



# The Cornwall Independent School



## British Values and SMSC in History

### 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 help students connect past historical struggles to the rights, freedoms and responsibilities they experience today. By exploring how people campaigned for change, challenged injustice and shaped democracy, students gain a deeper understanding of the values that underpin modern British society. At The Cornwall Independent School, we use these concepts to encourage thoughtful discussion about how society has evolved over time and how individuals can contribute positively to their communities. Through examining historical events and their lasting impact, students are supported in becoming informed, responsible and active citizens who appreciate both the progress that has been made and the importance of protecting these values for future generations.

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| <b>Democracy</b>                                                               | Student voice is encouraged, helping pupils understand that their opinions can make a positive contribution to society. In History, pupils study role models who stood up for their beliefs and brought about change. Lessons explore key events in the development of British democracy, including the creation of Parliament, the Magna Carta, and the suffragette movement, helping students understand how rights, freedoms and responsibilities have evolved over time. |
| <b>The Rule of Law</b>                                                         | Students explore why laws exist and how they protect people. They learn how laws and society have changed over time, helping them understand their rights, responsibilities, and the importance of respecting the rule of law.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Individual Liberty</b>                                                      | Students learn about the difficult choices people made during major conflicts, particularly the First and Second World Wars. Through studying the experiences of soldiers, civilians and leaders, they explore the courage, sacrifice and resilience shown by millions of people. This helps students appreciate the freedoms they enjoy today and understand the importance of responsibility, service and respect for others.                                              |
| <b>Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs</b> | Students learn about significant campaigns for justice and equality, including the abolition of the slave trade and movements for equal rights. Through these topics, they explore how individuals and groups challenged discrimination and injustice, helping to shape a fairer and more inclusive society                                                                                                                                                                  |

## 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.

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| <b>Spiritual</b> | 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 | <p>Explore beliefs: Students investigate how religious and spiritual beliefs shaped past civilisations and influenced important events, laws and conflicts throughout history. They examine how belief systems affected daily life, leadership and decision-making, and how they continue to influence societies today.</p> <p>Reflect on meaning: Students explore how people in the past sought meaning and purpose in their lives, particularly during times of uncertainty and change. Through studying events such as plagues, wars and revolutions, they consider how individuals and communities responded to hardship, loss and suffering, and how beliefs and values helped people make sense of the world around them.</p> |
| <b>Moral</b>     | 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.          | <p>Judge human actions: Students evaluate significant historical events, such as slavery and the Holocaust, considering issues of right and wrong, fairness and justice. They are encouraged to reflect on the impact these events had on individuals and societies.</p> <p>Understand consequences: Students explore how the decisions and actions of leaders and ordinary people shaped historical events and influenced the lives of others. This helps them understand how choices can have far-reaching consequences for communities, nations and future generations.</p>                                                                                                                                                       |

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| <b>Social</b>   | 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. | <p>Study communities: Students examine how different social classes, families and communities lived and worked together throughout history. They explore how people's experiences varied according to factors such as wealth, occupation and status, helping them understand how societies were organised and how communities changed over time.</p> <p>Analyse conflict: Students explore how societies responded to disagreements, injustice and social change. Through studying events such as civil rights campaigns, political reforms and the development of democratic institutions, they learn how individuals and groups worked to resolve conflict, challenge inequality and secure greater rights and freedoms for future generations.</p> |
| <b>Cultural</b> | 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.                                                          | <p>Appreciate heritage: Students explore how art, literature, music and traditions developed across different periods and cultures. By studying the achievements and creative contributions of past societies, they gain an appreciation of the rich cultural heritage that has helped shape the world we live in today.</p> <p>Value diversity: Students learn how the exchange of ideas, beliefs, technologies and traditions between different cultures has influenced the development of societies throughout history. Through these studies, they develop an understanding of the benefits of diversity and the importance of respecting different cultures, perspectives and experiences.</p>                                                   |

British Values and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) education are integral to history, helping students understand human choices, values and the development of diverse societies over time. Through studying historical events, individuals and different cultures, students explore concepts such as democracy, justice, freedom, tolerance and respect. They develop an appreciation of how societies have changed over time and gain a deeper understanding of their rights, responsibilities and role as active citizens in modern Britain.