



# SMSC Policy

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| <b>Policy number</b>  | BS049          |
| <b>Applies to</b>     | Whole School   |
| <b>Endorsed by</b>    | Head Master    |
| <b>Responsibility</b> | Head Master    |
| <b>Date reviewed</b>  | September 2023 |
| <b>Next review</b>    | September 2024 |

## Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development of Pupils

Bedford School accepts its duty to promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils as set out in the *Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations, 2019*. Advice emphasises that SMSC can be ‘infused’ within the day-to-day operation of a school, and the school aims to do this in all areas of school life. The ethos of the school and the five key values it seeks to instil in its boys – endeavour, responsibility, integrity, curiosity and kindness – are designed to help boys to develop the positive moral qualities, including respect for all people, which will allow them to become good citizens of their country and of the world.

The school actively promotes the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. This is done in whole-school assemblies, which happen three times a week, many of which celebrate these values and seek to educate boys in their importance. A record is kept of the themes of assemblies, and many of those delivered by the Head Master are published on the website. Principles are actively promoted which enable pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence. Boys are encouraged to join in the wide range of clubs, societies, sport and other activities on offer, including CCF and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, in order to enable them to develop and pursue their passions – academic or otherwise – and to develop self-confidence, self-esteem and self-knowledge, through experiencing challenge both as an individual and as part of a team.

The school actively promotes principles which enable pupils to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England. This takes place regularly in assemblies, but also in lessons in a range of subjects in the sciences as well as the humanities that focus on issues of morality and ethics. The school encourages pupils to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative and understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality in which the school is situated and to society more widely. They are explicitly encouraged to be allies of others and active bystanders when they see wrong. We value service and provide opportunities for boys to take part in community service and other charitable activities with local and national emphases. The school seeks to enable pupils to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England. It encourages further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling pupils to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures. Boys of a range of different nationalities, faiths and backgrounds work together, play together in team sports, and, in the boarding houses, live alongside each other. Boys are encouraged to speak in whole school assemblies about their cultures as a way of celebrating diversity and giving boys insight to different national traditions.

The school encourages respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the 2010 Equalities Act. This is addressed in various ways in the school’s Citizenship (PSHE) programme as well as in assemblies. Respect for others is a basic expectation of all boys in the school and forms part of the school’s Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policies and procedures, the latter of which gives particular regard to protected characteristics.

The school encourages 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. The school’s Prevent strategy is contained in the Safeguarding Children and Child Protection Policy. Language or activities that seek to undermine democracy or the democratic process are not tolerated, and examples of extremism or radicalism will be referred using the appropriate channels.

Staff are trained annually in what to look for and how to refer any concerns. We actively promote democracy in assemblies, lessons in subjects such as History and Politics, mock elections, and through promotion of student voice and student councils within the school.