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International Schools
Leader

Key Role: to promote global awareness and the International Dimension at The Willows.

Spiritual Moral Social and Cultural Development (SMSC) Ofsted

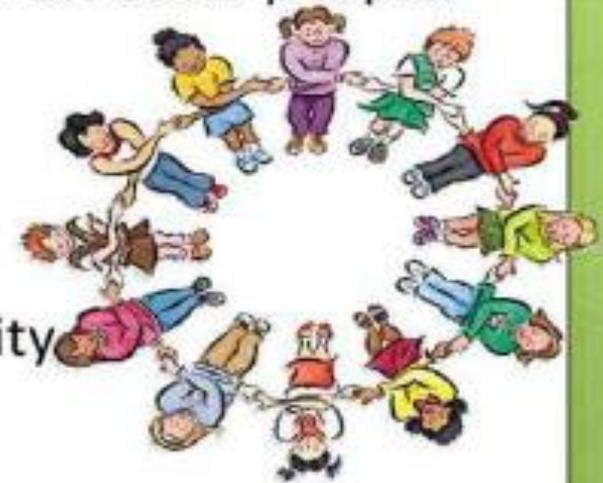
- Spiritual
- Moral
- Social
- Cultural

*The International School
Promoting spiritual,
moral, social and cultural
development of global
learners*

SMSC – What does it mean?



- Every School is part of its community, with a role of fostering the quality of life within that community.
- This can take the form of opening its doors for community use, or encouraging pupils to take part in community activities.
- Above all, it is producing citizens of the future, whose attitudes and ambitions will have an impact on other people.
- Community cohesion?
- Diversity appreciated and valued
- Equal opportunities
- Knowing rights and responsibilities
- Sense of belonging to the same community
- Shared values
- Shared vision for the community



Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development – 4 points:

Regulatory changes from 1 January 2013



- First is to require that schools enable pupils to respect the civil and criminal law. Purpose of this is to enable action to be taken on faith schools which teach only respect for religious law.
- Second is to require that schools enable pupils to understand how they can contribute to the lives of those who live and work in the locality
- This is designed to discourage schools who interpret existing 'community life' provision to mean only their own faith community or school community
- Encouraging links with all relevant faith groups and communities
Links with schools where children may be from a different social and cultural backgrounds
- ***In judging the school's overall effectiveness, inspectors will take account of the four key judgements and how well the school promotes pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.***



Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education

1. SMSC is a practical expression of the schools values, vision and purpose
2. SMSC is a unifier of the curriculum not a bolt on
3. SMSC ensures that students are ready and fully equipped to be successful and happy citizens.

SMSC now includes a requirement to promote British values.

In June 2014, the then secretary of state for education, Michael Gove, announced that schools would be required to promote British values from September 2014.



The move followed concerns about the promotion of strict Islamist values in some schools in Birmingham.

The regulations state that to meet the standard for the SMSC development of pupils, a school must:

“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.”



The governing body should ensure that this ethos is reflected and implemented effectively in school policy and practice.

At The Willows these values are regularly reinforced in many ways.

Here are a few examples ...





Democracy

At the start of each year the children decide upon their class charter and the rights associated with these. All the children contribute to the drawing up of the charter and it is frequently referred to throughout the year.

We have a student council which meets regularly to discuss issues raised in class council meetings.

Every child on the student council is voted in by their class.

Children have an annual questionnaire where they are able to put forward their views about the school. The most current one was conducted at the end of January 2015.

On the 16th October, some of our Year 6 pupils attended a local democracy event at Stoke Town Hall, where they learnt how local decisions are made.

At the start of November members of the school council took part in a visit to The Houses of Parliament to have a tour and to meet The Right Honourable Tristram Hunt MP. They also learned about how rules are made.



The Rule of Law

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced at The Willows.

Pupils are taught from an early age the rules of the school. These are our Playground, Classroom, School and Safety Rules.

Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind rules and laws, that they protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken.

Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service and local councillors help reinforce this message.

Individual Liberty

At The Willows, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for young pupils to make informed choices, through a safe environment and an empowering education.

Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our ESafety and PSHE lessons.

As well as this, we have timetabled assembly themes linked to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, so that pupils are aware of their rights.





Mutual Respect

Mutual respect is at the heart of our values. Children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others.

All members of the school community treat each other with respect.

Year 6 Peer mediators are trained to help to solve disputes and emphasise respect for other people's points of view.

Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

The Willows is a diverse school (26 different languages spoken). We actively promote diversity through our celebrations of different faiths and cultures.

Religious Education lessons and PSHE lessons reinforce messages of respect for others.

Members of different faiths and religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. During the Autumn term 2014, parents came into Year 1 to share food made to celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr.

The children visit places of worship that are important to different faiths.

Through the British Council, we have established links with Fauri Foundation Model School in Rawalpindi, Pakistan and various year groups have exchanged information about festivals/special events which are commonly celebrated in their country (e.g. Eid, Easter, etc). In September 2014 we achieved the Intermediate certificate for this and we are now applying for the full International School Award which we should achieve by Sept 2015.



Thank you for listening.

Any questions?

