

Social, Moral, Spiritual, Cultural (SMSC)

Social, Moral, Spiritual, Cultural (SMSC)

What we aim to achieve in SMSC at The Dorcan Academy can be seen through our SMSC ethos. Our ethos is to:

- Help young people understand their role in a globally interdependent world and explore strategies by which they can make it more just and sustainable
- Familiarise students with the concepts of interdependence, development, globalisation and sustainability
- Enable teachers to move students from a charity mentality to a social justice mentality
- Stimulate critical thinking about global issues, both at a whole school and student level
- Help the school promote greater awareness of poverty and sustainability
- Enable the school to explore alternative models of development and sustainability in the classroom
- Bring people from all facets of the school together to achieve a strong community

Our ethos allows students to enter life knowing their role within their local and global community. We achieve this through our excellent tutor programme. Each morning students consider the 'Thought for the week'. This gives them the opportunity to reflect on the world around them as well as their own personal development through discussions with their tutor and their peers.

During the Friday Tutor session students participate in House activities which enable them to model and demonstrate the school core values of Belonging, Purpose, Aspiration, Perseverance, Achievement and our Dorcan personal attributes: Justice, Honesty, Integrity, Confidence, Responsibility, Independence and Respect. Students work together to compete against the other houses in a range of competitions, with the aim being to win as many points as possible for their house. At the end of the year everyone joins together for a celebration assembly where the winning house is awarded the House cup. Creating an element of competition makes learning fun and encourages all our students to 'Aspire to Greatness'.

As well as our tutor programme, students experience SMSC throughout the curriculum, especially through our Skills for Life lessons. Skills for Life lessons promote British values and enables us to support students' wellbeing, both physically and mentally. In other subjects, schemes of work are linked to an SMSC theme to ensure our students are well rounded model students ready to lead a successful life.

Throughout students' time at The Dorcan Academy we encourage them to take on leadership opportunities so that they stand out against the crowd. We achieve this through our Dorcan Academy leadership awards. These awards recognise and promote the leadership attributes students develop, for example: leading a group activity or giving a presentation to visitors to the school. Finally, we also encourage students to participate in extra-curricular activities, which gives them the opportunity to work together in a team with others and enables them to demonstrate true Dorcan and SMSC values.

At The Dorcan Academy a new literacy programme has been launched for years seven and eight. During tutor time, students learn a new word each week. Activities include visual learning, as well as Scrabble and discovering the origins of words. Through a variety of tasks, students have the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding. The aim of this is to increase students' vocabulary, as well as improve their spelling. In addition to this, the academy continues to implement DEAR (Drop Everything And Read), enabling students to be transported to other worlds through the craft of fiction. Like the tutor programme, the objective of DEAR is to not only foster a passion for reading, but to also broaden students' vocabulary and awareness of the importance of literacy.

