



## **DUCKS SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (SMSC) POLICY**

At DUCKS we recognise that the personal development of pupils, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, plays a significant part in each child's ability to learn and achieve. We therefore aim to provide an education that enables the following opportunities:

- to explore and develop their own values and beliefs;
- to develop their spiritual awareness;
- to develop high standards of personal behaviour;
- to develop a positive, caring attitude towards other people;
- to develop an understanding of their social and cultural traditions; and
- to develop an appreciation of the diversity and richness of other cultures.

### **Policy aims**

- To ensure that everyone within the DUCKS' community is aware of our aims, values and ethos.
- To ensure a consistent approach to the development of SMSC understanding throughout the curriculum and the general life of DUCKS pupils.
- To ensure that a pupil's education is set within a context that is meaningful and appropriate to their age, ability and background.
- To ensure that pupils know what is expected of them and why.
- To give each pupil a range of opportunities to reflect upon and discuss their beliefs, feelings and responses to personal experience.
- To enable pupils to develop an understanding of their individual and group identity.
- To enable pupils to begin to develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment, and an appreciation of the many cultures that enrich our society.
- To give each pupil the opportunity to explore social and moral issues and develop a sense of social and moral responsibility.

### **DUCKS' Values and Code of Conduct**

DUCKS is a community. We wish all its members (pupils, teachers, operational staff and visitors alike) to derive the greatest possible benefit from being here. Our DUCKS' Values and Code of Conduct are designed to promote harmony and the efficient and safe functioning of our community.

Pupils at DUCKS are expected to embody the DUCKS' Values as follows:

- Determined
- Unique
- Confident
- Kind
- Selfless

All DUCKS' staff, Dulwich College pupils and visitors to our school are expected to follow our Code of Conduct as follows:

- be helpful and show respect for others;
- avoid behaviour or comments which could lead to any distress;
- behave with courtesy and in a manner which reflects well on us and on the College;
- make sure that our appearance does credit to us and the College;
- be punctual;
- respect the property of both the College and of other people and look after our own;
- observe the particular rules which are designed to ensure our own safety and which apply to particular areas of the College;
- show respect for the environment of the College; and
- show consistency and common sense in the application and following of College rules and guidelines.

The importance of pupils' SMSC development is widely recognised in law, and plays an essential and significant part in a pupil's education. Activities within DUCKS are consciously planned to contribute to pupils SMSC development, such as in assemblies, acts of worship, co-curricular programmes and lessons in PSHE, citizenship and life skills. Contributions to the SMSC programme can be found in the taught curriculum and extra-curricular activities.

### **Spiritual Development**

Spiritual is not synonymous with religion but DUCKS recognises that some pupils will express their spiritual awareness in religious terms.

DUCKS aims to foster pupils' spirituality by encouraging the following:

- giving pupils the opportunity to explore values and beliefs including religious beliefs and the way in which they affect people's lives;
- enabling pupils to develop a set of values, principles and beliefs;
- encouraging pupils to explore and develop what animates and inspires themselves and others; and
- encouraging pupils to express innermost thought and feelings through for example, art, music, literature and crafts, exercising the imagination, inspiration, intuition and insight.

As a school we aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Sustain their self-esteem in their learning experience.
- Develop their capacity for critical and independent thought.
- Develop their emotional literacy and enable them to express their feelings.
- Experience moments of stillness and reflection.
- Discuss their beliefs, feelings, values and responses to personal experiences.
- Form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships.
- Reflect on, consider and celebrate the wonders and mysteries of life.

### **Moral Development**

Moral development is about pupils building a framework of moral values which regulates their personal behaviour, developing an understanding of society's shared and agreed values. DUCKS' pupils who are becoming morally aware are likely to be developing some or all of the following characteristics:

- an ability to distinguish right from wrong;
- an ability to think through the consequences of their own and others actions;
- a willingness to express their views on ethical issues and personal values;
- a respect for others' needs, interests and feelings as well as their own;
- listen and respond appropriately to the views of others;
- show respect for the environment;
- recognise the unique value of each individual;
- gain the confidence to cope with setbacks and learn from mistakes;

- a sense of participation in charity fundraising.

### **Social Development**

Social development ensures children can adjust appropriately and sensitively to a range of social contexts and experiences. Our expectation for DUCKS' pupils is that they are able to relate well to their peers and adults.

DUCKS will foster pupils' social development by:

- encouraging pupils to work and play co-operatively;
- encouraging pupils to develop their empathy;
- encouraging pupils to recognise and respect differences and similarities;
- providing opportunities for pupils to exercise leadership and responsibility across year groups;
- encouraging pupils to develop an understanding of their individual and group identity;
- encouraging pupils to understand their responsibility to the communities to which they belong;
- providing positive and effective links with the world of work and the wider community;
- enable them to become lifelong learners.

### **Cultural Development**

Cultural development is about pupils understanding their own culture and other cultures. Promoting pupils' cultural development is intimately linked with schools' value for cultural diversity.

DUCKS will encourage pupils' cultural development by:

- providing opportunities for pupils to explore their own cultural values;
- recognising the value and richness of cultural diversity in Britain;
- addressing discrimination on the grounds of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age and other criteria and promoting racial and other forms of equality;
- recognising and nurturing particular gifts and talents;
- providing opportunities for pupils to participate in cultural events;
- recognising other world-wide faiths and their contribution to our society;
- developing partnerships with outside agencies and individuals to extend pupils' cultural awareness.

## **How we promote SMSC at DUCKS**

SMSC will take place across all curriculum areas, within activities that encourage pupils to recognise the spiritual dimension of their learning, reflect on the significance of what they are learning, and to recognise any challenges that there may be to their own attitude and lifestyle. All curriculum areas should seek illustrations and examples drawn from as wide a range of cultural contexts as possible:

- assemblies and collective acts of worship;
- the Personal, Social, Health and Education (PSHE) curriculum;
- Religious Studies;
- co-curricular activities and events;
- maintaining positive relationships with parents;
- the teaching and learning environment;
- learning support;
- the Curriculum;
- displays;
- fundraising for charity;
- School Leadership Groups;
- a wide range of visits and visitors;
- the induction and transition procedures for pupils;
- the act of Remembrance;
- Founder's Day;
- Community Service.

## **Links with the wider community**

- Visitors are welcomed into school.
- We hold events at St Stephen's Church.
- The development of a strong home-school link is regarded as very important, enabling parents and teachers to work in an effective partnership to support the pupil.

- Pupils will be taught to appreciate their local environment and to develop a sense of responsibility to it.

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<b>Policy Owner:</b>	Head of DUCKS
<b>Last Reviewed:</b>	October 2024
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