



Ranelagh School

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

Statement of Intent

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development (SMSC) Statement of Intent

Ranelagh School Vision

Though we are many, we are one body. [Eucharistic Prayer, Common Worship]

Following the ministry of Jesus, we empower all to use their gifts in faithful service. We inspire and encourage each individual to develop and nurture unique skills, interests and talents so that they can flourish. Our school is a unifying heartbeat, enabling everyone to feel welcomed, valued and included as members of our community.

Context

At Ranelagh School, we believe that every person is uniquely created and deeply valued. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is therefore central to our Christian vision and permeates every aspect of school life. Inspired by the ministry of Jesus, we seek to enable all members of our community to flourish through a rich and varied programme of learning, worship, service and personal development.

We understand education as being concerned with the formation of the whole person. SMSC development is not confined to particular lessons or events; it is woven through our curriculum, collective worship, enrichment programme, relationships, leadership opportunities and daily interactions. Through these experiences, students develop wisdom, character, resilience, compassion, hope and aspiration, preparing them for life in all its fullness.

We seek to cultivate a community in which students are encouraged to reflect deeply, act responsibly, serve generously, celebrate diversity and engage thoughtfully with the opportunities and challenges of modern Britain. Through this work, we aim to nurture young people who are able to make a positive contribution to society and use their gifts in faithful service.

Spiritual Development

At Ranelagh School, spiritual development is rooted in our Christian vision and our understanding that spirituality is the ongoing process of becoming fully human, rooted in relationships and shaped by love. We recognise spirituality as an innate human capacity to be aware of ourselves, others, the world around us and the possibility of something beyond the immediate.

Inspired by the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, we create opportunities for all students to explore questions of identity, meaning, purpose and belief. Students are encouraged to engage with life's deeper questions, including:

- Who am I?
- Why am I here?
- What do I desire?
- How then shall I live?

Our approach to spiritual development is expressed through three interconnected dimensions:

Looking in with dignity: developing a deep sense of identity, self-worth and well-being, and recognising that every person is uniquely created and deeply valued.

Students are encouraged to reflect on who they are, recognise their gifts and strengths, and understand that their lives have meaning and purpose. Through reflection and self-awareness, individuals grow in confidence, resilience, integrity, and dignity.

Looking out with compassion: building relationships rooted in respect, compassion and faithful service, creating a culture where all are treated with dignity and live well together.

Students are encouraged to care for others, listen well, act with empathy, and contribute positively to the community. Compassion is lived out through kindness, inclusion, forgiveness, service, and a commitment to treating all people with dignity.

Looking up with hope: encountering awe and wonder, exploring creativity, the arts, the natural world, and questions of meaning, purpose and faith, including engagement with the Christian understanding of God.



Opportunities for Spiritual Development

Ethos and Culture

- A Christian vision that values every individual
- A culture of welcome, belonging and inclusion
- Opportunities for stillness, reflection and contemplation
- Celebration of achievement, creativity and service
- Support during times of challenge, loss or change
- Reflection on personal experiences and growth
- Opportunities to recognise and develop individual gifts and talents
- Encouragement to ask questions, explore ideas and express beliefs respectfully
- Opportunities to identify and develop gifts and talents for the benefit of others
- Reflection on how individual strengths can be used in service to the community

Collective Worship

Collective worship is central to the life of the school and a key expression of our Christian vision. It provides daily opportunities for students and staff to gather for reflection, prayer, celebration and spiritual growth.

In line with Church of England guidance, worship at Ranelagh is **inclusive, invitational and inspiring**. All members of the community are welcomed and valued. Students are invited, but never compelled, to participate in acts of worship, prayer and reflection.

