

NP2.1 SMSC Overview

This policy applies to the whole school including EYFS at Newton Prep

Executive Summary

At Newton Prep we promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, including the development of principles for distinguishing between right and wrong.

We recognise and actively promote the British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance to those of different faiths and beliefs.

Aims and Objectives of SMSC provision

At Newton Prep, principles are actively promoted which:

- Enable pupils to
 - distinguish right from wrong
 - respect the civil and criminal law of England
 - acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England
- Encourage pupils to:
 - accept responsibility for their behaviour
 - respect other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics
 - show initiative and understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality in which the school is situated, and to society more widely
 - acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures which furthers and promotes tolerance and respect between different cultural traditions
 - respect democracy and support participation in the democratic process, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England
- Where political issues are brought to pupils' attention, including in the promotion at the school and/or during extra-curricular activities, pupils are offered a balanced presentation of opposing views of political issues, and the promotion of partisan political views is precluded.

This document should be read in conjunction with the following policies and documents:

- Keeping children safe in education 2024
- NP1.1 Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Procedures
- NP2.2 PSHE Policy
- NP3.1 Behaviour Policy
- NP11.1 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy

Contents

Executive Summary	1
Contents	3
Active Promotion of Fundamental British Values	4
Curriculum	5
Review and Update Process	8
Appendices	9
Appendix 1	9

Active Promotion of Fundamental British Values

Fundamental British values are: democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

At Newton Prep, we teach the principles outlined above, through weekly PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) and PSED (Personal, Social and Emotional Development) lessons, assemblies, opportunities for election (such as Pupil Parliament / Council, Lower School House Captains and Eco-Committee), and through positions of responsibility (such as School Captain and subject Captains etc.). The School's Code of Conduct also promotes the Fundamental British Values, notably the values of 'respect' and 'tolerance'. As a result, the pupils in Lower School follow The Golden Rules for behaviour, and in Upper School they focus on our Core Values.

Pupils are able to earn Housepoints for good work / behaviour across the school. For poor behaviour or work, pupils in Lower School can lose some Golden Time and in Upper School pupils can gain a 'Mark'. This helps pupils accept responsibility for their behaviour. The concept of announcing Housepoint totals / winners helps to create a sense of community amongst Houses, and these points are announced at the Celebration Assemblies in Lower and Upper School. Discriminatory or extremist opinions or behaviours are always challenged.

Pupils are given regular opportunities to participate in democratic processes at School, for example, pupils vote for and elect Pupil Council Representatives and Eco-Warriors. In Year 1 and Year 2 in Lower School they also vote for House Captains. During major political and national moments are referenced or taught in assemblies and lessons, for example, the General Election.

Many references to the values of family commitment, love, trust and support are made throughout the pupils' school life. The school is represented by many different cultures and family units, and every child is made to feel equally important and valued. In all lessons, and particularly the TPR (Theology, Philosophy and Religion) and PSHE programmes, we focus on many aspects to demonstrate the diversity of individuals, societies and cultures so that children learn to appreciate and value all humanity.

The support given to charities each year encourages pupils to develop an understanding of the challenges people face in today's world. The charity and community events which take place help children in the school to become caring and understanding individuals and develop a sense of responsibility in helping the community. Our Year 8 Community Captains, led by the Head of the Newton Diploma, create and organise a range of events throughout the year for all pupils to take part in. These events are centred around our local community and support institutions such as: local primary schools, foodbanks, retirement homes and homeless charities.

At Newton Prep we support our pupils to gain an understanding and knowledge of the following:

- that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for everyone's well-being and safety;
- how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process;
- that there is a separation of power between the executive and the judiciary, and that while some public bodies such as the police and the army can be held to account through Parliament, others such as the courts maintain independence;
- that the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law;

- that 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;
- the importance of identifying and combating discrimination.

We prohibit the promotion of partisan political views in the teaching of any subject and take such steps as are reasonably practicable to ensure that where political issues are brought to the attention of pupils, they are offered a balanced presentation of opposing views.

We follow the DfE guidance Political impartiality in schools (February 2022) on the following matters:

- understanding terminology
- identification of political issues and ensuring balance in teaching them in an age-appropriate way
- the selection of teaching materials and how to talk about sensitive issues
- staff expressing personal opinions
- the use of external agencies
- political activity by pupils
- activities within school during political events
- public displays and communications
- concerns about political impartiality.
- the roles of and requirements on headteachers and school proprietors in relation to political impartiality.

When visitors are invited to speak with our pupils, they are presented with our Agreement and Guidelines for Visiting Speakers (Appendix A). Visitors are also required to complete a short online form to satisfy our safeguarding procedures.

Our staff always teach according to the Independent School Standards, including on pupils' SMSC development. A balanced curriculum is one that, amongst other things, reflects the nature of the world we live in, for example our PSHE and assemblies programmes address the fact that marriage for same sex couples is part of the law of this country.

