



SECKFORD FOUNDATION  
FREE SCHOOLS TRUST

**POLICY  
DOCUMENT**

## Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Policy

<b>Document Owner:</b>	Trust Board
<b>Responsible Trust Committee:</b>	None
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## 1. Other relevant policies and documents

- Assembly Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Bereavement Policy
- Equalities Policy (Students)
- Inclusion Policy
  
- Documents relating to the Student Leaders Programme
- Schemes of Work for all subjects

## 2. Explanation of terms used in the policy

'Trust' = Seckford Foundation Free Schools Trust

'Free School(s)' = schools within the Trust

SMSC = Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural

## 3. Purpose of the policy

This document outlines the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) policy for all Trust Free Schools. This policy covers the Trust and all its Free Schools and as such there is no need for each Free School to have its own policy.

## 4. Policy statement

The vision of the Seckford Foundation Free Schools Trust is to "*Provide a foundation for life*" for students in our Free Schools. We aim for all students to:

- achieve their potential through a culture of high academic, personal and social expectations and aspirations;
- have their needs met and be recognised as individuals through high quality inclusion and pastoral care systems;
- learn in a safe, healthy and stimulating environment in which every child matters and in which parents / carers and the wider community are part of the learning journey;
- enjoy an all-round education beyond academic study, so that each can discover his or her latent talents.

Through this vision we intend for our young people to be equipped to take their place in society as valued, economically viable and responsible citizens. Our students will leave our Free Schools empowered as independent, co-operative, innovative and motivated young adults with the skills for and love of learning for life.

This SMSC Policy is founded on the '6Cs to Success' (Co-operation, Commitment, Confidence, Community, Challenge, Celebration) that underpin the ethos of the Trust and its Free Schools. The '6Cs to Success' ensure a positive ethos based on the development of key skills

and values for life.

The importance of students' SMSC development is widely recognised and an integral part of the current Ofsted framework, and plays an essential and significant part in students' education. Activities within the Free Schools of the Trust are consciously planned to contribute to students' SMSC development, such as in assemblies, acts of worship, curriculum programmes and lessons in PSHE, citizenship and life skills. Contributions to the SMSC programme can be found across the entire curriculum, enrichment programme and in extra-curricular activities.

## 5. Spiritual development of students

'Spiritual' is not synonymous with 'religious' but the Trust recognises that some students will express their spiritual awareness in religious terms.

The Trust and its Free Schools attempts to foster students' spirituality by encouraging the following:

- giving students the opportunity to explore values and beliefs including religious beliefs and the way in which they affect people's lives;
- enabling students to develop a set of values, principles and beliefs;
- encouraging students to explore and develop what animates and inspires themselves and others;
- encouraging students to express innermost thought and feelings through for example, art, music, literature and crafts, exercising the imagination, inspiration, intuition and insight;
- promoting teaching styles which:
  - value students questions and give them space for their own thoughts ideas and concerns;
  - enable students to make connections between aspects of their learning;
  - encourage students to relate their learning to a wider frame of reference;
  - encourage students to consider and respect a diversity of opinions.

## 6. Moral development of students

Moral development is about students building a framework of moral values which regulates their personal behaviour, developing an understanding of society's shared and agreed values. Students at the Free Schools within the Trust 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;
- participation in charity fundraising or other such behaviour.

The Trust and its Free Schools encourages the students' moral behavior development through the Behaviour Policy, for example the 6Cs to Success and the use of restorative justice.

## 7. Social development of students

Social development ensures students can adjust appropriately and sensitively to a range of social contexts and experiences. Our expectation for students at Free Schools within the Trust is that they are able to relate well to their peers and adults. The Trust and its Free Schools will foster students' social development by:

- encouraging students to work and learn co-operatively;
- encouraging students to develop their skills of empathy and tolerance;
- encouraging students to recognise and respect differences and similarities;
- providing opportunities for students to exercise leadership (such as through the Student Leaders Programme) and responsibility across year groups and the school;
- providing positive and effective links with the world of work and the wider community;
- encouraging inter-generational links and work.

## 8. Cultural development of students

The Trust and its Free Schools will encourage students' cultural development by:

- providing opportunities for students to explore their own cultural values;
- 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 abilities, gifts and talents;
- providing opportunities for students to participate in cultural events;
- developing partnerships with outside agencies and individuals to extend students' cultural awareness and awareness of diversity.

## 9. Promoting SMSC across the Free Schools

We promote SMSC through:

- assemblies and collective acts of worship;
- the Personal, Social, Health and education (PSHE) curriculum;
- philosophy and ethics curriculum;
- curricular activities and events;
- maintaining positive relationships with parents / carers and the wider community;
- the learning and teaching environment;
- inclusion;
- displays;
- fundraising for charity;
- Student Leaders Programme;
- a wide range of visits and visitors;
- the induction and transition procedures for students;
- various aspects of our enrichment and extra-curricular programmes.

This list is indicative not exhaustive.

## 10. British Values

In the document "*Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools: Departmental advice for maintained schools - November 2014*" the DfE state:

*"Schools should 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<sup>1</sup>. This can help schools to demonstrate how they are meeting the requirements of section 78 of the Education Act 2002, in their provision of SMSC.*

*Actively promoting the values means challenging opinions or behaviours in school that are contrary to fundamental British values. Attempts to promote systems that undermine fundamental British values would be completely at odds with schools' duty to provide SMSC. The Teachers' Standards expect teachers to uphold public trust in the profession and maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour, within and outside school. This includes not undermining fundamental British values."*

Through our SMSC Policy, Free Schools within are Trust will aim to:

- enable students to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence;
- enable students to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England;
- encourage students to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative, and to understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the school and to society more widely;
- enable students to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England;
- further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling students to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures;
- encourage respect for other people; and
- encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England.

The list below describes the understanding and knowledge expected of students as a result of schools promoting fundamental British values:

- an understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process;
- an appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety;
- an understanding that there is a separation of power between the executive and the judiciary, and that while some public bodies such as the police and the army can be held to account through Parliament, others such as the courts maintain independence;
- an understanding that the freedom to choose and hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law;
- an acceptance that other people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour; and
- an understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination.

## 11. Complaints

Any complaints about this policy from outside the Trust should be made in accordance with the Trust's Complaints Policy. Any other complaints should be brought to the attention of the Headteacher of the relevant Free School in the first instance.

Complaints that are in the public interest and relate to suspected malpractice may be appropriate to raise under the Trust's Whistleblowing Policy.

## 12. Compliance and performance monitoring

The Trust will review this policy every two years and ensure that practice across all schools is in line with this policy. Any review will take into account the most up-to-date legislation and SMSC expectations from Ofsted.

The Trust has identified a range of Assurance Methodologies as tools by which compliance with policies can be tested. Those most relevant to this policy include:

- Internal audit
- External audit
- Governor visits
- Random testing by line managers