

Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Development Policy 2024-2025

Introduction

At the heart of LSI College's ethos is a commitment to SMSC development: we aim to provide a friendly and informal environment in which students are encouraged to develop personal discipline and values, lead fulfilling lives and make a positive contribution to society.

LSI College is a secular college without religious affiliation and our student body is diverse, representing a range of ethnic backgrounds, cultures and faiths. We embrace and value this variety, while fostering a college community with a strong sense of belonging.

We strive to ensure that students leave LSI College as confident and responsible citizens with a reflective attitude towards themselves and the world around them, and an appreciation for core values that will shape their outlook and support them through the challenges they will face beyond college life.

LSI takes a holistic approach to SMSC development in which all tutors play a part. Values are modelled as much as they are taught, through the curriculum, through the pastoral system, and through extra-curricular provision.

The SMSC development policy is supported by and reinforces the college policies for Promoting Good Behaviour and for Equal Opportunities, and should be read in conjunction with them.

Definitions

Spiritual Development

Spiritual development is associated with the formation of our personality or character. It concerns the development of a sense of identity, self-worth, personal insight and the ability to see meaning and purpose in our lives. It extends to having an awareness of religious beliefs and their diversity and, for some, it is equated with the development of our 'soul'.

Moral Development

Moral development enables students to build a framework of values, consistent with the law, which regulates their personal behaviour. It requires them to be able to articulate valid reasons justifying the values they hold. At the same time, it requires them to develop an ability to reflect on the values of others and on the shared and agreed values of society, and to evaluate them for oneself. It entails recognising that there are many issues over which there is disagreement and that society's values can evolve over time.

Social Development

Social development encourages students to work effectively with each other, to participate fully in the college community and to contribute positively to wider society. It promotes interpersonal skills necessary for successful relationships, and tolerance in a multi-racial, multi-cultural society. It includes understanding society's institutions, structures and characteristics, its economic and political principles and organisations, and individuals' roles and responsibilities within it.

Cultural Development

Cultural development allows students to understand their own culture and to appreciate other cultures in their local area, the rest of the country and elsewhere in the world. It involves valuing cultural diversity, feeling comfortable in a variety of cultures and being able to operate in the emerging world culture of shared experiences provided by television, travel and the internet. It entails an awareness that cultures are always changing and coping with change.

Aims

- To enable students to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence;
- To enable students to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the law, both civil and criminal;
- To encourage students to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative and understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those within the college, the local community and further afield;
- To provide students with a broad general knowledge of public institutions and services in England;
- To assist students to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures in a way that promotes tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions;
- To promote the core international values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs;

- To encourage support for participation in the democratic process, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England and thereby an understanding of the difference between state law and religious law;
- To encourage students to enjoy and value taking on responsibilities both inside and outside of the college.
- To ensure that we preclude the promotion of partisan political views and ideologies in the teaching of any subject in the college;
- To take such steps as are reasonably practicable to ensure that where political issues are brought to the attention of students, they are offered a balanced presentation of opposing views. This should apply both while students are in attendance at the college, and while they are taking part in extra-curricular activities which are provided or organised by or on behalf of the college.

Delivery

The Pastoral System

- LSI College has a strong pastoral system in which the Directors of Studies play a significant role in SMSC development, through establishing strong relationships with their students that have a lasting influence on their personal development. They meet regularly with students to discuss academic and personal progress, and also liaise closely with subject tutors and parents.
- Directors of Studies, along with the subject tutors, consistently enforce the college's Promoting Good Behaviour Policy, the college rules, as well as measures to prevent discrimination. As a result, LSI has very few instances of bullying or other serious forms of bad behaviour.

The Curriculum

- Every subject on the curriculum has its part to play in the delivery of SMSC development, and schemes of work and departmental handbooks outline potential opportunities for exploring these issues. Some subjects, by their nature, will have a particular contribution to make, such as the humanities and social sciences.
- Small classes and relatively informal teacher-student relationships foster a climate in which issues may be discussed frankly and openly without undue embarrassment or self-consciousness, while encouraging participation from all students. Students should develop a positive view of the value of robust discussion and debate.
 - All staff understand that whilst they are required to ensure that students understand and respect differences of opinion and what the laws says about political, moral and cultural matters, staff are not inhibited from intellectual discussion of these matters. For example, the Equal Marriage Act means that it is legal for same sex couples to marry but it does not prevent staff from expressing religious or philosophical views on marriage.
 - All staff understand that whilst it is vital to recognise the importance of a free exchange of ideas, all staff are aware of the need to challenge discriminatory or extremist opinions.
- LSI College promotes positive experiences through a full programme of educational trips which contribute to SMSC development and are open to all students.
- Student achievement is celebrated throughout the year with letters of commendation.

Personal Social and Health Education.

- SMSC development is positively encouraged and reinforced through the strong and supportive pastoral system.
- There are opportunities through SMSC development through the social activities programme.
- LSI College promotes SMSC development, by providing support for parents on topics such as alcohol and drugs awareness, student underachievement, and students with specific education needs.
- LSI College aims to reinforce fundamental values and its ethos throughout the college premises with images, posters and classroom displays.

International Students

- The **Mentoring System** aims to aid the overall integration of new international students while providing an opportunity for existing students to assume a position of responsibility and gain confidence in their communication skills.
- **International Induction Week** provides international students with extensive opportunities to familiarise themselves with life in the UK and to socialise.
- **Cultural Festivals** are encouraged at LSI College.

Extra-curricular Opportunities

- There are a number of social events every academic year.
- **External Lectures** are advertised to students, who are encouraged to attend
- **The Student Council** encourages democratic involvement and roles of responsibility in the college community by giving students the opportunity to raise issues with the college leadership team, to organise student events such as charity fundraising events.

Other Opportunities for SMSC Development

Students are encouraged to involve themselves in college life in a variety of other ways, by mentoring prospective students on taster days, by providing tours for prospective parents on open days, and through involvement in cultural events such.

LSI is keen to explore future possibilities for SMSC development, particularly in response to the demands of our student body, and potential opportunities include.

Policy Review

LSI College reviews its SMSC development policy annually and an opportunity is given for all staff to contribute to the policy and its implementation.

*Reviewed by Dr Jan Capar
August 2024*

Next review: August 2025