice and perseverance and our motto CARITATE ET DISCIPLINA - WITH LOVE AND LEARNING which come from the story of St Martin of Tours. Central to this is our school Bible verse from St Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.
1 Corinthians 13:4-8

SMSC (incorporating British Values)

The statutory requirement that schools should encourage Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development (SMSC) was first included in the Education Reform Act 1988. Legislation on race equality, special educational needs, disability, sexual orientation, religion and age has significant links to students' SMSC development. We have a statutory duty to ensure that students are not discriminated against and to promote good relations.

At St Martin's we firmly believe that Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development supports and strengthens our mission 'Aspire to Learn, Ambitious for the Future'. We also include in our SMSC policy our commitment to British Values and how we prepare our students for life in Modern Britain. Our caring ethos, and the value which we place on the development of the whole child, spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected throughout our school and in our curriculum and extra curricular activities, our approach to learning and teaching, behaviour for learning, and in our tutor system and collective worship activities. These values are embedded throughout our working practice and are reflected in related policies including Collective Worship, Equality and Diversity, SRE and our Improvement Plans.

How do we promote and develop SMSC across the School?

We provide a supportive environment and place a strong emphasis on building positive, caring attitudes towards other people, an understanding of their social and cultural traditions, and an appreciation of the diversity and richness of other cultures and faiths. In the day to day life of the school, we expect all adults to model and promote the behaviour that reflects our values. We recognise that the personal development of students plays a significant part in their ability to learn, achieve and to develop their skills to be able to contribute to the community as an active responsible citizen. To show we are truly committed to this, we have allocated a period of time for wellbeing so that every day student can focus on life skills to succeed as a citizen in modern Britain and beyond.

Our Aims for SMSC

Spiritual Development is about what it is to be human, to grow as a person, to become self aware and to develop relationships with others.

To promote **Spiritual Development** of students we support the development of:

- An ability to communicate their values and beliefs.
- Opportunities for self reflection.
- Encouraging students to relate their learning to a wider frame of reference-for example, asking 'why?' 'how?' and 'where?' as well as 'what?'.
- An understanding of human feelings and emotions, the way they affect people and how an understanding of them can be helpful.
- A sense of awe and wonder.
- Knowledge of the beliefs, ideas and practices of major world religions and philosophies.

Moral Development is considered as personal development relating to human behaviour, especially the distinction between good and bad or right and wrong.

To promote **Moral Development** of students we support the development of:

- An understanding of the differences between right and wrong.
- An understanding of the responsibility for actions, for example, respect for property, care of the environment, and developing codes of behaviour.
- The ability to make responsible and reasoned judgements on moral issues.
- Guidelines for their own moral behaviour.
- An appreciation of their own independence, self reliance and personal freedom.
- A knowledge of measures to prevent discrimination on the basis of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age and other criteria.

Social Development is concerned with living in a community rather than alone.

To promote **Social Development** of students we support the development of:

- An understanding of a sense of community, with common, inclusive values which ensure that everyone, irrespective of ethnic origin, nationality, gender, ability, sexual orientation and religion can flourish.
- A knowledge of the personal qualities which are valued in a civilised society, independence, interdependence, self respect.
- Opportunities to debate and understand social issues.
- Opportunities to work together cooperatively.

Cultural Development is concerned with the total of inherited ideas, beliefs, values and knowledge which constitute the shared basis for social acceptance and community cohesion.

To promote **Cultural Development** of students we support the development of:

- Opportunities to participate in literature, drama, music, art, crafts and other cultural events and encourage the reflection on their significance.
- Recognising the value and richness of cultural diversity in Britain, and how these influence

individuals and society.

- An understanding on Britain's local, national, European, Commonwealth and global dimensions.
- Opportunities for exploration of own cultural assumptions and values.

How our Aims will be Achieved

- Through our school vision students, parents, staff and the Governing Body which reflect an ethos which fosters spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- Collective Worship, whole school, Year and Tutor.. These opportunities will allow students to reflect and explore their own thoughts and feelings which promote a positive corporate identity aspiration and achievement.
- St Martin's Wellbeing Programme that explores ethical and moral issues such as the family, citizenship, law, human rights, crime, drugs alcohol and sex and relationship education.
- Curricular opportunities for understanding specific issues within curriculum areas.
- Compulsory Religious Education which plays a part in addressing the SMSC development.
- A variety of extra curricular activities are available throughout the academic year.
- Educational visits and trips.
- Supporting charities through fund raising including our St Martin's Stewardship vision Everyone Can Help Others - ECHO
- Family involvement and support in reinforcing School values.

