

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Policy

Aims

By promoting spiritual, moral, social and cultural education, we aim to support children's opportunities to explore and develop:

- their own values and beliefs and spiritual awareness
- high standards of personal conduct that are respectful towards others.
- a positive, caring attitude towards other people and their environment.
- an understanding of their social and cultural traditions, and an appreciation of the diversity and richness of all cultures.
- To be read in conjunction with the Wellbeing Policy

Introduction

The overarching vision of Atelier 21 will be to create a democratic space for children that enables high levels of self-directed learning, encourages personal responsibility and fosters innovation, curiosity and creativity which will help young people to gain the skills to compete, contribute and thrive in an ever-changing modern world. Without compromising academic opportunities, at Atelier 21 children will be taught *how* to think, not *what* to think. Their broad talents will be celebrated and encouraged, and they will learn how to be resourceful, resilient and reflective learners in order to make the very most of their innate abilities and develop many new ones. Atelier 21 serves to advocate for the rights of children and the protection of the culture of childhood, as an important time for rich connection with nature, other people and the wider world, as the life-long journey of self-discovery is embarked on.

Learning to learn effectively is the most important and valuable skill a human being can develop, and one which helps people develop a healthy mindset and the tools to self-promote wellbeing. Children at Atelier 21 will have a broad educational experience which is in response to the school's overarching 'big' question – *as human beings, how do we live well?* Our work of the school will be to research this question spiritually, socially, morally and culturally in partnership with children.

In attempting to define and redefine answers to this difficult question with children at school every day, children and adults will come together to decide on and practise learning together – which children will have some autonomy over. This will in part, be practical research of the impact of related questions, such as how do relationships, knowledge, skills and attitudes become necessary to prepare children for a successful life in adulthood?

Atelier 21 places **Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural** education at the heart of children’s experience at school. We aim to develop the character of each student in a positive way, and to enrich their lives through a range of a contexts, skills and experiences.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT:

Children will be able to engage with opportunities to develop their ability to self-reflect, to appreciate the beauty and value of life, and to think creatively in their learning. Spiritual development also encourages students to develop a sense of identity and self-worth.

MORAL DEVELOPMENT:

Our students are encouraged to make well-reasoned choices and to examine real-life ethical issues within the democratically run parts of the school they will be involved in. Students will be able to reflect upon the consequences of their own actions and the actions of others. Moral development also encourages students to develop their self-confidence and determination to make a positive contribution to life in and out of school, now and in the future.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT:

As much of the learning that takes place at our school is within a socio-constructivist context, our children will be able to reflect upon the benefits of working as a team, appreciating how society is more than just the sum of its parts. Social development also encourages students to develop a deep sense of respect, responsibility and humility and apply this to their everyday lives in and out of school.

CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT:

Our students are provided with opportunities to enhance their understanding of other cultures, and to appreciate the impact that cultural diversity has had on their heritage. Cultural development also encourages students to explore their own culture and to develop a sense of belonging and significance.

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