

What is SMSC?

SMSC stands for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. All schools in England must show how well their pupils develop in SMSC.

Spiritual

Explore beliefs and experience; respect faiths, feelings and values; enjoy learning about oneself, others and the surrounding world; use imagination and creativity; reflect.

Ofsted definition of 'spiritual development'

Pupils' spiritual development is shown by their:

- *ability to be reflective about their own beliefs, religious or otherwise, that inform their perspective on life and their interest in and respect for different people's faiths, feelings and values*
- *sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them*
- *use of imagination and creativity in their learning*
- *willingness to reflect on their experiences.*

[School Inspection Handbook from August 2016](#)

Moral

Explore beliefs and experience; respect faiths, feelings and values; enjoy learning about oneself, others and the surrounding world; use imagination and creativity; reflect.

Ofsted definition of 'moral development'

Pupils' moral development is shown by their:

- *ability to recognise the difference between right and wrong and to readily apply this understanding in their own lives, recognise legal boundaries and, in so doing, respect the civil and criminal law of England*
- *understanding of the consequences of their behaviour and actions*
- *interest in investigating and offering reasoned views about moral and ethical issues and ability to understand and appreciate the viewpoints of others on these issues.*

[School Inspection Handbook from August 2016](#)

Social

Explore beliefs and experience; respect faiths, feelings and values; enjoy learning about oneself, others and the surrounding world; use imagination and creativity; reflect.

Ofsted definition of 'social development'

Pupils' social development is shown by their:

- *use of a range of social skills in different contexts, for example working and socialising with other pupils, including those from different religious, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds*
- *willingness to participate in a variety of communities and social settings, including by volunteering, cooperating well with others and being able to resolve conflicts effectively*

- *• acceptance and engagement with the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs; they develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.*

[School Inspection Handbook from September 2015](#)

Cultural

Explore beliefs and experience; respect faiths, feelings and values; enjoy learning about oneself, others and the surrounding world; use imagination and creativity; reflect.

Ofsted definition of 'cultural development'

Pupils' cultural development is shown by their:

- *• understanding and appreciation of the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their own heritage and those of others*
- *• understanding and appreciation of the range of different cultures within school and further afield as an essential element of their preparation for life in modern Britain*
- *• knowledge of Britain's democratic parliamentary system and its central role in shaping our history and values, and in continuing to develop Britain*
- *• willingness to participate in and respond positively to artistic, musical, sporting and cultural opportunities*
- *• interest in exploring, improving understanding of and showing respect for different faiths and cultural diversity and the extent to which they understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity, as shown by their tolerance and attitudes towards different religious, ethnic and socio-economic groups in the local, national and global communities.*

[School Inspection Handbook from August 2016](#)

How will Ofsted grade it?

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is now referenced throughout [Ofsted's School Inspection Handbook](#). It is almost as important to a school's inspection as the curriculum.

An 'outstanding' school will have a 'thoughtful and wide-ranging promotion of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and their physical well-being'.

An 'inadequate' school will have 'serious weaknesses in the overall promotion of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development'.