



Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development Policy

Approval Body:	MUTC LGB
Approval Date:	November 2025
Implementation Date:	November 2025
Review Date:	November 2026
Policy Version:	5

Version	Reviewed	Changes since last version
1	existing	
2	November 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Minor amendments to reflect current practice.
3	November 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Policy considered fit for purpose and unchanged from version 2
4	November 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Additional paragraph demonstrating how students learn about fundamental values as a result of SMSC at Mulberry UTC
5	October 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Added reference to GCSE Citizenship and individuals of all faiths or none in Rationale section.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added reference to Ofsted Framework (2023) to Aim of Policy • Amendments made to 1.4 and 5.5 to refer to Youth Leadership team, how information on SMSC provision will be monitored.
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Rationale

The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of every student at Mulberry UTC is recognized as being of fundamental importance for their education by governors, staff and parents of the school. This is taught through all subjects of the curriculum, including Religious Education, Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and **GCSE Citizenship**. The policy supports all areas of learning and aims to contribute to each student's motivation to learn.

"Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development have to do with relationships with other people and, for **individuals of all faiths and none (including those with non-religious beliefs)**. It has to do with the search for individual identity and with our responses to challenging experiences...and encounters with good and evil. It is to do with the search for the meaning and purpose in life and for the values by which we live" (*NCC document*)

The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of the Principal and all members of staff because it is accepted that the values and attitudes promoted by the staff influence the behaviour and attitudes within the school. The quality of relationships and the atmosphere within the school reflect an appreciation of their shared values.

Aim of Policy

This policy sets out how Mulberry UTC meets its statutory duty to promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils, including the promotion of fundamental Universal Values, in line with legislation such as the Education Act (2002) and Ofsted Education Inspection Framework (2023).

The aim is that through the implementation of this policy all pupils will inculcate a positive attitude towards themselves and others, show respect for the world in which they live and deal with everyday life experiences in a confident and understanding way.

1. Spiritual Development

1.1 The Education Reform Act refers to a dimension of human existence which is termed 'spiritual' and which applies to all pupils regardless of faith, belief or non-religious worldview. It goes on to state that the potential for spiritual development is open to everyone.

1.2 In developing the spirituality of young people at Mulberry UTC, the aim is to help them become aware of:

- The human search for meaning and purpose of life
- The joy of being alive
- The beauty of the natural world
- The mystery and wonder of existence
- The world of imagination and creativity
- The value of non-material dimension of life

- The need to understand themselves and their feelings
- The need to value themselves and their feelings
- The need to recognize the feelings and achievements of others

1.3 In this way, spiritual development encourages and also supports pupils:

- Self-awareness
- Emotional Wellbeing and Mindfulness
- Reflection
- Reasoning
- A sense of identity
- Good relationships co-operation and empathy
- The formation of ideas

1.4 The school aims to promote spiritual development by:

- Engendering high-self-esteem by encouraging the students to take risks or face challenges in their reading within a secure and positive environment
- Demonstrating its appreciation for the work of the pupils' imagination and provide opportunities for them to employ their own creativity and imagination.
- Offering opportunities for aesthetic experience in art, music, dance, drama, literature etc.
- Making time for stillness and reflection
- Posing questions that encourage pupils to consider issues of meaning and purpose
- Developing pupils' good listening skills; the School will be able to show that it is taking account of children's views through its responses to issues raised by them, via a variety of channels, including the Youth Leadership team.
- Fostering emotional well-being by encouraging pupils to express their feelings and to have the ability to control their emotional behaviour.
- Improving co-operation and understanding in relationships
- Developing the capacity for evaluative reasoning and critical thought by encouraging pupils to look beyond the surface. As a school we value the contribution that can be made to the spiritual development of the child by all areas of the curriculum.

Staff promote calm, reflective spaces and model positive emotional expression, helping students to build resilience and confidence in line with DfE Wellbeing for Education Return and Education for Mental Health and Wellbeing guidance.

2. Moral Development

2.1 Moral development relates to pupils' developing an understanding of what is 'wrong', 'right' and 'fair'.

2.2 The moral development of the Mulberry UTC pupil is concerned with:

- Developing an awareness and understanding of the moral code of the school and the community in which they live
- Helping pupils to realize that to enjoy rights, they must also accept responsibilities
- Developing pupils understanding of why rules are necessary
- Developing pupils' self-discipline so that rules are observed as a point of principle and not out of the fear of sanctions.

- Giving pupils the knowledge and ability to question and reason so that they are capable of deciding on the most appropriate action after considering the consequences of an action
- Valuing physical well-being, privacy, feelings, beliefs and rights of others.

