

Our Values Statement

We promote 'British Values' through our spiritual, moral, social and cultural education, which permeates through the school's curriculum and supports the development of the 'whole child'. We recognise that such development is most successful when those values and attitudes are promoted by all the staff and provide a model of behaviour for our pupils. The curriculum in all phases offers broad and balanced opportunities.

'British Values' have been identified as:

Democracy

This is demonstrated in the relationships between staff and students and in the everyday working of the school. Staff take time to listen to students and teach students to listen to each other. Everyone is given the chance to express their opinion using their preferred method of communication. The school has a Student Council with two representatives from each class. The students nominate each other and get the opportunity to vote on who they would like to represent them. Thus reflecting the British electoral system and demonstrating democracy. The Student Council meets and discusses issues that students have in school and looks at possible solutions. Through the annual reviews of EHC plans, students and parents are encouraged to share their views and discuss any concerns they may have. Students also have the chance to share their opinions through student voice activities.

We empower our pupils by giving them opportunities to make choices about the things that they believe to be important. By valuing each 'voice' and by listening and responding to that voice we demonstrate that we support democracy and liberty.

Rule of Law

We involve pupils in setting codes of behaviour; helping pupils to make decisions and choices that are acceptable to the school community and society.

Pupils are helped to learn to manage their behaviour and take responsibility for their actions. Staff are committed to providing a consistent and predictable environment within the school and beyond. We can help some pupils to understand the connection between actions and consequences. This type of environment enables pupils to feel safe and secure; this in turn, promotes the optimum conditions for learning to take place.

Individual Liberty

Pupils are encouraged to become good and valued citizens. We do this by supporting each pupil to become as independent as possible. We endeavour to demonstrate that everyone has rights; this includes the right to say 'Yes' or 'No' to ideas or activities. Some pupils will be able to take responsibility for particular roles and to understand that with certain rights comes a level of responsibility (prefects, lunch hall helpers). Learning to do things independently is an important part of learning to understand yourself. We support others by participating in charitable events such as, Red Nose Day/Comic Relief and Children in Need. We believe that engendering a caring and helpful environment and to be independent boosts and nurtures a healthy self-esteem.

Mutual Respect

We promote each pupil's inclusion in activities, settings and locations that are appropriate to them individually to meet their needs. Within school, pupils work with a range of people and interactions with others are always positively promoted on a personalised basis for each individual. This may include working with students from other schools, coaches, theatre groups etc. The curriculum is personalised and planned for pupils and may include transitioning within the range of resources and places on the site and going into the community to meet with a range of people in a variety of situations, which include: sports events, community events and shared participation with other schools/colleges.

We believe it is important to facilitate opportunities to be part of the community as the pupils, families and staff have much to offer in the development of community cohesion.

Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

We are part of a school and local community where each person is respected and valued equally without regard to ability, gender, faith, heritage or race.

Cultural appreciation and development forms part of our curriculum. We place great emphasis on providing encounters and participation in events and celebrations to broaden all pupils' experiences and awareness of others.

Our Assemblies help all pupils to find out about themselves and others linking their lives to the communities in which they belong. The themes cover areas such as: friendships, helping others and celebrations from a range of faiths and world events.

Pupils are encouraged to experience British Culture through our curriculum themes. For example, pupils have visited many local places. As a school, we take part in sporting activities which helps to instil 'fair play' and engender a 'team spirit'.

Although some of our pupils may find it difficult to articulate their feelings and concerns; staff are attuned to changes in demeanour and well-being that may indicate anxiety. If they are concerned about a pupil, our accepted practice links to the Safeguarding Policy which entrusts a duty of care to all staff to actively protect and promote the welfare of children.

The staff work closely with parents, carers and other professionals to ensure that the pupils at West Lea are happy, loved, well cared for and enabled to learn the skills they need to live a fulfilling life as part of their community.

Our School Council and Pupil Voice.

Pupil voice is significant in regards to life at West Lea. Our pupil elected school council plays a strong role in our school. They are elected by their class peers and are involved in making the school a better place to learn. Pupils have a great amount of input in regards to what and how they learn, which promotes pupil voice. For example, the pupils decide as a class how they would like to learn certain skills in subjects and this is used to inform the teacher's planning.

Pupil questionnaires and interviews are also conducted throughout the year. We know that the formation of the school council and the active participation of our pupils will sow the seeds for a more sophisticated understanding of democracy in the future.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC)

West Lea School has a strong commitment to the personal and social development of all pupils. The school vision and values, put together by all the staff, supports spiritual, moral, social and cultural characteristics in all pupils.

What is SMSC – Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development?

Here is a summary to explain SMSC – it is personalised for all our students in West Lea.

Spiritual development is when we:

Explore beliefs and experience; respect faiths, feelings and values; enjoy learning about oneself, others and the surrounding world; use imagination and creativity; reflect.

Moral development is when we:

Recognise right and wrong; respect the law; understand consequences; investigate moral and ethical issues; offer reasoned views.

Social development is when we:

Use a range of social skills; participate in the local community; appreciate diverse viewpoints; participate, volunteer and cooperate; resolve conflict; engage with the 'British values' of democracy, the rule of law, liberty, respect and tolerance.

Cultural development is when we:

Appreciate cultural influences; appreciate the role of Britain's parliamentary system; participate in culture opportunities; understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity.

In our school pupil's SMSC development is seen for example in:

- Taking part in a range of activities regarding social skills
- Developing an awareness and respect for diversity
- Developing an appreciation of theatre
- Developing an understanding of right and wrong.
- Developing the communication skills to make choices about likes/dislikes in school and the wider community.
- Taking part in sporting opportunities.
- Taking part in cultural opportunities.
- Taking part in artistic opportunities.

SMSC is embedded throughout the curriculum at West Lea. This integrated approach ensures that aspects of SMSC is considered in all subject areas. The senior leadership team audits SMSC and Governors monitor it across school.

Beyond the Curriculum

We are also committed as a school to developing SMSC beyond the curriculum. This is done through:

- Arts, Music and Cultural Specialists visits to school over the year
- Sports competitions
- Residential opportunities
- Work experience
- College placements
- Assemblies give pupils an opportunity to explore aspects of SMSC

Impact

In order to reflect further on the impact of all our work on SMSC:

- We engage governors, families and community
- Hear our student voice
- Observe staff and pupil interactions
- Support Social Behaviour
- Complete learning walks reflecting on resources and practices.

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| REVISION 2 | | |
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