

Aims of the policy

1. To explain how the ethos and education provided by Benenden enables the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils
2. To note the contributions that specific aspects of school life make to this development
3. To enable the school to more readily review the SMSC provision.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development of Pupils

At Benenden we believe that the fostering of our pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is intrinsic to their personal development; this approach infuses the ethos and education provided by school life on a daily basis. Our focus on providing a complete education especially affirms the importance of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Living together in a boarding community has a significant role to play in this regard because of how it enables pupils to appreciate diversity and understand compromise while also encouraging pupils to look far beyond the school gates.

As a key part of pupils' SMSC development, Benenden actively promotes the fundamental British values of:

1. Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs
 - a. Including the need to combat discrimination
2. Individual liberty
3. Democracy
 - o Including how to influence decision making through the democratic process
4. The rule of law
 - a. Including how living under the rule of law protects citizens and the fact that religious freedom is protected by law
 - b. Including an understanding of the separation of powers, democratic accountability, and judicial independence.

We seek to develop our pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness through a wide range of activities which are integral to our curricular, co-curricular and boarding provision. Consequently, our overall strategy to promote these values as well as to raise awareness of political issues in a balanced and age appropriate way includes the Personal Professional Development Programme which comprises the following: Thought for the Day, the Form Order programmes for years 7-9 (which include sessions on friendships, individual differences, behaviour in school, understanding different cultures, inclusion, moral and ethical codes, as well as a regular 'what's in the news?' slot for year 9), the Global Awareness programme for year 10, Cultures Week and the celebration of other cultural events such as Chinese New Year, Pupil Forum, the pupil-led Equality and Diversity Committee, the outreach programme, the Benenden Talks initiative, the lecture and seminar supper programme, tutor meetings, the boarding House system, the PSHE programme as well as relevant academic lessons.

In addition to this, Benenden has an Anglican tradition and the fundamental principle of loving our neighbour is at the heart of our shared life as a boarding school. Our religious ethos is to be fully inclusive and welcoming of people from all faiths and none. We encourage an open, honest and friendly dialogue, where all views are respected in a spirit of generous hospitality and mutual learning.

Taken all together, Benenden’s SMSC provision aims to enhance the self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence of pupils as well as reinforcing the principles of respect for others (particularly those from other cultures and religions) and a respect for British democratic institutions and processes. Pupils are encouraged to see the value of contributing both to school and wider society as well as the importance of taking responsibility for their actions including being able to distinguish right from wrong.

Benenden’s Complete Education which encompasses SMSC can be seen through the diagram here:



Taught Curriculum and SMSC Development

Benenden recognises that all subjects directly contribute to the development of SMSC not just in terms of content but also the skills that are taught (such as thinking critically). The school is fully committed to preventing the political indoctrination of pupils as well as the promotion of partisan political views in the teaching of any subject. It does this primarily through regular lesson observations as well as the scrutiny of both departmental schemes of work and pupils’ work. The open and enquiring culture that exists within Benenden is a significant contributory factor in preventing the dissemination of partisan political views.

AEH, 16 April 2018