The Outcomes and Impact of SMSC Development

- The school community is harmonious and celebrates cultural diversity.
- The school is a vibrant, calm learning environment where work and achievement is celebrated.
- Collective worship involves staff and students in a variety of ways and promote SMSC development.
- Within the school, students demonstrate appropriate standards of behaviour and dress.
- Within the school, students and staff demonstrate appropriate attitudes towards one another, characterised by fairness, tolerance, multi racial awareness, mutual respect as well as respect for the physical environment, through our values; service compassion, justice and perseverance.
- Through their actions, students are guided by, and have respect for the school expectations
- Students take increasing responsibility for themselves and others through their relationships and participation in school life including student leadership activities.
- Students have access to opportunities to be involved in Charity work, Fundraising, Community Service, Work Experience.
- Students are involved in a range of cultural activities in and beyond the school.
- The schools wellbeing programme is delivered and monitored and students are able to demonstrate an awareness of ethical and moral issues.
- Curriculum areas promote SMSC knowledge and understanding.
- All students receive compulsory Religious Education as legally required.
- Strong partnership with families.



PROMOTING BRITISH VALUES AND PREPARING OUR STUDENTS FOR LIFE IN MODERN BRITAIN

Democracy

The principle of democracy is consistently being reinforced at St Martin's, with democratic processes being used for important decisions within the school community, for instance, elections are held for Head Girl and Prefects positions, Form Captains and Student Ambassadors.

We hold mock elections, for example for Brexit and the general election. The principle of democracy is also explored through the curriculum, for example in the History and Religious Education as well as in tutor collective worship, Year and whole school collective worship.

Student voice is significant in regards to life at St Martin's. Our student elected school council plays a strong role in our school. We know that the formation of the school council and the active participation of our students will sow the seeds for a more sophisticated understanding of democracy in the future.

The rule of law

Our students will encounter rules and laws throughout their entire lives. We want our students to understand that whether these laws govern the class, the school, the neighbourhood or the country, they are set for good reasons and must be adhered to.

This understanding of the importance of rules is consistently reinforced through assemblies and our curriculum. The involvement of our students in the creation of the school rules helps them to understand the reasons behind the rules and the consequences if they are broken.

Individual liberty

We invest a great deal of time in creating a positive culture in our school, so that students are in a safe environment where choices and freedoms are encouraged. At St Martin's students are actively encouraged to make independent choices, with the knowledge that they can do this within a safe, secure and supportive culture. Staff at St Martin's educate and provide boundaries for students to make informed choices, through an empowering education.

Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised on how to exercise these safely, for example through e-safety and Tutor collective worship activities and through student council and the prefect system.

St Martin's has a robust anti-bullying culture and has in place a comprehensive Behaviour for

Learning Policy. We are in the process to introducing a peer mediating programme where peer mediators will be trained and be able to support younger students in the school. We believe that valuing choice and freedom in daily school life will foster a value for individual liberty as the students embark upon their adult lives.

Mutual respect

Respect is a strong part of St Martin's and is part of our ethos vision and Christian Values. Students learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community treat each other with respect and this is reiterated through its teaching and learning environments.

Mutual respect is at the core of our school life and demonstrated through our distinctive Christian Values. Students learn to treat each other and staff with great respect. This is evident when walking around the school and in the classrooms. Our mission is to Inspire to Learn and to be Ambitious for the Future. Our school motto is "With Love and Learning", students respect and value education and being educated and this is evident and expressed by visitors to the school. Mutual respect is embraced throughout the curriculum by providing the opportunity for students to express their views in a safe environment.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

This is achieved through equipping students with the ability to understand their place in a culturally diverse school and society and by giving the opportunities to experience such diversity within the school community. Students benefit from a number of international visitors, speakers from other continents and cultures. Additionally, students are actively encouraged to share their faith and beliefs within the school and celebrate festivities throughout the calendar year alongside our Anglican faith. We observe Founders Day, St Martin's Day and other festivals on the Christian Calendar by having a church service. Governance includes faith representation from the Church of England.

At St Martin's we strongly believe that tolerance is gained through knowledge and understanding. Through our curriculum and the routines of our daily school life, we strive to demonstrate tolerance and help students to become knowledgeable and understanding through participation. The Religious Education curriculum, which is compulsory for all students up to the end of KS4, and a core curriculum at KS5, provides a broad and balanced education on a range of faiths, religions and cultures.

Through collective worship and tutor collective worship we embrace tolerance through our school Christian values and the themes throughout the year.

St Martin's strives endlessly to ensure that our students leave with the strongest foundation of values upon which to build a successful life and a successful contribution to our society.