



Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development Policy

Key Information

Title	Acceptable Use Policy - Students	
Prepared By	Mr McDermott	22.12.17
Checked By	Mrs Corrigan	
Approved By	Christian Vision Committee	
Version	V1	
Document Update	Date 00.00.00 (Date of next review/update)	

Version History

Version	Date	Amendments
V01.0	23.01.18	Amendments made to opportunities throughout and changes to titles of staff.
V01.1	00.00.00	
V01.2	00.00.00	

January 2018

SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

*'Our schools aim to make the promotion of the human person the goal of education.'
(Called to be a People of Hope – Schools Edition p3)*

'Children and young people must be guaranteed the possibility of developing harmoniously their own physical, moral, intellectual and spiritual gifts, and they must also be helped to develop their sense of responsibility, learn the correct use of freedom, and participate actively in social life.' (CDRE p3)

'to flourish in Christ'

'We believe that every child is made in the image of God and should be valued as a unique and gifted creation with a divine origin and eternal destiny. As a Catholic school our aim is to promote the dignity and well-being of every child and ensure that they flourish in the course of their journey with us in a safe, happy and enriching environment.'

St Gregory's Mission Statement

'Everyone should be given a chance to flourish and grow into the people God wants them to be.'

St Gregory's School Creed

As a learning community we live out our Mission Statement striving for excellence through caring, sharing and achieving.

“flourishing in Christ” sums up the source and aim of St Gregory’s as an educational and worshipping community. Education at St Gregory’s is concerned with more than the purely academic development of students. The development of the whole person in all areas is the fundamental reason for the school’s existence. All members of the community have an impact upon the formation of others within the school. Every legitimate activity and subject has a role to play in a person’s holistic development, especially in the areas of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development. For students, the school offers a supporting role in helping parents undertake the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development of their children at home.

Some departments make an explicit and clear contribution to students’ SMSC such as Religious Education and through Sex and Relationships Education. All other subjects make a significant contribution to the SMSC development of students through the delivery of their curriculum and Schemes of Work.

“We are bearing witness to God’s presence in society, but we are also being a sign and touching the lives of those around us, in many undiscerned and perhaps unintended ways.” (CES document ‘Spiritual and Moral Development’ page 7)

Since the 1988 Education Act, schools now have the responsibility to promote
“..the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students... and of society.”
(Education Reform Act Part 1 Chapter 1)

Spiritual Development

Principles

Spiritual development at St Gregory’s is grounded in and draws life from the rich and varied spirituality of the Catholic Church. Students and staff are given the opportunity to reflect and develop their spirituality in the regular celebration of the liturgical life of the Church, through the sacraments, collective worship, in Religious Education, and also through opportunities within the wider curriculum and life of the school.

Conscious of the backgrounds of some members of the school community, it is recognised that though spirituality is closely linked to and is a key element of Christianity, it is not exclusively a religious term. For some their spiritual development will not be explicitly religious, but will be a natural human response to God, to themselves, to the world and to the society around them. For those people of faith, spirituality is a fundamental aspect of their lives and helps to deepen the personal response to God of every individual. Every legitimate activity from this perspective has a spiritual dimension.

This view is further supported by part of the OFSTED definition of Spiritual Development:

“Spiritual development is the development of the non-material element of a human being which drives and sustains us and...is about the development of a sense of identity, self-worth, personal insight, meaning and purpose...”

The continuing search for “more penetrating truths”, “the quest and love of what is true and good”, are what spiritual development is all about. It is in this sense of “The spiritual” that we must help our students, each in their own unique way, to think, appreciate, question, struggle, suffer, wonder, love, reflect and indeed work!” (CES Document Pg11). CESEW

Practices

Explicit spiritual development and formation take place through the Religious Education Programme in both Key Stages, the liturgical celebrations, collective worship and involvement in charitable activities such as Samaritans Purse.