Curriculum

Topics developing children's views of themselves are discussed and repeated through various ways in Understanding the World, RS and TPR, English lessons, PSHE and PSED, Thinking Skills, Circle Time and in many assembly themes, especially our Form, Head of Year, staff-led and celebration assemblies.

Our PSHE curriculum covers some main themes which include:

- Health and Wellbeing
- Relationships
- Staying Safe
- Sex and Relationships Education
- Living in the Wider World

Each theme covers a range of topics. The topic 'Living in the Wider World' covers respect for the civil and criminal law of England. It also includes the responsibilities of fairness and justice, and the notion of 'rights' including universal human rights. Our TPR programme includes learning about laws and religions. Our RS, PSHE and assembly programmes also focus on respect for others' cultural traditions and non-discrimination against protected characteristics. Our Early Years classes have the opportunity to learn about some similarities and differences between different religious and cultural communities in this country through adult-led activities, celebration of a range of festivals and talks from parents in our School community.

In Science, Geography, History, Understanding the World, PSHE, Circle Time and through many other curriculum areas, children learn to appreciate nature, animals and the wonder and beauty of the environment. The dangers of pollution and destruction to the environment are evaluated and discussed. Children are encouraged to appreciate art, literature, and the language of poetry and prose, which describes the breadth of humanity and the wonder of the world around us. In Geography, pupils create posters explaining and warning about the impact of pollution.

The Eco-Warriors, alongside two staff Sustainability Officers, help to make the school aware of green issues and have raised people's awareness of environmental protection across the school. They have also led key initiatives to help the school operate in a more environmentally friendly way. This includes schemes to reduce the carbon footprint of pupils on the local environment, increase school recycling and reduce the use of single-use plastic. The Eco-Warriors also visit Wandsworth Recycling Plant each year to learn about sustainability practices.

Opportunities in Art, Music and Drama develop pupils' expression and understanding of characters and human situations. We have a broad curriculum in each of these areas. Our training choir have sung at Evensong across a number of prestigious venues (including Winchester and Southwark Cathedral) and selected pupils attend outreach events offered by senior schools and orchestras. Pupils are given the opportunity to visit galleries in London. Visits to theatres also take place regularly. Touring theatre companies also perform at Newton Prep in the Auditorium and Lower School Hall. Pupils perform plays, musicals and assemblies as well as recitals and concerts for their peers, families and wider audiences.

The History curriculum follows the span of progress throughout different historical periods and this study encourages an understanding of the consequences of the actions of humanity and the effect on the environment. Visits are made to historical sites to understand the motivation and ethics of individuals in their actions. In the 'Understanding the World' area of learning, pupils in our Early Years' classes learn about 'Past and Present' through storytelling and shared reading activities.

Opportunities in many activities encourage success, the discovery of strengths and weaknesses and the growth of confidence and self-respect. House points, award systems in Music, Drama and Sport, Celebration Assemblies, Good Work boards and so on, all help to build pupils' self-knowledge, self-esteem and confidence. Some of these examples are listed below:

Assemblies: through assemblies, the pupils are made aware of many different issues. The practice of singing a hymn or song, accompanied by the presentation of an assembly based on a theme contributes greatly to the pupils' spiritual, moral and cultural development. A programme of planned topics is covered.

Positions of Responsibility: All pupils in Year 8 have a position of responsibility, ranging from School Captains, Music and Sport Captains through to Lower School Captains, who assist in Lower School events and assemblies. Working with a staff mentor, our Captains develop leadership skills and are

given a range of opportunities to positively impact their school community. They are encouraged to go 'above and beyond' to leave a legacy on the school. They lead assemblies, organise competitions and develop new ideas across the school. Recent pupil-led legacy projects have included our Holi colours celebration and futsal championships which are passed onto the next year group. Pupils also have responsibility running the Pupil Council and as House Captains. Upper School Pupils have the opportunity to become a Digital Leader. These pupils promote the ICT Acceptable Use Agreement, assist with lessons and help with iPad organisation. Pupils in all year groups from Nursery to Year 7 also have opportunities to take responsibility. In the EYFS pupils are given roles such as 'Class Line Leader' and 'Pencil Pot Monitor', in KS1 they then take on new positions of responsibility such as Pupil Parliament Representative, Eco-Warriors and House Captains. In KS2, pupils take on roles such as Eco-Warriors, Digital Leaders and Pupil Council Representative.

Pupil Council: Democratic processes are employed in the selection of Pupil Council Representatives. The Pupil Council offers a voice for all pupils, represented by their 'Form Rep' to speak in Lower School each week and in Upper School twice a term on issues of importance to them. These are then reported back to the school community as a whole and acted upon. The Pupil Council was instrumental in helping to develop 'The Orchard' outside project. Recently the Pupil Council has geared its attention towards serving the local community. The Pupil Council helps to organise and lead community-based events such as book donations and food bank drives.

