

## **SMSCE POLICY**



**Date of Review: November 2022**

**Date of Next Review: November 2024**

# SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL and CULTURAL EDUCATION (SMSCE) POLICY

## St Angela's Ursuline Mission Statement

St Angela's school is part of the Ursuline tradition which has as its hallmark the pursuit of the highest standards possible in education. Through our curriculum and community life we seek to meet the needs of the whole person and to enable all to achieve their full potential. We offer to all the challenge of building up and living in a Catholic Christian community in which all members are equally valued. We share with St Angela, a commitment to the service of young people which will empower them to play their full part in society.

In the light of this we aim to:

- \* **recognise and respond sensitively to the talents and needs of every student and provide the most appropriate means of developing their full potential;**
- \* **ensure that equality of opportunity is available to all;**
- \* **welcome, value and respect all who come to the school;**
- \* **provide opportunities for experiencing the fullness of Catholic life while developing a spirit understanding and respect for other cultures, traditions and faiths;**
- \* **build a community based on justice and a sense of personal responsibility while acknowledging the power of healing, reconciliation and forgiveness;**
- \* **promote dialogue and co-operation with the wider community.**

## *Statement of Policy*

St Angela's Ursuline is a school which is Catholic in character and tradition. The school is an Ursuline School of the Roman Union order established in 1862. We are proud to be part of the Ursuline Community and engage with the community both nationally and internationally. The Catholic life and ethos, as well as the spiritual, moral, social and cultural values held within the school are based on the gospel of Christ. The school is an active member of our wider community and the world, with its rich variety of faiths, cultures and races.

*St Angela's Ursuline is committed to offering our students the opportunities to:*

- Develop in their faith journey as outlined in the mission statement through the teaching of St Angela
- Develop an understanding of social responsibilities and citizenship
- Celebrate a diversity of cultures
- Be prepared for a life in modern Britain as responsible citizens

*The school aims to create an ethos that fosters the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all of our students.*

- To provide the highest quality of teaching and learning

- To provide an exciting, challenging and flexible curriculum that inspires all students to achieve their potential
- To provide opportunities for students to develop their talents and interests
- To promote respect for others and a clear understanding of rights and responsibilities
- To develop self-confidence, self-esteem and the desire to succeed

*At St Angela's Ursuline SMSC is developed through;*

- Our whole curriculum, especially in RE, Rise Up and extra-curricular activities
- Whole School and Year Assemblies (see assembly rota)
- School student leadership including but not inclusive of Student Council, Liturgy Reps and Serviam Stewards

*Our Curriculum Aims*

- To stimulate students into giving expression to their own moral beliefs and understanding
- To challenge students
- To enable students to share with others their reflections, listen to others and to resolve their disagreements
- To help the students to apply their growing moral competence in the context of vocational experience and the workplace
- To facilitate moral reflections beyond the student's own immediate experience to national and international issues

*The role of our teachers:*

- To be alert to the moral dimensions of issues which are raised by students, or by the syllabus/ context and having the confidence to explore
- To create materials, activities and tasks for students, either alone or in groups
- Putting questions into discussions which challenge the positions students take and to help them to think more deeply

*Spiritual Development*

St Angelas' Ursuline supports the process of acquiring positive personal beliefs and values as:

- An active basis for personal and social behaviour
- For the consideration of the meaning and purpose of human existence

Spiritual development is experienced fundamentally through Religious Education and Chaplaincy. All students study RE until the end of Year 11, culminating in a full course GCSE qualification. All Post 16 students follow our Post 16 Core RE programme and we have excellent A Level group sizes.

All Religious Education lessons support our students to gain insight into their own religious beliefs and spiritual values. It is expected that wider opportunities exist in the school's curriculum that enable students by discussion to consider their religion and appreciate the variety of faiths by through art, drama, music, languages, science and technology as well as humanities to heighten awareness of the spiritual dimension in our lives creating tasks which question students and enables them to develop their own position on their faith religious.

### *Moral Development*

Moral Development concerns the ways in which an individual is able to act with integrity, justice, compassion and respect for self and others as well as make choices, decisions and judgements based on an informed conscience. Moral development takes place within the context of tradition, values, attitudes and teaching which celebrates and respects life, and creation as God's gift.

The school encourages students to develop fundamental precepts about behaviour and the reasons for behaviour. The SRE, Behaviour and Online Safety express the values and attitudes towards oneself, others and the environment which reflect those of the Gospel and our community. There is a planned programme of personal, social, and citizenship education (Rise Up Days), which aims to develop student awareness of moral issues as well as fostering a sense of responsibility and community values.

All students are mentored regularly both individually as well as in groups, in order that their full potential is reached. Records are kept of positive achievement, behaviour and effort through our google log. Concerns are regularly monitored and prompt action is taken when required. Codes of conduct and expected standards of behaviour are discussed with students by staff, and if necessary.

In aspects of the curriculum, external speakers are used to expose the students to a variety of viewpoints and opinions. The emphasis is to allow students to take responsibility for their own actions and provide them with a solid base of information on which to build the kind of self-confidence and self-control expected from our students. Effective communications are maintained between the school and parents to ensure students maximise their potential.

### *Social Development*

Through social development students acquire the skills and personal qualities necessary for individuals to live and function effectively in society. This requires an understanding of society in all aspects, its structures and principles and life as a citizen, parent or worker in a community.

Our students are encouraged through our school aims to identify themselves as members of St Angela' and the wider Ursuline Community. This involves an increasing awareness of their own identity as individuals and a need to work with the feelings and wishes of others. Both the formal curriculum and extra-curricular activities promote teamwork and cooperation. The development of social skills is monitored through pastoral interactions and supportive measures are available where they may be needed.

Students are encouraged to participate in enrichment and extension activities outside of the school timetable. An international perspective is encouraged through the school's active support of a variety of charities and our work with Ursuline Links.

### *Cultural Development*

Through their cultural development our students gain an understanding of those beliefs, values, customs, knowledge and skills that bond together to form cultures. Cultural development is closely related to, and integrates, certain aspects of spiritual, moral and social development. Our school reinforces the values and

customs of society as a whole and celebrates diversity and multiculturalism.

The cultural influences of home, community and religion are explored in order to extend our students' awareness and breadth of understanding. This is achieved through the formal curriculum, through extra-curricular activities and the value placed overtly on the students' own cultural interests and achievements and the way in which they enrich their experiences of all aspects of culture particularly through our USP programme.

The school seeks to provide an education, which not only develops and strengthens students' current awareness, but also allows them to develop new cultural insights by:

- Avoiding cultural bias
- Promoting an appreciation of cultural diversity and value
- Student should value their own cultural identity
- Know about societies and cultures other than their own
- Taking an active role in planning lesson and social justice activities