

# SMSC and Ofsted

Providing a definition of SMSC that is universally accepted is not straightforward. However, the Ofsted Inspection Framework says (Sep 2012):

- Evidence of pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development can be found, for example, where pupils:
- are reflective about beliefs, values and more profound aspects of human experience, using their imagination and creativity, and developing curiosity in their learning
- develop and apply an understanding of right and wrong in their school life and life outside school
- take part in a range of activities requiring social skills
- develop awareness of and respect for diversity in relation to, for example, gender, race, religion and belief, culture, sexual orientation and disability
- gain a well-informed understanding of the options and challenges facing them as they move through the school and on to the next stage of their education and training
- develop an appreciation of theatre, music, art and literature
- develop the skills and attitudes to enable them to participate fully and positively in democratic modern Britain

This list is not exhaustive.

The subsidiary guidance for Ofsted says:

- *Inspectors should investigate the impact of the curriculum on the pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development.*

This may be seen through:

- lesson observations of different subjects like RE, Art and Music. Discussion with pupils and staff will provide an important insight into how well SMSC is planned as part of the curriculum in other subjects
- observation of other activities. Inspectors should investigate whether there is a coherent approach to the promotion of SMSC through activities such as Tutorials, Citizenship Programmes and discussions with pupils about their work
- the range of opportunities created by the school for pupils to take part in a range of artistic, cultural, sporting, dramatic, musical, mathematical, scientific, technological and, where appropriate, international events and activities that promote aspects of pupils' SMSC development.
- The Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) suggests Ofsted will evaluate the school's promotion of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development by providing 'planned and coherent' opportunities in the curriculum and through interactions with staff to develop pupils':
- ability to reflect on their school experiences, use imagination, creativity and develop curiosity in their learning
- ability to apply an understanding of right and wrong in their school life (and, one would hope, beyond school)
- willingness to take part in activities requiring social skills
- understanding of options and challenges as they move through school and on to the next stage in their education/training
- willingness to overcome any barriers to their learning
- ability to respond positively to a range of artistic, cultural and sporting opportunities provided by the school
- skills and attitudes to participate fully and positively in democratic, modern Britain understanding of and respect for the range of different cultures within school and beyond as an essential part of their preparation for life.