Gulf British Academy
SMSC Policy
Whole School Approach

Introduction

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC) is central to the education of all pupils at Gulf British Academy (GBA). We strive to create a learning environment that promotes respect, diversity and self-awareness and equips all of our pupils with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values they will need to succeed in the future.

SMSC through P4C

At GBA, we believe that great SMSC provision is not simply a matter of 'covering the content', be it British values or mindfulness; it's also a matter of truly understanding and instilling it. The development of many skills and dispositions is essential if children are to understand their identity and their relationship to the world around them.

To this end, our weekly timetabled Philosophy for Children (P4C) lessons regularly cover the content areas specified by SMSC. In addition, P4C does so through a process that evolves SMSC skills and dispositions. In essence, it invigorates both the process and content of SMSC provision.

Concepts such as *fairness, justice, identity, soul, spirit, tradition, self and British values*, which play a central role in all of our individual and collective lives, cannot be understood without the ability to explore them thoughtfully, and with others. The philosophical art of conceptual understanding is central to the process and the aims of SMSC at Gulf British Academy through the P4C approach.

SMSC through the curriculum and school life

All curriculum areas have a contribution to make to the child's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and opportunities for this are planned in each area of the curriculum. All adults model and promote expected behaviour, treating all people as unique and valuable individuals and showing respect for pupils and their families. The school community is a place where pupils are encouraged to express their individuality, and at the same time, to respect the British values of acceptance and tolerance of others.

Spiritual development

Spiritual development focuses on an individual's own personal beliefs and values, and their resulting behaviours. Through spiritual development, children are able to understand their own feelings and emotions and this enables them to reflect and to learn. Our learning environment and curriculum opportunities enable pupils to:

- Be curious and to express feelings of delight and wonder, (scientific investigations, new life, the global landscape)

- Empathise and consider the viewpoints of others, (debates, drama activities, discussing feelings and empathising with characters in familiar stories)

- Consider how a belief can change people's lifestyles

- Discuss what they think they have achieved and what they need to do to be successful in the future, (self-assessment, target setting activities)

Moral development

Moral development means exploring, understanding and recognising shared values and considering the issues of right and wrong. The classroom environment and curriculum promote moral development through:

- Codes of conduct and class rules, agreed with children and displayed in the classroom.

- Clear and consistent rewards and sanctions that children understand and believe to be fair.

- Class and school assemblies that discuss moral values and cite expectations.

- Activities that enable pupils to give opinions and show their values.

- The values of 'Justice' and 'forgiveness' are explicitly taught/modelled throughout the school

Social development

Social development involves learners working effectively together and participating successfully in the school community as a whole.

During a pupil's social development they gain interpersonal skills that enable them to form successful relationships and to become a positive team member. At Gulf British Academy, social skills are developed through:

- Modelling of positive social behaviour by all staff

- After-school clubs

- Sporting activities

- Buddy and team games at play times and lunch times

- Turn-taking and team-building activities

- Pair and small group work within the classroom

Cultural development

Cultural development enables learners to develop an understanding of their own culture and of other cultures locally, nationally and internationally.

It also means learning to feel comfortable in a variety of cultures and valuing cultural diversity. Children are introduced to a regional and global perspective in life through:

- Links with local and international schools

- Stories from different cultures

- First hand experiences through local visits, theatre, art and artists

- Visitors from the local and international community

- Studies of a different lifestyle including different food, dress, festivals and places of worship.

- Learning about other cultures when raising money for charity

- Children are taught to understand the lifestyles and choices made by the variety of different cultures and faiths that exist within the school.

British values

The promotion of British values is an important part of our school ethos and is used as a means to develop the children's understanding in the following areas:

- An understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process.

- An appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety.

- An acceptance that other people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour.

- An understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination.

Monitoring and evaluation

The school will review this policy every year and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) will monitor SMSC alongside the regular monitoring of the promotion of Modern British Values.

Reviewed: September 2019
To be reviewed: Annually by September
Responsibility: School Development Coordinator / SLT