



NMS Policy 11

Religious Needs

We give all pupils the opportunity to explore values and beliefs, including religious beliefs and the way in which they affect peoples' lives, by:

- Offering a broad range of topics in Thought for the Day (assembly), including secular messages and the exploring of religious festivals, and ensuring that pupils attend
- Requiring attendance at school and church services
- Designating a member of staff to oversee the spiritual welfare of Catholics, including providing the opportunity to celebrate Mass each week
- Offering pupils the opportunity to explore and develop their faith in several different groups (Bread, Bible Study Groups, Holy Communion, Compline, Eucharist) and through Anglican and Catholic combined confirmation courses
- Expressing an interest in the religious activities that pupils take part in and encouraging an open-minded approach to religion and faith
- House visits each term from the Chaplain
- Making sure the Chapel is always open and welcoming as a place for the community to enjoy peace, quiet and stillness
- Listening to the religious needs of individuals and responding to requests for specific provision

Please also refer to [Worship](#) and the [SMSC Policy](#) (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Policy).

Dietary Needs

Pupils with individual dietary needs are catered for by the Domestic Bursar's department. Those with allergies, intolerances, diabetes etc. may have specially prepared and plated up meals or may select certain items from the food counter. Gluten-free and all other allergy/intolerance symbols are placed on the menus. Pupils observing Ramadan will have separate catering arrangements for the duration of the festival. The Domestic Bursar prepares individual diet sheets for each pupil in consultation with parents, Medical Centre and the pupil concerned, and these are reviewed with the Deputy Head Boarding and Pastoral.

Pupils exercise choice in their diets and any option is catered for both at in-House events as well as in the school dining room. Pupils who are Vegans or those who prefer dairy-free options, for example, will always be provided with alternatives.

Language Needs

The school endeavours to find a tutor for any pupil wishing to learn a particular foreign language, be that as part of maintaining their own cultural links or as an extra interest. Among the extra languages offered have been Arabic, Italian, Russian, Norwegian, Italian and Japanese in addition to the regular curriculum languages.

Pupils for whom English is an additional language can receive support in their English studies. The level of support needed is agreed with parents, usually before entry into the school. If at any point, the quality of an EAL student's spoken or written English is felt to be impeding progress, we would recommend to the parent that English as an Additional language support is taken up. The [EAL Policy](#) can be accessed through this link.

Cultural Needs

Pupils are assisted in maintaining and sharing their own cultural interests where possible and more broadly we seek to blend these with the cultural education of all pupils. We aim to help pupils to develop culturally through providing an opportunity for pupils to learn about other cultures:

- From other students through friendships
- Through the exploration of other cultures in Prayers in School which are often led by students from different parts of the world
- Through the student-led International Cultures Week
- Encouraging consideration and tolerance of the religious commitments of other pupils, such as those who fast during Ramadan
- Listening to students from overseas or from different cultures both individually and through the Equality and Diversity Committee
- Offering extra-curricular trips to destinations such as China, Italy, Auschwitz, Nepal, Spain, France, Russia and the United States
- Offering curriculum trips to multi-cultural venues such as Hindu temples, Mosques etc.
- Supporting the extensive Model United Nations programme and encouraging pupils to learn about global institutions
- Providing global awareness lessons as part of the Personal and Professional Development programme
- Making cultural diversity a focus of some of the enquiry weeks for students e.g. Change the World week, Stars and Stripes Experience.

We also appreciate that pupils from differing cultures might need help to adjust to the school culture and offer them assistance with this.

Alison Steven 22.3.18