



AVANTI GRANGE
SECONDARY SCHOOL

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Policy

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Policy Author(s): Ben Martin

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1. Context

Avanti Grange School recognises that the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) elements of a student's education are crucial to their development as an individual, as it allows them to take their rightful place in their community as a local, national and global citizen. This policy builds upon the school's mission statement *"To develop courageous, curious and resilient learners who will become the leaders of tomorrow through educational excellence, character formation and spiritual insight"*. In addition, this policy also clarifies how the school's approach to Collective Worship supports SMSC. SMSC is about the values students are encouraged to hold, and their attitude towards learning, knowledge and society.

At Avanti Grange School, we promote SMSC in the following ways:

2. Spiritual Development

Spiritual development is concerned with how an Avanti Grange School student develops:

- Personal values and beliefs
- A willingness to reflect
- An ability to communicate these beliefs in discussion and behaviour
- An understanding of the value and role of faith and religion in societies
- Tolerance of other people

Spiritual development is personal and unique to each individual. It is about the meaning in life, truth and developing a set of core values. It includes imagination, inspiration and creativity and it also covers an awareness of self-identify and self-worth.

Avanti Grange School promotes spiritual development as part of students' personal development through:

- The Avanti Way
- The school Rewards and Consequences system
- The PSHE programme
- The teaching of Philosophy, Religious and Ethics
- All subjects of the curriculum
- Assemblies
- The ethos of the school values, attitudes and expectations
- Opportunities for reflection on aspects of their lives
- Wonder at the natural world and human achievement
- Timetabled Yoga lessons
- Timetabled Meditation lessons

3. Moral Development

Moral development is concerned with students' knowledge, understanding, intentions, attitudes and behaviour in relation to right and wrong within the accepted codes of practices of society. The quality of relationships that students experience, the standards of behaviour in the school as well as the

values promoted by the school's code of conduct will form basis of any judgment on moral development as well as the extent to which students show:

- An understanding of the difference between right and wrong
- Respect for people, truth and property
- A concern for how their actions may affect others
- The ability to make responsible judgements on moral issues
- Personal conduct that they take responsibility for their own actions
- Personal behaviour through principles rather than fear of punishment
- A knowledge of standards of morality

Avanti Grange School is a social organisation and its functioning depends on the broad acceptance of rules, codes of conduct and a behaviour and discipline policy based on a clear set of moral principles. The school has a clear set of aims, values and expectations which are shared with parents/carers, staff and students including:

- Respecting the rights and property of others
- Respecting the beliefs and practices of others in a multicultural society
- Taking responsibility for one's own actions
- Being considerate towards other people and demonstrating good relationships
- Honesty
- Self-discipline

The essence of moral behaviour is to build a framework of values which regulate personal behaviour through principles rather than fear of punishment or reward. The Avanti Way provides the framework for our students to develop their attitudes and understanding on morality and develop the self-confidence to hold to this code of values against a variety of pressures. Moral development is about understanding the principles and social values behind actions and decisions. At Avanti Grange School we strongly act upon any incidences of:

- Bullying
- Cheating
- Deceit
- Cruelty
- Irresponsibility
- Dishonesty
- Obscenity
- Intolerance including racism and homophobia

At Avanti Grange School we promote moral development through a range of activities and opportunities both within and outside the classroom such as:

- Working with teachers and form tutors to teach and promote understanding of morality
- The PSHE programme
- Assemblies
- Rewards and Consequences
- Welfare and guidance
- Core curriculum including the teaching of Philosophy, Religious and Ethics
- Foreign exchange programmes and global links with partner schools

4. Social Development

Social development is concerned with the skills and personal qualities necessary for individuals to live and function effectively in society. Social development is based on the acceptance of group rules and the ability to see oneself in a wider context. The quality of relationships in school is crucial in forming students' attitudes to good social behaviour and self-discipline. The school helps prepare students to live in society by providing knowledge and understanding of society, its institutions, structures, and characteristics, political, non-political and economic organisations. The school systematically plans for social development of students through a range of teaching and learning activities including:

- Classroom organisation and management
- Student grouping and opportunities for group work (group project based work)
- The school code of conduct
- School productions
- Residential trips
- Enrichment activities
- The PSHE programme
- Co-curricular activities
- Foreign exchange programmes and global links with partner schools
- Student Leadership opportunities which support students in the school community

5. Cultural Development

A student's cultural development refers to an increasing understanding of those values, beliefs, customs, knowledge and skills which link groups together and give people a sense of identity. At Avanti Grange School we seek to develop in students an understanding and awareness of their culture within a multi-cultural society and encourage personal values and self-esteem. The school curriculum provides experiences of all aspects of culture for students including languages, aesthetic, mathematical, literacy, technological, scientific, musical, political, economic and religious education. The Modern Foreign Languages Faculty has a specific role in supporting the teaching and learning for students about cultural diversity through the curriculum and international links with partner schools. There are also opportunities for cultural visits and exchanges including:

- European exchanges
- Drop down days
- Cultural visits aboard
- Visits to centres of cultural interest
- Assemblies
- Fortnightly current affairs topics discussed during Form Time
- Co-curricular activities

6. Collective Worship

At Avanti Grange School we recognise that Collective Worship is an important opportunity to provide opportunities for our students Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development.

Aims

It is our aim at Avanti Grange School that worship should:

- Contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child.
- Give expression to, and reaffirm and practise the values of the school community.
- Allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings.
- Celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, and recognition of the vulnerability of self and others.
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to praise and reach out to 'God'.
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience stillness and quiet.
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to respond to religious language and symbolism.
- Provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practise of worship in the future.

7. Policy Links

- Anti-Bullying and Cyberbullying Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and Procedure
- Collective Worship Policy
- Equality Policy
- Philosophy, Religion and Ethics (PRE) Curriculum Policy
- PSHE Policy
- SEND Policy