Links with Local Community: The school has fostered close links with both St Mary's and St George's Primary Schools, both of which are both local to Newton Prep. During the Leavers' Programme in the Summer term, pupils in Year 8 plan and run a Sports Afternoon for pupils at St George's and also visit the school to help with reading. Recently we have been instrumental in the opening of St George's library. Donating books, as well as organising the library's stocks. The school has also regularly donated toys to the children of St George's for Christmas. A recent development is our Community Sports Partnership, bringing together Newton Prep pupils with those from St George's, St Mary's and Chesterton in collaboration with three local sports organisations (Nine Elms FC, Spencer Netball and Wayfarers Hockey) to provide access to organised club sport. Pupils from both schools have recently attended several workshops and author visits here at Newton Prep. Children in Upper School have also visited local care and retirement homes to sing or speak with residents. Newton Prep also has a strong connection with Glassdoor homeless charity, having raised over £40,000 in 5 years for this small local charity by performing Sleepouts.

Newton Prep Diploma: Pupils in Years 7 and 8 undertake the Newton Prep Diploma, a cross-curricular programme of study including the humanities subjects (History, Geography, TPR & Classics) and Art. Part of this is a service element in which pupils give of themselves and their time to the school or local community. This ranges from charity fundraising, organising collections for foodbanks and visiting local schools, care homes or other community centres. Within this, topics like Global Citizenship and Local Study are studied to give the pupils a wholesome and integral education on the complexity and diversity of the world we live in.

Golden Rules (Lower School) and Core Values (Upper School): The school's Golden Rules and Core Values underpin the way children interpret and follow the school rules. Positive reinforcement encourages good behaviour and this is employed regularly through the reward systems and through praise and encouragement.

Careers Assemblies: As part of the Year 7 & 8 assembly schedule during the Summer Term, a variety of guest speakers are invited in to talk to the pupils about their profession. This includes: academic choices and pathways, soft-skills and relationship building and how to navigate your way through

your career path. Recent speakers have ranged from marketing experts to authors to theatre producers.

End of Year Celebration: ensures that all pupils know they have made a personal achievement in the school year and highlights those who have made special effort in school life. This helps to develop self respect and respect for others.

Accessing the Policy: This policy is also available in various formats to allow everyone to access it e.g. hard copy, enlarged print version, braille etc. Please contact the Bursar to request a copy of this policy in an alternative form.

Review and Update Process

Last update	September 2024
Next update	September 2025

Appendices

Appendix 1

Agreement and Guidelines for Visiting Speakers ***To be sent via email when the booking is made***

In order to maintain a clear focus on our main priority of teaching and learning within a safe and protective environment, care must be exercised to respect the diverse views and values of all pupils.

The visiting speaker agrees to the following terms and conditions:

1. The presentation must be appropriate to the age and maturity level of the pupil audience.
2. The presentation must not incite hatred, violence or call for the breaking of the law.
3. The visiting speaker is not permitted to encourage, glorify or promote any acts of terrorism including individuals, groups and organisations that support such acts.
4. The visiting speaker must not spread hatred and intolerance of any minority group/s in the community and thus aid in disrupting social and community harmony.
5. The visiting speaker must seek to avoid insulting other faiths or groups, within a framework of positive debate and challenge.
6. Visiting speakers are not permitted to raise or gather funds for any external organisation or cause without express permission from the Head.
7. School staff have the right and responsibility to interrupt and/or stop the presentation for any violation of this agreement.
8. Visitors are expected to preclude the promotion of **partisan political views** and take such steps as are reasonably practicable to ensure that where political issues are brought to the attention of pupils, they are offered a balanced presentation of opposing views.

The DfE define these two terms as follows:

Partisan – in a legal case (Dimmock v Secretary of State 2007) relating to the alleged promotion of partisan political views in maintained schools the judge considered that the best synonym for ‘partisan’ was ‘one-sided’.

- a. superficial treatment of the subject matter, typified by portraying factual or philosophical premises as being self-evident, with insufficient explanation and without any indication that they may be the subject of legitimate controversy
- b. the misleading use of data; misrepresentations and half-truths
- c. deployment of material in such a way as to prevent pupils meaningfully testing its veracity and forming an independent understanding as to how reliable it is
- d. the exaltation of protagonists and their motives coupled with the demonisation of opponents and their motives

e. whether a particular view is advocated as being the 'right' view which must be adopted because otherwise certain presupposed consequences follow.

Political views – views expressed for a political purpose. A political purpose is either directly or indirectly:

- to further the interests of a particular political party
- to procure changes to the laws of this or another country
- to procure the reversal of government policy or of particular decisions of governmental authorities in this or another country.