



SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL POLICY, INCLUDING ASSEMBLIES

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Policy Adopted:	August 2007	Next review date:	TBD

This Policy incorporates the Academy's vision and core values.

Introduction

Spires Academy recognises that the spiritual, moral, social and cultural element of students' education is crucial in their development as an individual, allowing them to take up their rightful place in their community: local, national and global.

As a multi-cultural Academy, drawing students from diverse cultural, racial and religious backgrounds, we recognise the importance of providing direct opportunities for fostering equality of opportunity for all students and for engendering tolerance, mutual respect and moral values in our young people.

Purpose

To provide a safe and stimulating learning community in which students can develop:

- an understanding of the world, society and the community and accept responsibility as a citizen
- questioning, enquiring minds and learn to express their ideas appropriately
- the capacity to tackle moral and spiritual dilemmas and try to reach independent judgements which reflect universal human principles
- perception and sensitivity, tolerance and respect for others as individuals and in groups.

Guidance

Subject lessons will give students opportunities to reflect on relevant moral and spiritual issues, drawn from a variety of sources, thereby enriching their experience of life. Developing students' knowledge of alternative cultural experiences will assist them in understanding the motivations and life opportunities of others. Every Learning Area and Support team must understand their part in helping students prepare for working with others and for adult life. Schemes of Work in all Learning Areas will explicitly describe the SMSC links.

Spires Academy will develop a programme of relevant Weekly Themes that will act as a basis for assemblies and will be referred to in tutor sessions as well as in subject lessons. The Director of Learning – Humanities and the Deputy Head of School – Curriculum will develop this annual programme.

We believe that assemblies are an important element in the promotion and development of the ethos and values of the Academy. In their various forms assemblies play a key role in supporting and enhancing the moral, spiritual and social development of our students.

Staff will provide a good role model to students by modelling relationships based on mutual respect and courtesy and by challenging inappropriate language and actions (eg racist, sexist or homophobic comments). Staff should be aware that every contact with students provides the opportunity to develop attitudes, skills and understanding.



Tutor programmes will include reference to the Weekly Themes and provide opportunities for reflection and discussion. Aspects of the Student Portfolios will reflect student skills in understanding, appreciating and working with others moral, cultural and spiritual differences.

Displays in Learning Areas and around the Academy will take every opportunity to draw in diverse cultural references.

Student Support Staff will develop any opportunity to help students consider issues from others' point of view in moral, spiritual and cultural terms and gain appropriate social and moral guidance.

Procedures for Assemblies

Our assemblies provide occasions when students meet together in larger, more formal settings where a positive tone and focus for the day can be established. Students are given opportunities to reflect on relevant moral and spiritual issues, drawn from a variety of sources, thereby enriching their experience of life.

Assemblies are also an essential means of recognising and celebrating achievement in its broadest sense. Within all assemblies (year, Mini-school and entire Academy) students are recognised for their personal achievement, both Academy based and in the community, and groups of students are also commended for their corporate achievements. Students are awarded, in assemblies, with certificates, prizes, shields etc., for academic achievement, high attendance, punctuality, contribution to Academy or community projects.

Students are encouraged to play an active role in planning, preparing and presenting assemblies, thereby giving them a platform for positively contributing to the ethos of the school and for providing role models for other students. The involvement of students in assemblies, irrespective of race, gender, age or ability, is an effective vehicle for developing their self-confidence and for encouraging co-operation, respect and tolerance amongst all students.

Each Mini-school has one assembly a week co-ordinated and led by the Deputy Head in charge of the mini-school. Additionally each student is also involved in two Key Stage celebration assemblies at the end of each learning module. The Key Stage assemblies are specifically focused on recognising and promoting achievement across the Academy. They are intended to be occasions which develop students' understanding of how to conduct themselves at important whole Academy events.

As an Academy we recognise the importance of involving students in all aspects of Academy life hence there are at least two student led assemblies per term, in each mini-school. These are overseen by the Deputy Head in charge of the mini-school and the students are directly involved in planning and presenting these assemblies.

Assemblies are planned on a thematic basis, linking in to the Weekly Theme and the rota is published and issued each term. The themes suggested are a guide for the person(s) leading the assembly. They are designed to reflect the whole ethos of the Academy. but will include references to topical stories, be sports orientated, related to Health & Safety issues, raising of attainment and self-esteem, Equal Opportunities, celebrating cultural diversity etc. They include music, visual prompts and time for personal reflection. Guest speakers are welcomed. Assembly serves several purposes, but it is, above all, a period in the day when, collectively, students consider moral and spiritual issues. It is a time for quiet reflection; creating the atmosphere for this governs the organisation of the assembly.

Classes register in the Assembly Halls. Bags are placed on the floor and students are expected to sit quietly until the assembly begins. It is essential that there is a degree of formality and consistency in this so that it is an established Academy routine. Appropriate music may be played on entry as this can help to create the right atmosphere.



Leaving the hall is conducted in the same manner as the entry, an orderly exit row by row. This is the responsibility of the Deputy Head of School or appropriate senior member of staff. Chairs for assembly are put out and cleared away by classes on a rota basis, or the site staff by prior arrangement.

Guests to assemblies including senior staff of the Academy are always introduced at the beginning by the person responsible for the assembly.

Resources

1. Guest speakers from various agencies/organisations. These include any charities that we are currently working with: the Police, Community Links etc.
2. Books. There is small bank of material available in the Staff Library.
3. Students themselves provide a source of material in the form of drama, dance, singing etc.
4. Current events. Newspaper articles, TV reports, etc. may be drawn upon.