



Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education (SMSC)

SMSC at Dr Challoner's High School permeates every aspect of our school life and is a fundamental part of our vision and values.

The world is ever changing- Challoner's girls will shape that world

We recognise that the spiritual, moral, social and cultural element of students' education is crucial to their development as an individual, allowing them to take their rightful place in the community as local, national and global citizens. SMSC is about the values students are encouraged to hold, their attitude towards learning, knowledge and society. SMSC is fundamental in preparing students for an ever changing world and at our school, they are helped to develop positive attitudes and beliefs by being given opportunities to:

- Develop spiritual values and reasoned personal and moral values
- Consider the diverse nature of society, developing their understanding and respect for those with different religions, beliefs and ways of life
- Value everyone equally
- Develop quality relationships, based on trust, self-esteem and mutual respect
- Become active, responsible citizens in a democratic society
- Develop an appreciation of human achievements and aspirations
- Develop an understanding of the world in which they live and the interdependence of individuals, groups, nations and the environment

Through SMSC, we seek to develop attitudes and values that will enable students to become confident, resilient and ready to contribute significantly to the world. We provide students with the opportunity for spiritual reflection and encourage them to explore the fundamental questions of life, including their own personal existence, journey and purpose. We provide students with a curriculum that enables them to develop a knowledge and understanding of diverse cultures, particularly those within their own society. We seek to foster an attitude of tolerance and value towards those from a culture and background different from their own. They are encouraged to develop the capacity to tackle moral and spiritual dilemmas and to try to reach independent judgements, which reflect universal human principles. We also expect students to develop questioning, enquiring minds and learn how to express their ideas appropriately.

At Dr Challoner's High School, we are aware of our collective responsibilities towards SMSC and we:

- Ensure that all staff are aware of their role in developing students' interpersonal skills, self-esteem and in preparing them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.
- Celebrate student achievement, foster a sense of community and involve students as active participants as much as possible. This is demonstrated through events such as



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Celebration Assemblies, Sports Award Evenings and the Leavers' Ceremony. All students are encouraged to raise money for charity through the House System and older students fulfil a range of roles such as mentors, Student Challenge and Stretch Coordinators and prefects, sharing their leadership skills with younger students. Representatives from all year groups are part of the School Forum where they can put forward their views and be listened to.

- Ensure students have information about all extra-curricular and enrichment activities and that those activities are diverse and inclusive.
- Ensure that the PSHE lessons provide opportunities for discussion and that there are opportunities for reflection in assemblies.

Spiritual Development

Spiritual development is concerned with how a student develops:

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

It includes imagination, inspiration and creativity, as well as an awareness of self-identify and self-worth.

We promote spiritual development as part of a student's personal development including through:

- Promoting reflection as part of our routine learning
- Rewards
- PSHE lessons
- Religious Education
- Assemblies
- Retaining breadth in the curriculum

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 our society. Their knowledge and awareness of values and attitudes of individuals and society as a whole and socially acceptable codes of behaviour is important. The quality of relationships that students experience, the standards of behaviour in our school form a 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



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- 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

At our 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 collaboratively
- The PSHE Curriculum
- The curriculum across all subjects
- Assemblies
- Rewards and sanctions
- Welfare and guidance

Social Development

Social development is concerned with developing the skills and personal qualities necessary for individuals to live and function effectively in our 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. We help 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 the social development of students through:

- Classroom organisation and management
- Seating plans and opportunities for group work
- School Forum
- Prefect and mentor systems
- Educational Visits, including overseas
- The PSHE Curriculum
- Links with Further and Higher Education Providers
- Extra-curricular activities
- Aspects of the curriculum such as Politics A level

Cultural Development

A student's cultural development refers to an understanding of those values, beliefs, customs, knowledge and skills which link groups together and give people a sense of identity. At our 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. Our curriculum provides experiences of all aspects of culture including languages, aesthetic, mathematical, literacy, technological, scientific, musical, political, economic, citizenship and religious education.