Through collective worship, students are encouraged to:

- Reflect on questions of identity, meaning and purpose
- Encounter the life and teachings of Jesus Christ
- Explore Christian faith, theology and values
- Experience prayer, stillness, scripture, music and reflection
- Celebrate achievement and express gratitude
- Develop wisdom, hope, dignity and community
- Consider issues of justice, service and human flourishing
- Grow as courageous advocates for positive change
- Participate in and lead worship

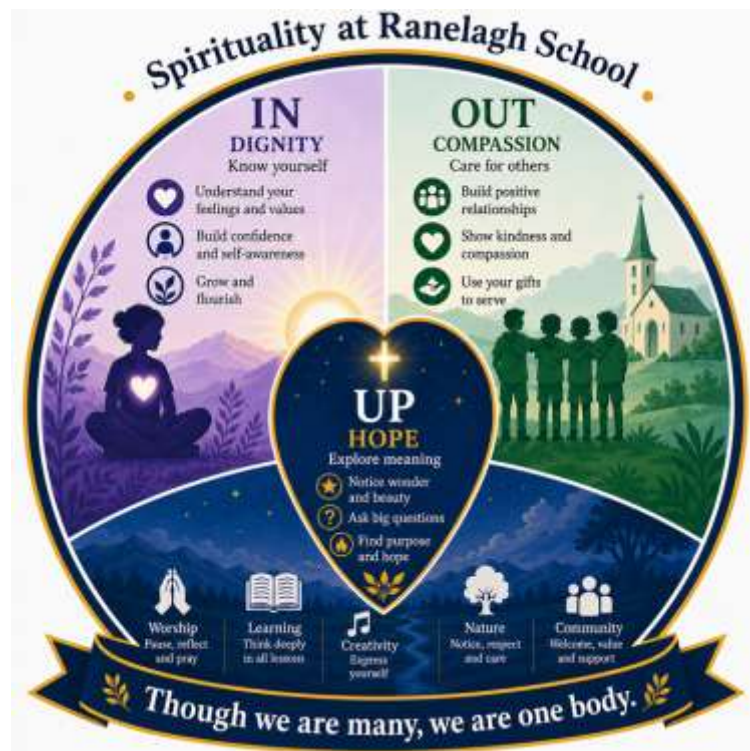
Collective worship supports students in developing awareness of themselves and others while nurturing a culture of belonging, reflection and service.

Curriculum and Enrichment

Across the curriculum and through enrichment activities, students are encouraged to:

- Experience awe and wonder through scientific discovery, literature, music, art, nature and human achievement
- Reflect on personal worldviews and questions of meaning through Religious Education, PSHE and wider learning
- Develop imagination, creativity, curiosity, wisdom and understanding
- Explore ethical issues, beliefs and matters of faith
- Engage with reflection activities during tutor time, collective worship and curriculum learning
- Participate in educational visits, leadership opportunities and enrichment experiences that broaden horizons
- Develop emotional literacy, resilience and wellbeing through reflection and discussion of life's opportunities and challenges

Spiritual development is further fostered through opportunities such as Holy Communion services, visits to places of worship, musical and dramatic performance, outdoor learning, Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions and the exploration of life's deeper questions within Religious Education, PSHE and collective worship.



Moral Development

Moral development at Ranelagh is grounded in Christian values and informed by the example and teachings of Jesus. Rooted in our vision, *Though we are many, we are one body*, we seek to nurture young people who recognise both their own dignity and their responsibility towards others. We encourage students to act with integrity and compassion, and to contribute positively to the flourishing of the wider community.

We believe that moral development is concerned not only with understanding the difference between right and wrong, but also with developing the character, wisdom and courage required to act upon these convictions. Inspired by Jesus' commitment to justice, mercy, forgiveness and reconciliation, students are encouraged to explore ethical issues, reflect on the consequences of their actions and consider their responsibilities towards others. They are challenged to think critically about issues of fairness, equality, human dignity and the common good, recognising that their choices have an impact on both individuals and communities.

As members of one body, students are encouraged to understand that moral choices are not made in isolation. Through a culture of respect, reflection and reconciliation, they learn to take responsibility for their actions, repair relationships when mistakes are made and contribute to a community in which all can flourish. In this way, moral development supports students in becoming compassionate, courageous and socially responsible individuals who seek to live well alongside others and use their gifts in service of the common good.

