



CROFTON ACADEMY

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development & Promoting Fundamental British Values

At Crofton Academy, SMSC is at the heart of what we do; it is everywhere and encompasses all aspect of school life and every part of a pupil's experience at school. SMSC is about everything that happens in school and about everything that affects pupils at our school. It is not just about what happens in lessons but includes activities, tolerance and behaviours that pupils show and are privy to: behaviours and exchanges between every person in our school. The school's rich SMSC provision supports pupils in their learning of how to become responsible members of society, and we are developing the ways in which 'British Values' are promoted. Indeed we are committed to ensuring that our pupils have every opportunity to consider their views, listen to the views of others and to learn how to become well-rounded members of the fluid world in which they live.

SMSC

The four title areas underpin our commitment to teach pupils how to be responsible, open-minded, effective and supportive members of society.

Spiritual

This is about the development of personality and about classrooms that allow thought and curiosity. A variety of methods and opportunities are used to engage pupils in learning about themselves, others and enabling pupils to learn how to make informed, balanced judgements based on understanding, evaluating and reflection, respect of other views and an appreciation of 'right and wrong'.

Moral

This is about what people do, how they act and how we deal with situations and pupils' circumstances; it's about how our behaviours and teaching informs pupils' learning about moral values, alongside recognising that a person's actions will affect others. We encourage and allow pupils to honestly consider and debate real issues; in turn pupils develop considered views, have opinions and with guidance, they should be able to use these skills to good effect in their everyday life. Indeed our pastoral system of form groups remaining with their tutor for five years, and being taught PSHE in this unit, really supports our work in this area.

Social

By teaching pupils how to develop and use good social skills, we put pupils on the right path to succeed in many aspects of their lives. It's about giving opportunities for pupils to experience different settings, different situations and different 'rules', alongside providing them with different groups of people with whom to interact. At Crofton Academy lessons, clubs, trips, pupil support groups and tutor time are some of the situations that enable and encourage pupils to talk, co-operate and share experiences.

Cultural

This is about pupils understanding, respecting and accepting others. During lessons we celebrate our multi-cultural society and outside of lessons opportunities are taken to further cultural awareness, e.g. our support of 'Memusi', theatre trips, foreign travel, school trips etc. We encourage pupils to explore their own beliefs and where their beliefs come from, alongside looking at diversity. Pupils have time to

consider choices that life presents and are taught the value in understanding, accepting, respecting and celebrating diversity.

Promoting Fundamental British Values

In 2011 the definition of 'British Values' were outlined in the Prevent Strategy. These values were reiterated in November 2014, when the Government stated that "schools must promote the core values that are: democracy; the rule of law; individual liberty; mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs." These values require good relationships between pupils, parents and teachers. At Crofton Academy these values are embedded in our SMSC work and are reinforced regularly. The curriculum offers many genuine opportunities for these core values to be taught, and below are a few examples of how these values are also exemplified outside of curriculum time:

Democracy

- Pupil Leadership Team : elected pupils from all year groups meet and discuss key issues with SLT. They are involved in the appointment of staff, are allowed to bring about real change in school, work in an ambassador role and ensure that student ideas/concerns are heard.
- Choices: both our Y9 Options and Y10 Work Experience processes allow pupils some freedom of choice.

The Rule of Law

- Student/teacher relationships are built on a shared understanding of our Code of Conduct and an appreciation of what is 'right and wrong'. Also accountability is stressed to all stakeholders in school: pupils, staff, Governors and parents. Indeed this is very important in our day to day work and enables our pupils to achieve success academically and socially.
- PSHE activities give pupils the opportunity to really find out about personal safety; the legalities of drugs; sex education; driving laws and the world of work. From September 2015 each lesson will have a clear 'British Values' objective.

Individual Liberty

- By providing a safe environment for our pupils, we are able to offer them informed choices as they progress through school. Indeed pupils are allowed to use mobile phones at break and lunchtimes; they can wear makeup and when they are in Y11, they are allowed to go off site at lunchtimes.
- Pupils learn about the choices that they will face as they grow up. E-Safety, for example, is examined and pupils learn how to make informed choices.

Mutual Respect

- Teacher/pupils relationships are built on strong, mutual respect. Behaviour is best when it is taught, explained and understood. We do not tolerate poor behaviour; we promote good behaviour and we listen carefully.
- The ways that our pupils interact with each other shows what an inclusive community we are. Group tasks and team skills are to be found working well in a variety of settings, both during our school day and on trips.

Tolerance for Those With Different Faiths and Beliefs

- Our off-site provision requires our pupils to be able to work with people from different backgrounds. This is a successful part of our curriculum and exhibits how our pupils can be understanding and respectful of others.
- Visitors to school provide pupils with a rich and enlightening experience of other cultures eg Grass Roots African Show; Indian Workshops.

SMSC/Promoting British Values: The curriculum, assemblies and beyond...

Following staff INSET about SMSC in September 2013, an audit of how department explicitly teach this was taken. The outcome was very positive and made it clear that our pupils are regularly engaging in work that has SMSC rooted in its methodology and learning. This audit is updated each year, to encompass new lessons/ideas and ensure that our provision is still relevant and appropriate. We have

also developed this audit to encompass extra curriculum activities and to analyse how we promote 'Fundamental British Values.'

Furthermore in assemblies pupils are often led to consider the main issues linked to SMSC and our PSHE curriculum/CEIAG work also highlights planned opportunities for pupils to develop their skills in these areas. The ethos of Crofton Academy can be witnessed on visits to our school. Pupils and staff work well together. We believe that "Together We Will Achieve" and our mission statement becomes a reality, based on the structures and methods that have been outlined in this document. Our main aim is to ensure that our pupils have the qualities, skills and understanding necessary to flourish in every facet of their lives – a life in which they will have many roles and responsibilities.

What's next...

We now plan to further promote Fundamental British Values and our SMSC work through:

- further staff guidance and evaluation about promoting British Values;
- clear SMSC/British Values objectives in PSHE lessons;
- ensuring that pupils understand our work with them in these areas and value its impact on their lives ;
- moving to a system of themed assemblies/themed weeks to ensure that our pupils have a broad understanding of society and feel ready to become responsible, active members of that society.

Kate Ashton

Associate to the Leadership team