



Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural (SMSC) Policy

Ermysted's Grammar School

The Governing Body of Ermysted's Grammar School ratified this policy on **14 May 2026**.

The promotion of social, moral, spiritual and cultural (SMSC) education is central to the ethos of Ermysted's Grammar School. The school aims to promote the all-round development of each pupil. The school believes strongly that each pupil who leaves Ermysted's Grammar School should be well qualified academically but should also leave school as a well-developed citizen ready to play an appropriate part in their community. They will have a wealth of experiences which enables them to move forward significantly in their social, moral, spiritual and cultural education.

The social, moral, spiritual and cultural ethos, which is shared by all members of the school community, is epitomised in the Governing Body's ambition is for every pupil to:

- achieve their full academic potential by participating in a rich, stimulating and challenging curriculum;
- be able to contribute to society as active, compassionate and responsible citizens; and
- flourish culturally, intellectually, morally, physically and emotionally through participation in a wide range of opportunities.

SMSC is delivered across the curriculum and beyond it. It is recognised that some subject areas have more scope than others for SMSC input.

SMSC is delivered in a variety of ways. Examples include:

Subjects (evidence in schemes of work)

Whilst the humanities subjects of English, history, geography and religious studies have a significant role in this aspect of the curriculum, all departments strive to promote SMSC where it is appropriate within their schemes of work.

PSHCE

All pupils in Years 7 to 11 have a regular timetabled lesson of PSHCE and follow a structured programme of learning which celebrates and promotes SMSC. Sixth Form pupils participate in a regular programme of lectures on a wide range of social, moral, spiritual and cultural topics.

This provision will be supplemented by a programme of activities during form time, including regular weekly talking points and class activities, and a number of drop-down days throughout the year on topics such as Relationship and Sex Education, Careers, and Religious Education.

Assemblies

School assemblies occur several times a week throughout the year and encourage pupils to reflect upon a wide range of current issues. The assemblies are delivered by senior members of staff or pupils. Religious themes are predominantly Christian in nature, but other faiths are also represented.

Representatives from faiths/churches within and surrounding Skipton

Other faiths and churches are regular visitors to the school, contributing to the RS curriculum at several points in the school year.

Extracurricular opportunities

A broad programme of trips and visits broadens the SMSC experience of pupils. Recent examples include:

- Wide ranging participation in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme across all three levels of award;
- Fieldwork in the mountains and at the coast;
- Trips to the theatre and participation in the Shakespeare School's festival;
- Local and national competitions in mathematics and literature;
- Art trips to local galleries and areas of outstanding beauty;
- Local and national debating competitions;
- Mathematical and Scientific Olympiads;
- Chemistry festivals;
- Ski trips and international sports tours
- Overseas trips to France and Germany; curricular workshops and lectures; careers fairs; visits to local churches and museums; musical concerts across the north of England; immersion experiences in France; pupil exchanges with our partner school in Simbach, Germany.

Pupil fundraising

Throughout the year the school participates in several national fundraising campaigns (for example, Comic Relief) but also provides opportunities to raise funds for local charities (e.g. SELFA, Skipton foodbank).

Voluntary work

Large numbers of the Sixth Form volunteer to help in a variety of settings. This commitment takes place regularly on Wednesday afternoons throughout the year.

Sport

The opportunity for the promotion of social, cultural, spiritual as well as moral values is apparent throughout our extra-curricular sporting programme, which through its inclusive nature promotes enjoyment and achievement, as well as developing the need to foster positive working relationships with others. The school is represented on a local, national and international level through sport with events happening through the house system, against local schools, in national competitions and through international tours.

Clubs and Societies

Two Debating Clubs (KS3 & KSS) meet for formal discussions on ethical, moral and cultural issues. Other clubs and societies meeting at lunchtime include string ensemble, Orchestra, Swing Band, Training band, Guitar ensemble, Choir, Chess, Cross Country, Rugby, Cricket, Climbing, Art, Basketball, Badminton, Maths Puzzles, D&D and Warhammer, various language clubs, doodle club, and gardening to name but a few.

See the school website for the most-recent list of extracurricular activities.