

SMSC Statement Dept. MFL

Spiritual development

Pupils are taught to accept and embrace other languages and cultures through the teaching of MFL. In relation to this, pupils are educated on beliefs and cultural traditions of the people living in France and the entire French speaking world. A whole range of GCSE topics, and KS3 material covers topics from Travel to Education and Social Activities. Pupils are encouraged to be empathic to the cultures and beliefs of others and stereotypes are challenged where necessary. Given the recent circumstances, in the absence of trips abroad, students are encouraged to access authentic online material, thus encouraging virtual exploration of the TL life and culture.

Moral development

Stereotypes and intolerance are challenged through the teaching of language and culture. The Modern Languages Curriculum covers many moral issues in a global society context, covering famous people (within a high moral context) to issues relating to the environment, equality of education within a global context, work opportunities, social mobility, travel as a means of exploring the world and the consequences of this, and media / new technology, including Facebook, texting and the Internet as a means of communication (and discussing the moral outcomes of this).

Social development

Pupils are encouraged to work independently in lessons and proactively use the target language in classwork. Pupils are often differentiated in groups of varied abilities to encourage social interaction with others in the class with whom they may not usually interact. Pupils are encouraged to experiment with language and learn from mistakes, without seeing them as a barrier to learning and embrace others that try but fail. They are encouraged to use each other as a learning tool and develop social strategies for dealing with confrontational situations.

Cultural development

This is the 'bread and butter' of Modern Languages teaching and learning. At all stages of MFL teaching and learning, cultural development is at the forefront of our success criteria. Exploration of language and culture is key to language learning, whether through lessons or international school trips. This is promoted through access of relevant up-to-date authentic material which provides the context for historical, religious, geographical, social and ethical issues and a platform for relevant discussions. Pupils are encouraged to embrace 'difference' at all stages of their linguistic development and accept ideas which may be 'alien' to them, as culturally significant. Pupils are encouraged to discuss and challenge stereotypes within a national and international context. Media and new technology play a key role (invaluable, during lockdown) in providing the access to Target Language culture in all aspects of learning and across the age and ability range, particularly as each student has his/her own iPad.