



OLD BUCKENHAM HALL

A leading co-educational preparatory school for children aged 2-13 years

SMSC Policy Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC)

OBHP28

Policy owner: Senior Deputy Head
Date of issue: January 2021
Date last reviewed: August 2023
Next review due: August 2024

1. Introduction

Old Buckenham Hall School recognises that the spiritual, moral, social and cultural element of children's education is crucial to their development as an individual, allowing them to take their rightful place in their community as a local, national and global citizen. SMSC is about the values children are encouraged to hold, their attitude towards learning, knowledge and society. SMSC is fundamental in preparing young people for society and at Old Buckenham Hall School. Children are helped to develop positive attitudes and beliefs by being given opportunities to:

- Develop spiritual values and reasoned personal and moral values
- Consider the pluralistic nature of society; developing their understanding and respect for those with different religions, beliefs and ways of life
- Value everyone equally
- Develop personal relationships, based on trust, self-esteem and mutual respect
- Make personal 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 and understanding of the world in which they live and the interdependence of individuals, groups, nations and the environment

At Old Buckenham Hall School SMSC permeates the life and work of the school. The OBH Way is our set of values which define all areas of the school. The six values of The OBH Way are:

Courage

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Kindness
Pride
Respect
Responsibility
Community

Through the OBH Way we seek to develop attitudes and values that will enable our children to become responsible and caring members of society. We give our children 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 our children with a curriculum that will enable 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 an understanding of the world, society and the community and accept responsibility as a citizen as well as the capacity to tackle moral and spiritual dilemmas and to try to reach independent judgements which reflect universal human principles.

Through perception and sensitivity, tolerance and respect for others as individuals and in groups we would also expect children to develop questioning, enquiring minds and learn how to express their ideas appropriately.

As a school we are aware of our collective responsibilities towards spiritual, moral, social and moral education and we:

- ensure that all staff are aware of their role in developing children's morals
- interpersonal skills, self-esteem and in preparing our children for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life
- ensure we celebrate children achievement, foster a sense of community, explore relevant SMSC issues and involve children as active participants as much as possible. This is demonstrated through a wide range of events such as the annual Speech Day celebration when a variety of prizes are awarded to children throughout the school. There are also fortnightly Celebration of Achievement assemblies for all year groups to recognise effort and participation in the life of the school and activities outside OBH. The House Points system encourages a culture of success and achievement for all. Children are also encouraged to contribute to the school by developing their leadership roles as prefects, peer mentors, form and house representatives, etc.
- ensure children have information about all extra-curricular and enrichment activities
- ensure that the Pupil Passport and PSHE/Form Time programme provides opportunities for discussion and reflection on the OBH themes

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- provide opportunities for all children to discuss issues and to take on responsibility within lessons, extra-curricular activities, trips, visits and enrichment days.

Staff are expected to provide a role model based on courtesy, mutual respect, positive intent and be prepared to listen to children's views and encourage them to listen to each other. They are also aware of the opportunities presented every day through curricular and extra-curricular activities to develop children's skills, attitudes and understanding.

2. Spiritual Development

Pupils' spiritual development is shown by their ability to be reflective about their own beliefs, religious or otherwise, that inform their perspective on life and their interest in and respect for different people's faiths, feeling and values, a sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them use of imagination and creativity in their learning willingness to reflect on their experiences.

Spiritual development is concerned with how a child develops:

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

Spiritual development is personal and unique to each individual. It is about the meaning in life, truth and ultimate values. It includes imagination, inspiration and creativity. It also includes an awareness of self-identify and self-worth.

