

# Akademeia High School

## Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Development Policy

**2024/2025**

### **Background and Rationale**

As at Akademeia High School we recognise that the personal development of our students, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally (SMSC) plays a significant part in their ability to learn and achieve, we aim to provide an education that provides students with opportunities to explore and develop:

- their own values and beliefs
- spiritual awareness
- high standards of personal behaviour
- a positive and caring attitude towards other people
- an understanding of their social and cultural traditions
- an appreciation of the diversity and richness of the cultures
- an understanding and appreciation of Global Citizenship

Akademeia High School has integrated the Global Citizenship and SMSC elements of the curriculum and ethos of the school while actively promoting these values through a range of various school programmes and activities including regular classes, assemblies, mentor's hours, Personal Development Scheme sessions as well as seminars with experts, and Relationships, Sex and Health Education lessons.

### **School Values Statement**

At Akademeia High School, everything we do and aspire for our students and school community is rooted in our five core values:

- Kindness
- Passion for Learning
- Respect
- Integrity
- Resilience

### **Intent**

At Akademeia High School, we recognize that the personal development of our students—spiritually, morally, socially, and culturally—plays a significant part in their ability to learn and achieve. We aim to provide an education that offers students opportunities to explore and develop their own values

and beliefs, spiritual awareness, high standards of personal behaviour, a positive and caring attitude towards others, an understanding of their social and cultural traditions, and an appreciation of the diversity and richness of cultures.

All members of the school community are encouraged to develop into responsible citizens through the promotion of our core values. These values are shared through thoughtful and wide-ranging initiatives aimed at the children's SMSC development, enabling them to thrive in a supportive, highly cohesive learning community.

### **Guidelines**

All curriculum areas contribute to the child's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development, with opportunities planned in each area. The integrity and spirituality of students from various faith backgrounds will be respected and explored, recognizing the diversity of spiritual traditions. All adults will model and promote expected behaviour, treating all individuals as unique and valuable.

Students will learn to differentiate between right and wrong as it pertains to their actions affecting others and will be encouraged to value themselves and others. The importance of rules and adherence to them for the good of everyone will be emphasized, with school and classroom rules reflecting, reiterating, promoting, and rewarding acceptable behaviour.

### **Aims and Objectives**

- Ensure everyone connected with the school is aware of our values and principles.
- Provide a consistent approach to the delivery of SMSC issues through the curriculum and the general life of the school.
- Set students' education within a context meaningful and appropriate to their age, aptitude, and background.
- Ensure students understand expectations and their importance.
- Offer opportunities for students to reflect upon and discuss their beliefs, feelings, and responses to personal experiences.
- Develop students' understanding of their individual and group identity.
- Foster an understanding of their social and cultural environment and an appreciation of diverse cultures.
- Explore social and moral issues, developing a sense of social and moral responsibility.
- Actively promote the core school values purposefully and frequently.

### **Spiritual Development**

Our aim is to provide learning opportunities that will enable students to:

- Sustain their self-esteem in their learning experiences.
- Develop their capacity for critical and independent thought.
- Foster their emotional life and express their feelings.
- Experience mindful practice and reflection.
- Discuss their beliefs, feelings, values, and responses to personal experiences.
- Form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships.

### **Moral Development**

We aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable students to:

- Recognize the unique value of each individual.
- Listen and respond appropriately to the views of others.
- Gain the confidence to cope with setbacks and learn from mistakes.
- Take initiative and act responsibly with consideration for others.
- Distinguish between right and wrong.
- Resolve disagreements.
- Show respect for the environment.
- Make informed and independent judgments.
- Reflect morally beyond their immediate experiences to national and international issues.

### **Social Development**

Our goal is to promote opportunities that will enable students to:

- Develop an understanding of their individual and group identity.
- Foster a sense of responsibility and community values.
- Discuss and display expected standards of behaviour.
- Participate in enrichment and extension activities.
- Develop an international perspective through collaboration with other international schools and support of non-profit and charitable organizations.

### **Cultural Development**

We aim to promote opportunities that will enable students to:

- Recognize the value and richness of cultural diversity in Poland, the European Union as well as our international community and how it influences individuals and society.
- Understand different religions and their cultural implications.
- Develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment.
- Recognize and celebrate cultural diversity.

### **Promoting Core Values**

Akademeia High School actively promotes the fundamental values of:

- Democracy
- The Rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual Respect
- Tolerance of Different Faiths and Beliefs
- Participation in local community life and global community life

Although this list is not exhaustive, we believe it encapsulates the key attitudes we value at our school and which we seek to promote and develop in our students.

### **Implementation**

Development in SMSC will take place across all curriculum areas, within activities encouraging students to recognize the spiritual dimension of their learning, reflect on its significance, and recognize challenges to their own attitudes and lifestyle. Class discussions and circle time provide opportunities for:

- Sharing personal experiences and feelings.
- Expressing and clarifying ideas and beliefs.
- Discussing difficult events (e.g., bullying, exams and other stressful moments).
- Exploring relationships with friends, family, and others.
- Considering others' needs and behaviour.
- Developing self-esteem and respect for others.
- Fostering a sense of belonging.
- Building skills and attitudes for social, moral, spiritual, and cultural development.

### **Links with the Wider Community**

- Welcoming visitors to the school.
- Fostering links with local institutions such as state and independent primary and secondary schools as well as non-profit organisations.
- Supporting local, national and international charities e.g. Salvation Army, Mary & Max Foundation, Alzheimer's Centre, AMI Foundation, Human Practice Foundation in Kenya, Orphanage in Ossa
- Valuing strong home-school links, enabling effective parent-teacher partnerships.
- Teaching students to appreciate and take responsibility for their local environment.

### **Impact**

- Children are happy and value themselves and others as unique individuals.
- Children collaborate critically, respectfully, and creatively, with a caring approach.
- Children reflect upon their behaviour and others' and evaluate what constitutes good behaviour.
- All children, including disadvantaged and those with SEND, achieve across all lessons.
- Through a good understanding of core values, children make positive contributions as responsible citizens.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Provision for SMSC is monitored and reviewed regularly through:

- Lesson plan and teaching review by Heads of Departments, Senior Management, Headmaster, and Governors.
- Regular staff and Governors' discussions.
- Regular Policy and Scheme of Work audits
- Sharing classroom work and practice through focus groups and departmental meetings
- Regular annual reviews of staff performance

### **Related Documents**

- Curriculum Policy (inc. the sections on our Personal Development Scheme)
- Behaviour Policy
- Staff Handbook (inc. the section on our Staff Code of Conduct)
- Safeguarding Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Relationships, Sex, and Health Education (RSHE) Policy



<b>Policy owner:</b>	<b>Dr Karolina Watras, Headmaster</b>
<b>Policy published (date):</b>	<b>August 2024</b>
<b>Next review (date):</b>	<b>August 2025</b>