2.3 Mulberry UTC seeks to promote the moral development of its pupils by:

- Showing respect to all
- Having a consensus of core values that are stated explicitly and clearly and owned by everyone at Mulberry UTC
- Building up the self-esteem of all pupils
- Encouraging all at Mulberry UTC to behave in an acceptable ways towards each other
- Training pupils to understand the consequences of their actions. It is crucial there is a consistency in the approach to this among all staff.

2.4 At Mulberry UTC, the moral development of pupils is underpinned by a belief in:

- Respecting the rights and property of others
- Being considerate to each other
- Caring for each other, and especially for those who are less fortunate
- Accepting responsibility for one's own actions
- Self-discipline.
- The school is firmly committed to a policy which is opposed to bullying, irresponsibility, dishonesty, selfishness. It seeks to recognize and affirm good conduct, commitment to service to others through its reward system and through celebration of achievements

3. Social development

3.1 Social development “encourages students to relate positively to others, take responsibility, participate fully in the community and develop an understanding of citizenship” (Ofsted Framework)

3.2 Pupils will acquire an understanding of being members of families and different communities (school, local, national and global) and an ability to relate to and work with others for the ‘common good’. **The School sets out to foster the commitment and ability to live and work with others, to share resources and show concern and responsibility for others in the school and wider community**

3.3 Pupils will display a sense of belonging and an increasing willingness to participate. **The school seeks to offer a wide range of educational, social, sporting and extracurricular activities to all members of its community**

3.4 Pupils will develop knowledge, skills, understanding, and qualities and attitudes they will need to make an active contribution to the democratic process in each of their communities. **Classroom management will seek to promote group co-operation and mutual responsibility. Pupils will be pointed to the value and importance of working and playing together.**

3.5 The school aims to develop social skills and insights through a full range of activities in school involving all members of the community, and by creating situations where they have opportunities to relate to visitors and do so with increasing politeness, tact and confidence

4. Cultural Development

4.1 Cultural development is concerned with teaching pupils to appreciate their own cultural traditions and the diversity and richness of other cultures. Culture is the embodiment of shared beliefs, knowledge, customs and values of that group. Pupils need to appreciate the distinctive features of their own culture and those of others. We all need to remember that cultures are dynamic and are constantly changing.

4.2 The School aims to promote cultural development by:

- Introducing pupils to a range of cultural activities and experiences
- Building up an appreciation of their own cultural heritage and traditions
- Introducing them to examples of the variety of human cultures, beliefs and ways of life

4.3 Opportunities to nurture the cultural development of pupils will include:

- Experiencing and appreciating the rich heritage and range of cultures through all areas of the school's curriculum
- Developing links and sharing activities with other schools (both UK and international)
- The many visits to museums, events and places of cultural and historic interest

5. Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC

Mulberry UTC promotes the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Through our behaviour policy, PSHE and the wider personal development curriculum Mulberry UTC provides regular opportunities for students to:

- Develop self-knowledge, self esteem and self-confidence;
- Distinguish between right and wrong and respect the civil and criminal law of England;
- Accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative and understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working locally to the school and society more widely;
- Acquire a broad knowledge of, and respect for public institutions and services in England;
- Demonstrate tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling students to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures;
- Encourage respect for other people; and
- Encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England

6. Context for promoting the Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development policy at Mulberry UTC

6.1 In order to ensure that the policy works for the benefit of the school, it is important to have an awareness of other existing policies.

6.2 Assemblies and Tutorial programmes

These provide opportunities to consider aspects of SMSC and bring to the fore matters of topical concern as well as recurrent issues. Heads of Year are responsible for this.

6.3 The Directors of Learning are responsible for the inclusion and updating of relevant SMSC criteria in their schemes of learning, including current practice.

6.4 External links

These provide a most useful channel for promoting SMSCD policy among pupils. Such relationships provide opportunities to help our pupils to develop an awareness and understanding of different cultures and practices.

6.5 Extra-curricular activities

Those with responsibility for running clubs, societies, trips and other events should develop their awareness of the opportunities their activities have for SMSC policies and maximize the benefits they bring to pupils' learning.

Evidence of SMSC provision will be gathered through lesson observations, pupil voice activities, curriculum audits, assemblies and enrichment records.

7. Staff development

All members of staff should be aware of the importance of SMSC development and the enhancement it brings to the life of the School.

8. Other School Policies The following policies need to be considered in connection with this SMSC policy:

- Equality
- Curriculum
- Racial Equality
- Inclusion
- Anti-Bullying

9. Monitoring of this policy

The SLT will monitor the effectiveness of this policy through liaising with Heads of Year and Curriculum leaders.

10. Review

The policy will be reviewed on a regular basis by the Principal and staff. Following a review, any suggested amendments will be presented to the Local Governing Body of the School.