

The Leigh Academy

SMSC Policy (Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural)



It is The Leigh Academy's policy that the principles and values expressed in the mission statement will be overtly embraced and clearly visible in all aspects of Academy life.

The **SMSC policy** aims to promote, encourage and develop these four key aspects, spiritual, moral, social and cultural, amongst all the members of the Academy through:

- all aspects of the curriculum – Religious Studies and spiritual development are not synonymous, although Religious Studies at TLA does make a significant contribution to spiritual development but so should all curriculum areas)
 - the ethos and life of The Academy
 - the example set by all adults in the Academy
 - the quality of collective worship and Thought for the Day/Week
 - the quality of tutoring
 - the variety and quality of extra-curricular activities

Outlined below are the key issues that TLTA wishes to strongly identify and seek to represent and promote amongst students and members of the Academy community.

- the freedom in our society to experience the vast opportunities for individuals, families and groups to develop and fulfil our human potential - such freedom requires an awareness of the responsibility it brings, along with its associated "rights".
- the teachings and examples of various religious denominations from the basis of our moral code, within the context of the individual's "right to choose" what to believe and how to live, within the boundaries of, and not infringing the rights of, others, to be free from interference and their right to choose also.
- to continue to represent the most far-reaching, informed and significant perspective in relation to the human condition, its purpose and how we can best achieve this

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- the need to consider alternative ideologies, lifestyles, beliefs and cultures, from a starting point of open and critical thought, based upon a Christian view

The code of practice is based on the development of personal qualities, founded on a moral code, which aims to develop an individual moral and belief system, which encourages and supports Academy members to develop a sense of "shared values," to which all can subscribe, and which is effective throughout everything the Academy promotes.

The values inherent in the policy are those on which we can agree but do not assume/presume consensus on their source or application e.g. there are many ways in which we can show that we "value others". These values, whilst appearing perhaps to be "obvious", will need

"to be stated, or may become invisible"

(National Forum for Values in Education and the Community)

By their nature "shared" values may not include those distinctive of any one group, be it religious or cultural.

The Leigh Academy recognises and embraces its responsibility for the continuing education of its students, not only within the academic area and in preparation for the world of work, but also in developing the spiritual, moral, cultural and social aspects of the person within relationships, the family, the environment and society.

The Leigh Academy acknowledges the historical and contemporary nature of the Christian and democratic context within which it operates and actively seeks to promote and extend stated values and beliefs, in an evaluative and non-partisan mode.

JCO review date 28/04/16 next review date 28/04/17