It is important to note that spiritual formation involves the whole community and the whole curriculum and it is not simply the preserve of the Religious Education Department.

As a Catholic school, prayer and worship are central to our daily routines. Daily assemblies always have a spiritual or moral message.

The Chaplaincy group meets in the Chapel and they are supported by our Chaplaincy Assistant. A range of activities including mediation, Morning Prayer, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and rice lunches are on offer. Retreats are a part of what is offered throughout a young person’s journey through St Gregory’s.

Moral Development

Principles

Jesus’ moral imperative ‘To do unto others what you would have them do to you’ places ethical development at the heart of the Christian ethic. Our aim is to enable students to build a framework of moral values for themselves so as to help them regulate their personal behaviour. We operate on the understanding that moral development is attuned to maturation and expect young people to take greater responsibility for themselves as they get older and this is reflected in our PSHE programme. We also endeavour to develop our students’ understanding of shared and agreed values held in society as a whole. Students need to recognise that society’s values can and do change and they need to understand the reasons for this. Both Gospel and British Values underpin the assembly programme and are informed by them.

Practices

Much of this is explored in detail in the Religious Education, Humanities, Science and the Creatives where the opportunity for discussion about moral issues is taken. In PSHE consideration is given to moral issues which are affecting our society in an age appropriate fashion. Other subjects make a contribution to student’s moral development. The school Behaviour Code is aimed at our students taking responsibility for their own actions.

Social Development

Principles

According to OFSTED, social development is: *"...about helping young people to work effectively with each other and to participate successfully in the community as a whole. It is about developing the skills and personal qualities necessary for living and working together. It is about functioning effectively in a multi-racial, multi-cultural society using the inter-personal skills necessary for successful relationships."*

Our aim is to enable students to flourish within the community. The school aims for students to develop positive relationships with one another and with adults in the community, to have a sense of personal and corporate responsibility, and to participate in the various aspects of the life of the school community and the values attached. All subjects have a contribution to make to the social development of students, sometimes through the subject material but equally on a daily basis through the interaction of students and staff. Sex and Relationships Education explores many aspects of social development.

Practices

Other areas where students experience personal growth and the development of social skills are: Drama Productions; Careers Education and links with the Careers Service; sporting activities; House charity collections; retreats; and parents' evenings.

Cultural Development

Principles

As a Christian educational community we have a duty to promote the cultural heritage of the students in the school. *'Catholic schools aim to promote an understanding of the human person as a relational being, and a respect for diversity which attempts to understand rather than to simply exist. We believe that social cohesion is more than tolerance'*. (Called to be a People of Hope p11) Conscious of the diverse cultural nature of modern society in the United Kingdom, St Gregory's seeks to equip members of the community with an increasing understanding and appreciation of the rich variety and expression of different cultures.

Practices

Through the curriculum the school offers staff and students the opportunity to appreciate and understand a range of cultural experiences.

Annually there is an Activities Week through which cultural and sporting values are promoted. The usual timetable is suspended and workshops are run either by staff or visiting workshops leaders. As an International School we are outward looking; we have well established links with schools across Europe and Asia with students visiting France, Germany, Czech Republic, Spain, Poland, Hungary and Turkey through British Council sponsored projects and to our partner school Suzhou in China.

There is also a variety of activities that enable SMSC education, i.e. sporting activities, science and drama clubs, skiing trips, musical instrument tuition, choir, Chaplaincy group, and Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

In all of these activities, the students learn to, as OFSTED put it: *“understand their own culture, other cultures in their town, region and in the country as a whole. To understand about cultures represented in Europe and elsewhere in the world. To understand and be comfortable in a variety of cultures and to be aware of the shared experiences provided by television, travel and the Internet...”*

This Policy should be read in conjunction with the:

- Collective Worship Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Race Equality Policy
- Special Needs Policy
- Prepared by Mr McDermott (Director of Pastoral Care)

January 2018