



King's College Panama

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development Policy

With regard to personal development, KING'S COLLEGE PANAMA seeks to fully prepare our young people for a happy and successful adult life by encouraging traditional Christian values and by fostering self-assurance, mutual respect and a sense of belonging.

Introduction

The School Mission Statement positively asserts that KING'S COLLEGE PANAMA purpose is "to sustain and develop an educational environment in which all pupils are able to fulfil their maximum potential, both as individuals and as members of a community". This means encouraging and challenging pupils of all academic abilities to develop to their fullest, whilst supporting and enabling each pupil to value themselves, to respect those around them and their environment.

It is the task of the School to ensure that an adequate foundation of experience and knowledge, with opportunities for discussion, reflection and evaluation, is provided so that pupils can be given maximum scope to develop their spiritual, moral, social and cultural dimensions.

This policy works in conjunction with other policies and procedures such as Anti Bullying, Behaviour, Rewards and Sanctions, Teaching and Learning and the Personal, Social and Health Education schemes of work.

Central to King's schools is the belief that the education provided is not only about the gaining of knowledge and the acquiring of essential skills, important though they are, but that it is also about the personal development of each boy and girl, in its fullest sense. The fullest sense, in terms of the 1992 Schools' Act, is one which includes the "spiritual, moral, social and cultural development" of each boy and girl. This includes at King's College the Golden Rules in the Primary Department, and the stated Core Values of dedication, independence, integrity, honesty, kindness, initiative, tolerance and open-mindedness in the Secondary Department.

The Golden Rules are designed to create an atmosphere in the school whereby these rules are at the heart of the pupils' thoughts and decisions in all aspects of their relationships, practices and attitudes within school life. We use them to underpin the culture of the School to ensure that the expectation is for high standards of respect, responsibility and self-discipline.

Definition

Within the Primary School at KING'S COLLEGE PANAMA the promotion of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural education is considered to be 'a whole school issue'.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development is promoted not only through all the subjects of the curriculum but also through the ethos of the school and through the development of positive attitudes and values and planned time for reflection.

Principles

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development is crucial for individual pupils and it is crucial for society as a whole. We believe it is the heart of what education is all about helping pupils grow and develop as people. Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development is cross curricular and promotes the aims and principles of the policies for PSHCE, RE, Safeguarding, Race Equality, Disability and Equal Opportunities. These policies all underpin the Curriculum model as putting the child at the centre of all we do. It is an expectation in the Primary School that all staff, in all subjects, can and should make a contribution to the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development of pupils through the taught curriculum and through the use of appropriate teaching and learning strategies e.g. discussion, reflection, pupil participation, circle time, assemblies etc. The importance of relationships between all school staff, parents and the School Board is crucial. These relationships will be characterised by mutual respect, by positive attitudes, by the willingness to listen and be listened to and by the valuing of all pupils.

Spiritual Development

This relates to the quest for individual identity and the search for meaning and purpose in our existence. It leads towards the understanding of self and others. It has to do with feelings, emotions, attitudes and beliefs. It is not linked solely to a particular doctrine or faith and spiritual development is therefore accessible to everyone.

Aims for Spiritual Development

- The ability to listen and be still
- The ability to reflect
- The ability to sense wonder and mystery in the world
- The ability to sense the special nature of human relationships

Objectives for Spiritual Development

- To develop the skill of being physically still, yet alert
- To develop the skill to use all ones senses
- To develop imagination
- To encourage times for quiet reflection throughout the school day
- To develop individual self confidence

Moral Development

Pupils are encouraged to understand the need for a common code and to follow it from conviction rather than because of sanctions or consequences. We use the Golden Rules as the basis of our common code. At King's College Primary School we work towards an understanding of what is right and wrong. From this basis pupils may develop the ability to make judgements and to become increasingly responsible for their own actions or and behaviour.

Aims for Moral Development

- To understand the principles lying behind decisions and actions
- To be able to distinguish between right and wrong
- To be able to make decisions, accepting and understanding consequences of their actions
- To move gradually through a 'taught morality' to taking responsibility for their own moral decisions

Objectives for Moral Development

- To tell the truth
- To respect the rights and property of others
- To help others less fortunate than themselves
- To be considerate to others
- To take responsibility of own actions
- To exercise self-discipline
- To develop high expectations and a positive attitude
- To conform to rules and regulations to promote order for the good of all

Social Development

This enables pupils to become conscientious participants in their family, class, school, the local, wider and global community. Within this there should be a balance of the positive, satisfying elements of belonging to a group or society along with the demands, obligations and cooperation such membership requires.

Aims for Social Development

- To relate positively to others
- To participate fully and take responsibility in class and school
- To use appropriate behaviour across a range of situations
- To work cooperatively with others
- To use own initiative responsibly
- To understand our place in our family, school and society

Objectives for Social Development

- To share emotions such as love, joy, hope, anguish, fear and reverence
- To be sensitive to the needs and feelings of others
- To work as part of a group
- To interact positively across a range of situations, e.g. clubs, sports activities, visits, music concerts etc.
- To develop an understanding of citizenship and to experience being a part of a caring community
- To show care and consideration for others e.g. sharing and turn taking
- To realise that every individual can do something well and have something to offer

Cultural Development

At the heart of cultural development lies the necessity to develop a sense of personal identity, whilst at the same time acquiring awareness, understanding and tolerance regarding the cultural traditions and beliefs of others.

Aims for Cultural Development

- To develop a sense of belonging to pupils' own culture and being proud of their cultural background
- To respond to cultural events
- To share different cultural experiences
- To respect different cultural traditions
- To understand codes of behaviour, fitting to cultural tradition
- To develop a balanced approach to retaining the traditions of our Christian society, whilst perceiving in a positive light the contribution of other cultures, past and present

Objectives for Cultural Development

- To develop an awareness, recognition and appreciation of the Arts, i.e. Music, Art, Drama, Literature etc.
- To develop a love for learning
- To develop an understanding of different cultures and beliefs, including Christianity
- To appreciate the values and customs of other ethnic and faith groups which make up modern British and Spanish society, and the world beyond
- To develop the ability to value these independently

General Aims for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

KING’S COLLEGE PANAMA aims towards ensuring a broad and balanced curriculum:

- To promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society
- To prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life
- To promote respect and consideration for differences in gender, race, religion
- To help each pupil achieve their full potential across all areas of the curriculum
- To develop the individual strengths of all pupils and to help and provide support in areas for development
- To inspire and stimulate the pupils in order to foster a love of learning and enquiry, to reason rationally and to apply themselves to tasks and physical skills
- To help our pupils towards independent learning and to equip them with all life skills in order for them to take their place in a fast changing society
- To ensure there is continuity and progression in skills, knowledge and understanding in all areas of the curriculum
- To develop respect for religious and moral values and understanding of other races, religions and ways of life
- To help the pupils understand the world in which they live
- To develop a sense of responsibility, consideration for others, self respect and self confidence
- To promote good relationships between home, school and the local and wider communities

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