



The Cornwall Independent School



British Values and SMSC in ICT & Computer 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.

ICT and Computer Science provide regular opportunities for pupils to develop and demonstrate the British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. Through the subject, pupils consider how digital technologies affect individuals, communities and wider society, and learn to make informed, responsible and ethical choices.

Democracy	Pupils explore how digital technologies influence communication, participation and society. They consider different viewpoints when discussing the impact of technology and are encouraged to express their own ideas while listening to and respecting the views of others. Topics such as artificial intelligence, social media and online communication provide opportunities to consider how technology can influence individuals and communities and how people can participate responsibly in society.
The Rule of Law	Pupils learn about the importance of rules and laws governing the use of technology, including data protection, copyright, intellectual property, plagiarism, acceptable use, online safety and cyber security. They consider the consequences of irresponsible or unlawful use of technology and understand that laws and rules exist to protect individuals and organisations. At Key Stage 4, pupils consider legal and ethical implications of ICT and computer technology.
Individual Liberty	Pupils are encouraged to develop confidence, independence and responsibility in their use of technology. They learn to make informed choices about how they use digital technologies and how they present and communicate themselves online. Online safety education helps pupils understand how to protect personal information, recognise potential risks and make responsible decisions. Work on AI also encourages consideration of privacy, bias, accountability and safe and ethical use. Practical and project-based work gives pupils opportunities to make choices, develop their own ideas and take increasing ownership of their learning.
Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs	Pupils consider how technology affects people from different backgrounds and communities and are encouraged to communicate respectfully and consider different perspectives. Online safety and digital citizenship work reinforces the importance of respectful communication and appropriate behaviour when interacting with others online. Pupils consider issues such as cyberbullying, online communities and digital exclusion. Collaborative projects also encourage pupils to listen to others' ideas and value different approaches to problem-solving and creativity.

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.

The subject supports pupils' SMSC development through practical work, discussion, problem-solving, creativity and evaluation. Pupils are encouraged to reflect on their own learning, consider the impact of technology on others and develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to use technology responsibly.

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	Computing encourages curiosity, creativity, independence and reflection. Pupils explore how technology works, ask questions and develop their own ideas and solutions. Creative digital projects allow pupils to express themselves through technology, while evaluation and reflection encourage them to recognise strengths, consider areas for development and take pride in their achievements. Topics such as artificial intelligence and the development of technology also provide opportunities to consider wider questions about the role of technology in society and its potential benefits and limitations.
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.	Moral development is particularly relevant to Computing because pupils regularly consider the responsible and ethical use of technology. Pupils explore issues including privacy, data protection, copyright, plagiarism, cyber security, artificial intelligence, bias, accountability and the environmental and social impact of technology. They consider the consequences of their actions and develop their ability to make responsible decisions when using digital technologies. They are encouraged to consider not only what technology can do, but also whether it should be used in particular ways.
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	Computing supports pupils in developing their ability to communicate, collaborate and contribute positively to communities. Pupils work together on practical and creative projects, sharing ideas, solving problems and providing feedback. Online safety and digital citizenship work develops an understanding of appropriate communication and behaviour in digital communities. Pupils also consider the wider social impact of technology, including online communities, digital exclusion, social interaction and the changing ways in which technology influences work and society.

	attitudes they need to make an active contribution to the democratic process in each of their communities.	
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.	Technology provides pupils with opportunities to explore and respond to the ways in which digital technologies influence culture, communication and creative expression. Pupils create and evaluate a range of digital media, including graphics, animation, websites and other digital products. They consider how technology is used by different people and communities and how digital technologies have changed the ways in which people communicate, create and access information. The subject encourages pupils to appreciate different ideas, approaches and perspectives while developing their own creativity and digital skills.

ICT and Computer Science make an important contribution to pupils' wider personal development. Alongside developing technical knowledge and practical skills, the subject provides regular opportunities for pupils to consider the safe, responsible, ethical and social use of technology.

Through the study of topics such as online safety, digital citizenship, cyber security and the impact of emerging technologies, students develop an understanding of their rights and responsibilities in an increasingly digital world. Pupils learn how to communicate respectfully online, protect personal information and make informed decisions when using technology.

The subject promotes the British Values of individual liberty through safe and responsible online choice, the rule of law through understanding legal and ethical issues surrounding technology, and mutual respect and tolerance through positive digital interactions. Students are encouraged to value diverse viewpoints, challenge discrimination and recognise the importance of respectful behaviour both online and offline.

ICT and Computer Science also support SMSC development by encouraging critical thinking, problem-solving and collaboration. Pupils explore the social, moral and cultural impact of technology on individuals, communities and wider society, helping them to become responsible, informed and active citizens who can use technology safely, ethically and effectively in modern Britain.