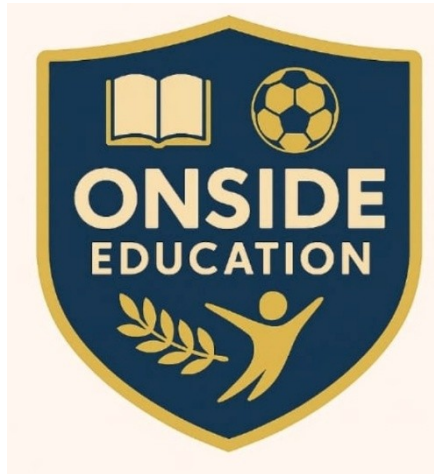




Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Policy

Issue Date: Sept 2025

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Onside Education: SMSC and British Values Policy

1. Aims

At Onside Education, the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of our students sits at the heart of our mission to re-engage young people and empower their futures. Our approach is rooted in creating a safe, inclusive, and aspirational learning environment that nurtures confidence, self-worth, and a sense of belonging.

We are committed to ensuring that all students are supported to develop as resilient, thoughtful, and active citizens who can make positive contributions to their communities and to wider society. SMSC development underpins our curriculum, enrichment opportunities, behaviour ethos, and relationships throughout the setting.

We actively promote the fundamental British values of:

- **Democracy**
- **The Rule of Law**
- **Individual Liberty**
- **Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those with Different Faiths and Beliefs**

Our curriculum, wider provision, and staff ethos are designed to ensure these values are experienced, explored, and embedded throughout each student's journey with us.

2. Spiritual Development

Our aims:

- Develop students' sense of identity, purpose, and belonging.
- Encourage curiosity, creativity, reflection, and emotional awareness.
- Promote a sense of wonder, self-reflection, and appreciation for life experiences.

Our provision includes:

- Opportunities for reflection and discussion across all subjects, especially PSHE, Art, Character Education, and Enrichment.

- Engagement with nature, community, and sport to develop personal connection and meaning.
- Encouraging students to explore big questions about life, belief, and meaning.

3. Moral Development

Our aims:

- Help students distinguish right from wrong and understand the consequences of their actions.
- Foster empathy, responsibility, and fairness.
- Promote ethical understanding and respect for others' perspectives.

Our provision includes:

- Behaviour expectations based on restorative practice, fairness, and respect.
- Regular opportunities to explore moral dilemmas and decision-making through PSHE, Citizenship, and real-life contexts.
- Recognition of positive behaviour, effort, and contribution through rewards and celebration.

4. Social Development

Our aims:

- Support students to develop strong relationships and positive social skills.
- Enable students to work effectively with others and take responsibility in groups and teams.
- Encourage active citizenship, leadership, and collaboration.

Our provision includes:

- Group-based learning, sports, enrichment projects, and peer mentoring.
- Student voice structures and opportunities for student-led projects.
- Community engagement and social action opportunities.

5. Cultural Development

Our aims:

- Help students develop an understanding and appreciation of their own and others' cultural backgrounds.
- Promote awareness and respect for diversity.
- Foster pride in cultural heritage while embracing inclusivity.

Our provision includes:

- A curriculum that reflects global and British cultural contributions.
- Celebrations of festivals, traditions, and historical events.
- Enrichment activities that expose students to music, art, theatre, and literature.

6. Promoting Fundamental British Values

Through all aspects of school life, we embed the values that underpin British society:

- **Democracy:** Students engage in student voice panels, surveys, and decisions that shape provision. They learn about democratic processes through Citizenship and wider curriculum links.
- **Rule of Law:** Our clear, consistent rules and behaviour frameworks help students understand the importance of fairness, accountability, and legal boundaries.
- **Individual Liberty:** We promote freedom of expression, choice, and respect for personal identity in a supportive and safeguarded environment.
- **Mutual Respect and Tolerance:** Through our inclusive ethos, RE/PSHE curriculum, and enrichment experiences, students explore different faiths, perspectives, and cultures, developing empathy and understanding.

