



The Cornwall Independent School

British Values and SMSC in Science



British Values

At The Cornwall Independent School, fostering mutual respect, understanding and a strong sense of community is central to school life. We recognise that modern Britain is made up of people from a wide range of backgrounds, cultures, beliefs and experiences, and we prepare our pupils to live and contribute positively within this diverse society. British Values support the development of respectful, responsible and tolerant citizens who appreciate the rights, freedoms and viewpoints of others. The Cornwall Independent School is committed to providing a safe and inclusive environment where all pupils feel valued and protected from intimidation, extremism, radicalisation, or any influence that seeks to undermine their wellbeing, personal development or the values of a democratic society.

British values are important in science because they encourage respect, fairness, tolerance and teamwork. Scientists need to listen to different ideas, respect other people's opinions and work together to solve problems. These values also help scientists be honest and responsible when carrying out experiments and sharing their results.

Democracy	Students are encouraged to share ideas, ask questions, listen to different viewpoints and take part in discussions. Science also relies on evidence and debate, where different explanations are considered before reaching conclusions. This helps students develop the confidence to express their views while respecting those of others.
The Rule of Law	Students learn the importance of following rules, procedures and safety guidelines when carrying out experiments. Scientists must follow ethical and professional standards to ensure that research is safe, fair and reliable. In lessons, students learn to take responsibility for their actions and understand why rules are important for protecting themselves and others.
Individual Liberty	Individual Liberty is relevant in science education because students are encouraged to think independently, ask questions and form their own conclusions based on evidence. Science allows students to explore ideas, challenge explanations and make informed decisions while respecting the views of others. It also encourages students to take responsibility for their own learning and choices.
Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs	Mutual Respect and Tolerance are important in science because students learn to listen to and value different ideas, opinions and perspectives. Science involves discussion, debate and collaboration, so students need to respect the contributions of others, even when they disagree. This helps create an inclusive classroom where everyone feels able to participate and share their ideas.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Education

At The Cornwall Independent School, Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) education is at the heart of our values and ethos. We believe in nurturing the whole child and encouraging every pupil to develop respect for themselves, others and the world around them. Through our commitment to kindness, empathy, integrity and responsibility, we foster a supportive and inclusive community where everyone feels valued and empowered to thrive.

We encourage pupils to embrace diversity, demonstrate tolerance, build resilience and reflect on their experiences and actions. By promoting these qualities, we help our young people become confident, compassionate and active citizens who are well prepared for life in modern Britain and able to make positive progress in every aspect of their learning and personal development.

Science provides many opportunities to develop students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding. Through the study of the natural world, students are encouraged to develop a sense of wonder and curiosity, while considering ethical and moral questions linked to scientific developments. Science lessons promote discussion, respect for different viewpoints, teamwork and responsible decision-making, helping students understand how science affects individuals, society and the wider world. Topics such as genetics, evolution, climate change, medical advances and the use of natural resources provide opportunities to explore the social, ethical and cultural implications of science.

Spiritual	Students' spiritual development involves the growth of their sense of self, their unique potential, their understanding of their strengths and weaknesses, and their will to achieve. As their curiosity about themselves and their place in the world increases, they try to answer for themselves some of life's fundamental questions. They develop the knowledge, skills, understanding, qualities and attitudes they need to foster their own inner lives and non-material wellbeing	Spirituality is relevant in science education because studying the natural world can encourage students to develop a sense of wonder, curiosity and awe about the world around them. Topics such as the origins of the universe, evolution, the diversity of life and the complexity of the human body can provide opportunities for students to reflect on their place in the world and consider different perspectives. Science also encourages students to ask questions, explore ideas and appreciate the complexity and beauty of the natural world.
Moral	Students' moral development involves students acquiring an understanding of the difference between right and wrong and of moral conflict, a concern for others and the will to do what is right. They are able and willing to reflect on the consequences of their actions and learn how to forgive themselves and others. They develop the knowledge, skills and understanding, qualities and attitudes they need in order to make responsible moral decisions and act on them.	students are encouraged to consider the ethical and moral implications of scientific developments. Topics such as genetic engineering, medical research, animal testing, climate change and the use of natural resources provide opportunities to discuss difficult ethical questions. Students learn to consider different viewpoints, use evidence to make informed decisions and understand the potential impact of scientific choices on people, animals and the environment.

Social	Students' social development involves pupils acquiring an understanding of the responsibilities and rights of being members of families and communities (local, national and global), and an ability to relate to others and to work with others for the common good. They display a sense of belonging and an increasing willingness to participate. They develop the knowledge, skills, understanding, qualities and attitudes they need to make an active contribution to the democratic process in each of their communities.	Social Development is relevant in science education because students learn to work collaboratively, communicate ideas and listen to the views of others. Practical work and group activities encourage teamwork, cooperation and shared responsibility. Science also helps students understand how scientific developments affect individuals, communities and society, encouraging them to engage with important issues and make informed decisions.
Cultural	Students' cultural development involves pupils acquiring an understanding of cultural traditions and an ability to appreciate and respond to a variety of aesthetic experiences. They acquire a respect for their own culture and that of others, an interest in others' ways of doing things and curiosity about differences. They develop the knowledge, skills, understanding, qualities and attitudes they need to understand, appreciate and contribute to culture.	Pupils learn about the contributions of scientists from different cultures and backgrounds and how scientific knowledge has developed across different societies. Science also provides opportunities to explore how cultural beliefs, values and perspectives can influence attitudes towards scientific issues. This encourages students to appreciate diversity and respect different perspectives.

Overall, Science provides many opportunities to support students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Through exploring the natural world, considering ethical issues, working collaboratively and learning about diverse scientific contributions, students develop a broader understanding of themselves, others and the world around them. These opportunities help students become curious, respectful, responsible and informed individuals who can make thoughtful decisions about scientific and wider societal issues.