



## **The Lloyd Williamson Schools Foundation**

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### **SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL (SMSC) DEVELOPMENT POLICY**

**2025**

Updated by	Aaron Williams	6 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
Due for update	August 2026	

## 1. Introduction

The Lloyd Williamson Schools Foundation (LWSF) recognises that education goes beyond academic success; it is about shaping pupils into responsible, reflective, and engaged individuals. Through our SMSC Development Policy, we nurture pupils' ability to make informed decisions, show compassion, and develop a strong sense of identity, all while instilling British values and fostering an appreciation for diversity.

Our approach ensures compliance with Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) standards and Department for Education (DfE) guidance, embedding SMSC into daily school life.

The Department for Education (DfE) guidance on SMSC development emphasises the importance of embedding fundamental British values across all aspects of school life. LWSF actively promotes democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect to prepare pupils for life in modern Britain. These values are reflected in the curriculum, teaching, assemblies, and extra-curricular activities. LWSF supports pupils to develop an understanding of right and wrong, respect diverse perspectives, and engage positively in at school as well as beyond our school boundaries in their wider communities. LWSF will encourage pupils to develop critical thinking skills, enabling them to challenge extremist views and discrimination in a constructive manner.

Teachers will model these values, ensuring that pupils recognise the distinction between legal frameworks and personal beliefs. LWSF will provide a safe and inclusive learning environment, where pupils can explore cultural diversity, ethical decision-making, and social responsibility. The full guidance is available on the UK Government website.

## 2. Aims and Objectives

LWSF aims to create an environment where pupils:

- **Develop self-awareness and confidence**, enabling them to express their beliefs and values while respecting others.
- **Understand right and wrong**, making ethical decisions in their personal and academic lives.
- **Engage with different perspectives**, fostering a sense of global citizenship.
- **Contribute positively to society**, demonstrating empathy, leadership, and responsibility.

These principles are woven into the curriculum, pastoral care, and extracurricular activities to support holistic development.

### 3. Implementation Across Key Stages

We ensure that Spiritual, Moral, Social, and Cultural (SMSC) development is thoughtfully embedded throughout the education journey, from Early Years through to the Upper School. Each stage builds upon the foundations of personal growth, ethical understanding, and social awareness, helping pupils to develop their sense of identity and responsibility in an increasingly diverse and interconnected world.

#### Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

The early years lay the groundwork for SMSC development by fostering curiosity, kindness, and self-expression. Through play-based learning, children begin to understand social interactions and the importance of respect for others. Teachers guide pupils in exploring emotions, friendships, and values through storytelling, imaginative play, and group activities. Fairness, sharing, and honesty are introduced through everyday interactions. Children experience a variety of cultural celebrations, helping them appreciate the diverse world around them.

#### Lower School

Pupils begin to develop a stronger sense of personal identity and moral reasoning. Across all subjects, they are encouraged to think critically and express their opinions whilst recognising that others may have different perspectives. Classroom discussions and role-playing activities, where appropriate, allow pupils to explore ethical dilemmas and social responsibilities.

- British values and cultural understanding are introduced through History, Religious Studies, and PSHE, as well as assemblies fostering an understanding of democracy, justice, and freedom. We have a student council that the children vote for, and this offers our children a clear voice that impacts what happens at school.
- Respect for diversity is reinforced through multicultural learning experiences, and resources with posters around the school that promote diversity, encouraging pupils to appreciate different traditions and viewpoints.

#### Upper School

In the upper school, pupils engage in **more complex discussions around ethics, global citizenship, and social justice**. They are encouraged to analyse moral issues critically and apply their knowledge to real-world contexts.

- **Philosophical discussions** in PSHE and assemblies challenge pupils to reflect on contemporary societal issues, including human rights, sustainability, and justice.
- Leadership opportunities, such as **student council**, foster responsibility and engagement that offers pupil voice that impacts what happens at school.

- The curriculum incorporates **critical thinking exercises**, encouraging pupils to challenge stereotypes and bias while embracing open-minded discussion.
- Preparation for adulthood includes guidance on **personal ethics, careers, and life decisions**, equipping pupils with the resilience and independence needed beyond school.

#### 4. British Values and SMSC Integration

British values are embedded in all aspects of school life, ensuring pupils respect and understand democratic principles and social responsibilities.

- **Democracy:** Student councils, class discussions, and assemblies encouraging participation.
- **Rule of Law:** Teaching the importance of rules in school and wider society (See Behaviour Policy).
- **Individual Liberty:** Supporting pupils in making informed choices about their beliefs and actions.
- **Mutual Respect:** Celebrating different faiths, beliefs, and cultures through learning and discussion.

These values are reinforced through the curriculum, school events, and enrichment activities.

#### 5. Monitoring and Evaluation

To ensure the effectiveness of SMSC development:

- Staff receive regular training to integrate SMSC principles effectively.
- Pupil voice initiatives gather student feedback to assess engagement
- This policy is reviewed annually (July) by the senior leadership team.

Updated: May 2025

Next Update: August 2026