Old Buckenham Hall School promotes spiritual development as part of children's personal development through:

- The School Motto "Spero"
- School Rules – the House Points System
- The Pupil Passports
- Religious Education
- All subjects of the curriculum
- Assemblies
- The OBH Way
- Opportunities to develop their understanding of spiritual issues

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- Opportunities for reflection on aspects of their lives

3. Moral Development

Moral development is concerned with children's knowledge, understanding, intentions, attitudes and behaviour in relation to right and wrong within the accepted codes of practices of society. Their knowledge and awareness of values and attitudes of individuals and society as a whole and socially acceptable code of behaviour is important. The quality of relationships that children experience, the standards of behaviour in the school as well as the values promoted by the school's code of conduct will form basis of any judgment on moral development as well as the extent to which children show:

- An understanding of the difference between right and wrong and readily apply this understanding in their own lives and, in so doing, respect the civil and criminal law of England
- Respect people, truth and property
- A concern for how their actions may affect others demonstrating understanding of the consequences of their behaviour and actions
- An interest in investigating and offering reasoned views about moral and ethical issues and being able to understand and appreciate the viewpoints of others on these issues
- Personal conduct so that they take responsibility for their own actions
- Personal behaviour through principles rather than fear of punishment
- A knowledge of standards of morality Old Buckenham Hall School is a social organisation and its functioning depends on the broad acceptance of rules, codes of conduct and a behaviour and discipline policy based on a clear set of moral principles (The OBH Way).

The school has a clear set of aims, values and expectations which are shared with parents/carers, staff and children including:

- Telling the truth
- Respecting the rights and property of others
- Being considerate towards other people
- Taking responsibility for one's own actions
- Self-discipline
- Respecting the beliefs and practices of others in a multicultural society.

The essence of moral behaviour is to build a framework of values which regulate personal behaviour through principles rather than fear of punishment or reward. These values provide the framework for children to develop their attitudes and understanding on morality and develop the self-confidence to hold to this code of values against a variety of pressures.

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Moral development is about understanding the principles and social values behind actions and decisions. At Old Buckenham Hall School we reject:

- Bullying
- Cheating
- Deceit
- Cruelty
- Irresponsibility
- Dishonesty
- Obscenity
- Intolerance including racism and LGBT issues.

At Old Buckenham Hall 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
- The Pupil Passport programme
- Assemblies
- OBH Way themed half terms
- Rewards and sanctions
- Welfare and guidance
- Core curriculum including Religious Education

4. Social Development

Social development is concerned with the skills and personal qualities necessary for individuals to live and function effectively in 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 children's attitudes to good social behaviour and self-discipline so that they develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.

Spiritual development is therefore concerned with how a child develops their:

- use of a range of social skills in different contexts, including working and socialising with pupils from different religious, ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds
- willingness to participate in a variety of communities and social settings, including by volunteering, cooperating well with others and being able to resolve conflicts effectively

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- acceptance and engagement with the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

The school helps prepare our children 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 social development of children through a range of teaching and learning activities including:

- Classroom organisation and management
- Child grouping and opportunities for group work
- The school code of conduct (The OBH Way)
- School council
- School productions
- Residential trips
- Social trips
- The Pupil Passport Programme
- School-industry links
- Extra-curricular activities
- Children Leadership opportunities which support children in the school community

5. Cultural Development

A children's cultural development refers to an increasing understanding of those values, beliefs, customs, knowledge and skills which link groups together and give people a sense of identity. At Old Buckenham Hall School we seek to develop in children:

- understanding and appreciation of the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their own heritage and that of others
- understanding and appreciation of the range of different cultures within school and further afield as an essential element of their preparation for life in modern Britain
- knowledge of Britain's democratic parliamentary system and its central role in shaping our history and values, and in continuing to develop Britain
- willingness to participate in and respond positively to artistic, sporting and cultural opportunities
- interest in exploring, improving understanding of and showing respect for different faiths and cultural diversity, and the extent to which they understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity, as shown by their tolerance and attitudes towards different

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religious, ethnic and socio-economic groups in the local, national and global communities

The school curriculum provides experiences of all aspects of culture for our children including languages, aesthetic, mathematical, literacy, technological, scientific, musical, political, economic and religious education. There are also opportunities for cultural visits and exchanges including:

- Creative and performing arts for all children
- Cultural visits abroad
- Visits to centres of cultural interest
- Extra-curricular activities