

The Maynard School, Exeter

September 2026

6.49 Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development Policy

Independent Day School for Girls

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Anti-Bullying policy
- Behaviour & Discipline Policy
- Charity and Community Policy
- Collective Worship Policy
- Curriculum Policy
- PSHE Policy
- Preventing Radicalisation Policy
- Equality Diversity and Anti-Racism Policy
- Emotional Health and Wellbeing Policy

And:

- DfE Improving the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of pupils: supplementary information (November 2014)
- DfE Promoting fundamental British Values through SMSC (November 2014)
- DfE Personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education (2020)

The Maynard School as part of its core aims is fully committed to fulfil its obligations as set out in the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development standard as stated in the Independent School Standards (England) Regulations which were revised in 2024 ([The Independent School Standards - Guidance for independent schools \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk))

The Maynard will ensure that:

- We actively promote the respect for fundamental British values;
- We do not promote extremist views, or partisan political views, through their curriculum and/or teaching, and
- We offer pupils a balanced presentation of views when political issues are brought to their attention.

Aspects of SMSC are developed throughout the curriculum and also in the daily life of the school outside lessons. The main aims of SMSC as promoted by the Maynard School are as follows:

- 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 civil and criminal laws of England
- To encourage students to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative and understand how they can contribute positively to those living and working both in the locality in which the school is situated and to society more widely
- To promote principles which provide students with a broad general knowledge of how public institutions and services in England work and to respect them
- 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 encourage respect for other people paying regard to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010
- To actively promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those of different faiths, races, cultures and beliefs
- Show support for the participation in the democratic processes and understand why democracy and law making on the basis of representation in Parliament is considered the fairest process
- To preclude the promotion of partisan political views in the teaching of any subject in the school
- To ensure that where political issues are brought to the attention of student while they attend school and also while they are taking part in extra-curricular activities which are provided or organised by or on behalf of the school, they are offered a balanced presentation of opposing views.

In order to fulfil the aims, set out in this policy the school requires departments to review their contribution to SMSC development each year,

As part of the school's commitment to SMSC development, the aim is:

- To ensure that the relevant values form a key part of the school's code of behaviour and conduct and that this code is fully understood by all members of the school community.
- To devise strategies to help all staff to recognise opportunities that can serve to develop SMSC awareness in their classrooms and in other school contexts
- To arrange for outside speakers to come and talk to the students on matters connected with our SMSC policy in whole school assemblies, to individual year groups or in class lessons as appropriate.
- To arrange visits and work experience to places relevant to the aims of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the students.
- To celebrate achievement and encourage pupils to have the confidence to undertake difficult tasks and have a wide range of experiences.
- To encourage pupils to question things in particular sources of information #
- To liaise with the parent body, friends of the school, including past students, and local organisations in the promotion of the wide-ranging aims of this element of school life.

We welcome and encourage input from parents, carers and other interested parties as to ways in which the school can widen and further the students' awareness of issues relevant to their SMSC development'.

The following list describes the understanding and knowledge expected of pupils under the DfE non-statutory guidance of November 2014 (revised 2019).

- An understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process;
- An apprehension that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their well-being 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 hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law;
- An acceptance that 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;
- An understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination.

DfE advice on Improving the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development of Pupils - Departmental Advice for independent schools and Academies/Free Schools – April 2019

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/800615/Independent_School_Standards- Guidance_070519.pdf

Promoting Fundamental British Values as part of SMSC in Schools 27 November 2014

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/380595/SMSC_Guidance_Maintained_Schools.pdf

Policy Written by: PW	May 2010
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Authorised by Governor	
Signed	
Dated	