



The Cornwall Independent School

British Values and SMSC in MFL



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.

The study of Modern Foreign Languages makes a significant contribution to the promotion of British Values. Through learning French and exploring the cultures of the French-speaking world, pupils develop an understanding of different perspectives, traditions and ways of life. Language learning encourages pupils to communicate respectfully, appreciate diversity and engage positively with people from different backgrounds. By exploring international cultures and global issues, pupils gain the knowledge and skills needed to become responsible, respectful and active citizens in modern Britain.

Democracy	Democracy is promoted through opportunities for pupils to express their opinions, discuss issues, make choices and participate in collaborative activities. Pupils learn to listen to the views of others and recognise that different opinions can be valued and respected. Classroom discussions, surveys and pair or group work encourage participation and shared decision-making.
The Rule of Law	The Rule of Law is reinforced through clear classroom expectations and routines that help create a positive learning environment. Pupils understand the importance of following rules to ensure fairness and respect for all members of the classroom community. They also explore how laws and social expectations can differ across countries and cultures.
Individual Liberty	Individual Liberty is encouraged by giving pupils the confidence to express themselves in the target language and develop their own ideas and opinions. Pupils are supported to take risks in their learning, make independent choices and build resilience, knowing that mistakes are a natural and valuable part of language acquisition.
Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs	Mutual Respect and Tolerance of Different Faiths and Beliefs are promoted through the study of the customs, traditions, festivals and lifestyles of people across the French-speaking world. Pupils learn to value different viewpoints and experiences, while developing respect for the beliefs, cultures and backgrounds of others. Through exploring celebrations such as Christmas, Easter, Eid and May Day, pupils gain an understanding of a range of cultural and religious practices. These experiences encourage appreciation of diversity, positive communication and respectful relationships, helping pupils become open-minded and tolerant members of both their local and global communities.

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.

Modern Foreign Languages makes a valuable contribution to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development by exposing them to different languages, cultures and viewpoints while developing communication and intercultural understanding. Through the study of French and the wider French-speaking world, pupils learn to appreciate diversity, challenge stereotypes and develop respect for others. They are encouraged to explore and reflect on different customs, traditions and perspectives, as well as discuss global issues, current events and societal change. This helps pupils become confident, respectful and informed citizens in an increasingly interconnected world.

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	MFL supports pupils' spiritual development by inspiring curiosity about the wider world and encouraging an appreciation of different languages, cultures and traditions. Through the study of French and other languages, pupils explore the beauty and structure of language, how languages evolve over time, and the connections between French and English. Learning a language provides opportunities for pupils to express and explore emotions, reflect on different forms of communication, and develop imagination and creativity through collaborative activities such as pair work, role play and group tasks. MFL also promotes self-esteem and confidence by encouraging pupils to take risks, try new things and perform in front of their peers in a supportive environment. This helps pupils to value their own achievements while appreciating and encouraging the success of others. At Key Stages 1 and 2, pupils learn about religious festivals and significant dates in the calendar, including Christmas, Eid, Candlemas and Easter, and explore how these celebrations take place across the French-speaking world (Le monde francophone). This helps pupils develop an understanding of different beliefs, traditions and ways of life. At Key Stages 3 and 4, pupils continue to explore religious festivals and cultural celebrations within French-speaking countries and communities around the world. Through a range of topics, including travel, education and social activities, pupils gain a deeper understanding of the diversity of cultures and perspectives across the French-speaking world. The GCSE course includes units that focus on festivals and celebrations, many of which have religious significance or religious origins. These topics encourage pupils to reflect on the role of faith, tradition and cultural identity in different societies, fostering respect, understanding and appreciation of diversity.
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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.	MFL supports pupils' moral development by encouraging them to understand and appreciate the challenges faced by individuals communicating in a language that is not their first language. Through language learning, pupils develop empathy, respect and tolerance, recognising the effort required to communicate effectively in unfamiliar environments. We promote moral development by helping pupils gain an accurate and balanced understanding of other cultures, traditions and ways of life, challenging stereotypes and fostering respect for diversity. The MFL curriculum prepares pupils for life in an increasingly interconnected world by encouraging them to consider different perspectives and respect the views of others without prejudice or intolerance. Across Key Stages 3 and 4, pupils explore a range of moral and ethical issues within a global context, including environmental responsibility, equality in education, employment opportunities, social mobility, poverty, healthy lifestyles, family structures, charitable organisations and the impact of travel. They also examine the role of media and new technologies, including social media and online communication, and consider the moral implications of their use. Through the study of celebrities, role models and cultural norms in French-speaking countries, pupils are encouraged to reflect on positive contributions to society, appreciate different values and traditions, and develop into responsible, informed and respectful global citizens.
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.	MFL supports pupils' social development by providing regular opportunities to communicate, collaborate and work effectively with others. Language learning is a highly interactive process that encourages pupils to develop their speaking, listening and interpersonal skills through pair work, group work and whole-class activities. Pupils learn how to communicate in different ways and explore social conventions within French-speaking countries, such as greetings, forms of address and levels of formality. In lessons, pupils are encouraged to share ideas, support one another's learning and use their peers as valuable learning partners. Through collaborative tasks, role plays and speaking activities, pupils develop confidence in expressing themselves, listening actively and working towards shared goals. Independence and self-esteem are fostered through positive feedback from teachers and peers, while achievements are celebrated through rewards, newsletters and classroom recognition. At KS3 and KS4, pupils are encouraged to use the target language in cooperative learning activities and are often grouped with a range of classmates, enabling them to build positive working relationships and develop effective teamwork skills. These experiences help pupils become confident communicators who can participate constructively and respectfully in a variety of social situations.

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.	MFL supports pupils' cultural development by encouraging them to appreciate the similarities and differences between Britain, France and the wider French-speaking world. Through language learning, pupils develop an understanding of different cultures, traditions and ways of life, helping them to become informed and open-minded global citizens. Cultural exploration is embedded throughout the curriculum through links with history, geography, religion and current affairs. Pupils learn about French cities, regions and communities, as well as customs and celebrations such as <i>Le Poisson d'Avril</i>, <i>Le 1er Mai</i>, Shrove Tuesday carnivals, Christmas, Easter, Eid and May Day. Authentic texts, audio-visual materials and digital resources are used to introduce pupils to a range of French-speaking countries, including France, countries in Africa and Quebec, Canada. Pupils are encouraged to explore and appreciate cultural diversity, challenge stereotypes and develop a respectful understanding of different perspectives, traditions and identities across the French-speaking world.
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Modern Foreign Languages plays a vital role in promoting both SMSC development and Fundamental British Values. Through the study of French and the wider French-speaking world, pupils develop respect for different cultures, beliefs and perspectives while building confidence in communication and collaboration. Language learning encourages pupils to embrace diversity, challenge stereotypes and understand their place within an increasingly interconnected global community. By fostering curiosity, respect, tolerance and active participation, MFL helps pupils become well-rounded, responsible and culturally aware citizens who are prepared for life in modern Britain and beyond.