

# SMSC Policy

**Approved by:** Penny Harris (Director) Jane Cox (Director) **Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025

**Last reviewed on:** 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024

**Next review due by:** 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026

All policies are generated and reviewed with an awareness of equality and diversity in relation to pupils, staff and visitors. All policies are generated and reviewed placing safeguarding and wellbeing at the heart of all that we do.

## 1. Aims

The school aims to actively promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all pupils and the fundamental British values inherent in this. These are:

- democracy
- the rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

The school aims to develop our pupils' sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them. Pupils' SMSC development is closely aligned to the overall ethos and values of the school.

The school aims to equip pupils with the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life. Cultural capital is the essential knowledge that pupils need to be educated citizens, introducing them to the best that has been thought and said, helping to engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement.

This policy is written with regard to the Equality Act 2010.

## 2. Principles

The school actively promotes principles which:

- enable pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence;
- enable pupils to be reflective about their own beliefs and perspective on life;
- enable pupils to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of the UK;
- encourage pupils to understand consequences and 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 pupils to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in the UK;
- develop pupils' knowledge, and respect for, different people's faiths, feeling and values;
- further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling pupils to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures;
- encourage respect for other people;
- 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 the UK.
- Encourage the ability to recognise and value the things we share in common across cultural, religious, ethnic and socio-economic communities

This school will not promote specific teachings, beliefs or opinions, but will promote tolerance of people or groups of different beliefs, opinions or backgrounds. This school will encourage interest in investigation and offering reasoned views about moral and ethical issues and ability to understand and appreciate the viewpoints of others on these issues.

The promotion of partisan political views is not acceptable in the teaching of any subject in the school and where political issues are brought to the attention of pupils they will be offered a balanced presentation of opposing views.

Through promoting fundamental British values, our pupils will develop an understanding and knowledge of the following:

- an understanding of how they can influence decision-making through the democratic process;
- an appreciation that living under the rule of law protects them and is essential for their wellbeing and safety;
- an understanding that bodies such as the police and the army can be held to account;

- 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

### **3. Implementation**

- These principles will be embedded throughout the whole school and be taught in suitable parts of the curriculum and as appropriate for the age of pupils, and
- Pupils will be encouraged to explore, understand, appreciate and respect diversity.
- Pupils will be encouraged to participate in, and respond positively, to artistic, musical, sporting and cultural opportunities.
- Pupils will be encouraged to learn about themselves, others and the surrounding world, to use imagination and creativity and be able to self-reflect.
- There will be opportunities for pupils to articulate their feelings and justify them in both informal and formal settings and be given responsibility and trust to develop their confidence.
- The school will develop these traits by celebrating achievement and encouraging pupils to have the confidence to undertake difficult tasks and have a wide range of experiences.
- Pupils will be encouraged to question things which prevent them developing into confident adults – particularly lack of aspiration and unfair discrimination.
- Group activities that teach cooperation and initiative and giving pupils responsibility within the school will promote pupils' understanding of the value and importance of making a positive impact on the lives of other people.
- All pupils within the school will have a voice that is listened to and will be involved in democratic processes through which they will learn how to argue and defend their point of view.

### **4. Review**

In order to ensure that this policy is relevant, if you have any comments to make please email [directors@ontrackededucation.com](mailto:directors@ontrackededucation.com)