



RGS SURREY HILLS

# Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education Policy

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Author: Kate Cobb - Deputy Head (Pastoral)



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## Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education Policy

### Introduction and Aims

RGS Surrey Hills recognises, in its aims, the importance of the personal development of each pupil in addition to his or her academic progress and achievement so as to enable pupils to play a confident, informed role in society, have a fully developed values system and be able to interact with other people in a positive way. We actively help our pupils to develop into self-assured, confident, happy, positive young people. We also help our pupils to learn to articulate their feelings and justify them in both informal and formal settings and be given responsibility and trust to develop their confidence. We believe that all pupils should undertake a wide range of activities that develop a range of character attributes, such as resilience, self-motivation, self-control and respect for others and self.

Learning programmes encourage reflection on spiritual values and principles; awareness of moral codes and conflicts; appreciation of their own and different cultures; provision of cultural experiences and development of personal and social skills and promoting fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those different faiths and beliefs (see separate policies on the promotion of Fundamental British Values and PSHEE). The School recognises that the ethos of the School, the example set by the staff and the opportunities for pupils to contribute to the School and community are as important as the taught curriculum in helping pupils to develop.

RGS Surrey Hills was founded as a non-denominational school and it is proud to be a founder member of *Round Square*. The School encourages pupils to make a commitment to the Round Square IDEALS of International Understanding, Democracy, Environmental awareness, Adventure, Leadership and Service. It is these IDEALS that form the basis of this policy and which therefore present pupils with unrivalled opportunities to develop spiritually, socially, morally and culturally.

RGS Surrey Hills has always welcomed pupils of different nationalities, cultures and faiths. The School actively promotes mutual respect and tolerance. We aim to be a community that thrives on diversity and which fosters international understanding. Emphasis is placed on creating a tolerant and inclusive environment. The range of cultures and faiths within the School is a strength and also an opportunity for the enrichment of staff and pupils alike.

In summary, the School ensures that principles are actively promoted which enable pupils to:

- develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence;
- distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England;
- accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative and understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the local area and to society more widely;
- acquire a broad knowledge and respect for public institutions and services in England.



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- acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures so furthering tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions;
- show respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010 and

develop respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic process, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England.

### **Spiritual Education**

- We provide opportunities for pupils to extend their knowledge and understanding of a range of religious and spiritual beliefs.
- We encourage pupils to increase their self-knowledge by questioning their own values, attitudes and relationships.
- We try to instil in pupils a sense of awe and wonder at human achievements and at the beauty and complexity of the natural world.
- Boarders who wish to attend a religious service will be enabled to do so. Furthermore, opportunities for all pupils to experience religious services will be offered (for example, whole boarding community attending St Michael's Church Service in Mickleham).

### **Moral Education**

- We encourage qualities of caring, kindness, respect and loyalty, enabling pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence, with particular regard to protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010.
- We teach pupils to distinguish right from wrong, to develop a personal moral code and to accept responsibility for their own actions.
- We teach respect for and compliance with civil and criminal laws in England.
- We actively promote fundamental British values.
- We encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England.

### **Social Education**

- We provide opportunities for pupils to build good relationships and to show initiative and leadership through service whilst accepting responsibility for their behaviour. Expeditions are a valuable contributor here. All pupils in years 7 to 9 are involved in expeditions. Many pupils are actively involved in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme for year 9 onwards and for the more adventurous there are international service projects in a range of locations. We appoint student leaders, Guardians (head students) and members of the Syndicate (prefects) who help staff in the leadership and management of the School.



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- We encourage pupils to contribute effectively to the School and to the local and wider community. Attendance at a variety of Round Square conferences across the year groups is just one example.
- We extend pupil knowledge about and respect for the rights and duties of citizens and also enable pupils to develop an understanding of the importance of public institutions and services in England.

### **Cultural Education**

- We actively promote principles that develop tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions.
- We raise awareness of and develop understanding about and respect for their own and other cultures.
- We encourage pupils to regard all cultures with respect and to develop an understanding that everyone should be accepted and respected and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour.
- We organise a range of trips and visits to enhance students' understanding and exposure to a diverse range of culturally significant places and issues.
- We aim to prepare pupils to interact positively with people of different cultures and faiths.
- We appreciate how cultural diversity enriches the School and wider community.
- We help pupils avoid and resist cultural discrimination and racism.
- We help pupils to develop an understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting unfair or illegal discrimination.

### **Roles and responsibilities**

It is the responsibility of ALL STAFF to:

- Act as a positive role model.
- Develop supportive relationships with pupils.
- Incorporate spiritual, moral, cultural and social education into work and learning activities where appropriate.
- Teach, without bias, about different religions, spiritual ideas, cultures and social groups in keeping with the School's Equal Opportunities Policy and to adjust expectations according to the age and ability of the pupils.
- Preclude the promotion of partisan political views in teaching instead offering a balanced presentation of opposing views.
- Challenge opinions or behaviours in School that are contrary to fundamental British values.
- Organise co- or extra-curricular activities around spiritual, moral, cultural or social themes.



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It is the responsibility of the Senior Leadership Team to contribute to spiritual, moral, cultural or social themes through assemblies and church services. This policy reflects the DfE guidance for Independent Schools 2019 and the Equality Act (2010) taking into consideration the protected characteristics.

Kate Cobb  
Deputy Head Pastoral  
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