Onside Education actively promotes respect for all people, including those with protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010. Pupils are taught that discrimination, prejudice, harassment, extremism, misogyny,

homophobia, transphobia, racism, disability discrimination and hostility towards protected groups are unacceptable and contrary to the school's values.

Where pupils express views that are discriminatory, extremist, prejudicial or contrary to fundamental British values, these views will be challenged appropriately through education, discussion, restorative approaches and safeguarding processes where necessary.

7. Safeguarding Against Radicalisation and Extremism

We actively protect our students from the dangers of extremism by:

- Embedding critical thinking and respectful debate across the curriculum.
- Training staff in Prevent Duty awareness.
- Supporting students to build resilience, self-worth, and a sense of belonging.

We remain vigilant to the factors that may make students vulnerable, including isolation, trauma, discrimination, or family stress. Any concerns are acted on swiftly and sensitively through our safeguarding processes.

External Speakers and Visitors

External speakers, organisations and visitors will be subject to appropriate safeguarding, suitability and impartiality checks before working with pupils.

The Head of Provision will ensure that:

- Speakers are consistent with the school's values.
- Materials are appropriate and balanced.
- Fundamental British Values are promoted.
- Safeguarding risks are assessed.
- Political impartiality requirements are met.

Any concerns will result in approval being withheld.

8. Monitoring and Evaluation

The delivery and impact of SMSC and British Values are monitored through:

- Lesson observations and learning walks
- Curriculum audits and planning reviews
- Student voice feedback
- Behaviour and engagement tracking
- Staff development and training reviews

This policy is reviewed annually by the Senior Leadership Team and SMSC Coordinator to ensure it remains relevant, responsive, and aligned to national guidance and the needs of our learners.

Staff receive training and guidance to support the delivery of SMSC, Prevent, political impartiality and the balanced discussion of controversial issues.

9. Compliance with Independent School Standards

Onside Education ensures that the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils is promoted in line with the Independent School Standards (**Part 2, Paragraph 5**).

Students are supported to develop a clear understanding of right and wrong and are explicitly taught to understand and respect the civil and criminal law of England.

This is delivered through:

- PSHE and Citizenship lessons exploring laws, consequences and rights
- Behaviour systems which reinforce fairness, accountability and responsibility
- Scenario-based learning that enables pupils to apply legal understanding to real-life situations

Students develop an awareness of how laws are made, why they exist, and the role they play in maintaining a safe and fair society.

Contribution to Society

Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative and contribute positively to the lives of others.

This is achieved through:

- Opportunities for student voice, leadership and responsibility
- Participation in community-based projects and enrichment activities
- Engagement in social action, teamwork and collaborative learning
- Development of communication, leadership and employability skills

Where appropriate, Onside Education seeks to establish and maintain links with local organisations and charities to provide pupils with meaningful opportunities to contribute to their local community.

Understanding Public Institutions

Students develop a broad general knowledge of, and respect for, key public institutions and services in England, including:

- The police and their role in law enforcement and community safety
- The courts and justice system
- The National Health Service (NHS) and public health services
- The government and democratic institutions

This is embedded through PSHE, Citizenship and wider curriculum opportunities, ensuring pupils understand how these institutions support individuals and society.

Political Impartiality

Onside Education ensures that:

- Partisan political views are not promoted in the teaching of any subject or within the wider provision
- All teaching is politically impartial

- Staff maintain professional neutrality and do not express personal political bias

This is supported through staff training, induction processes, the staff code of conduct and curriculum oversight.

Balanced Presentation of Political Issues

Where political issues are brought to the attention of pupils:

- A balanced presentation of opposing views is provided
- Pupils are supported to critically evaluate information and form their own reasoned opinions
- Discussions are conducted in a respectful, age-appropriate and safeguarding-aware manner

This approach ensures that pupils can engage thoughtfully with current issues while developing respect for different viewpoints.