Students are supported in:

- Recognising the difference between right and wrong
- Understanding the consequences of actions and decisions
- Accepting responsibility for their behaviour
- Demonstrating honesty, fairness and respect

- Reflecting on ethical and moral issues
- Developing resilience and learning from mistakes
- Challenging injustice and unfairness
- Understanding the importance of justice, integrity, reconciliation and human flourishing within personal, local and global contexts
- Developing the confidence to advocate for positive change in support of others

Opportunities for Moral Development

Ethos and Culture

- Clear expectations and standards of behaviour
- Positive relationships characterised by respect and dignity
- Opportunities for reflection, forgiveness and reconciliation
- Celebration of integrity, service and responsible leadership
- Reflection on contemporary moral and ethical issues
- Opportunities to contribute to charitable and community initiatives

Collective Worship and Curriculum

Through worship, Religious Education, PSHE and the wider curriculum, students are encouraged to:

- Consider moral dilemmas and ethical questions
- Explore justice, equality and human rights
- Understand personal responsibility
- Develop empathy and compassion
- Respect the rule of law and the rights of others
- Consider the impact of their actions on individuals, communities and the wider world
- Discuss ethical issues in Religious Education, PSHE and across the wider curriculum
- Reflect on local, national and global issues
- Engage in charitable initiatives and student-led fundraising projects, taking opportunities to engage in courageous advocacy and social action

Through PSHE, Religious Education, collective worship and the wider curriculum, students consider contemporary moral and ethical issues including democracy, justice, equality, prejudice, discrimination, sustainability, extremism, online safety and responsible citizenship. They are encouraged to think critically, make informed choices and take responsible action.

Students are encouraged to consider issues of justice, poverty, equality, sustainability and human flourishing through initiatives such as the Year 12 "Be the Change" project, charitable fundraising, environmental action and curriculum-based exploration of ethical issues.

Social Development

Social development at Ranelagh is rooted in our vision: we believe that flourishing is both personal and communal. Students are encouraged to recognise that their gifts, choices and actions contribute to the well-being of others and to the flourishing of the wider community. Through relationships, leadership, service and collaboration, students learn to live well with others and understand their responsibilities locally, nationally and globally.

Students are encouraged to:

- Build positive and respectful relationships
- Collaborate effectively with others
- Resolve conflict constructively
- Participate actively in school and community life
- Demonstrate leadership and service
- Appreciate the importance of belonging and inclusion
- Value diverse perspectives and experiences
- Contribute positively to modern British society

Opportunities for Social Development

Ethos and Culture

- Strong pastoral support and care
- Student leadership opportunities
- Community and charitable involvement
- Partnerships with local churches and organisations
- Collaborative learning and enrichment opportunities
- Student voice and participation in decision-making
- Opportunities to serve the school and wider community

Collective Worship

Collective worship reinforces the importance of relationships, service and community. Students are encouraged to reflect on Christian values such as love, compassion, forgiveness, reconciliation, justice and peace, and to apply these values in their daily lives.

Curriculum and Enrichment

Through the PSHE programme, students develop the social skills needed to flourish in relationships and communities through learning about communication, conflict resolution, forgiveness, healthy relationships, leadership, consent, peer influence and responsible participation in society. Through careers education, leadership opportunities and reflection on personal strengths, students are encouraged to explore vocation, aspiration and how they may use their gifts and talents in service of others.

The curriculum and enrichment programme create opportunities for students to:

- Work collaboratively
- Develop leadership skills
- Participate in service and volunteering
- Engage with local, national and global issues
- Develop confidence, resilience and teamwork
- Experience a sense of belonging and shared purpose

Examples of opportunities in which students develop socially include:

- School Council, Year Council and student leadership structures
- Peer mentoring, buddy systems and Mental Health Champions
- Duke of Edinburgh's Award
- Sports teams, music ensembles and productions
- Service and volunteering opportunities
- Collaborative work with local churches, charities and community organisations

Cultural Development

Ranelagh School values and celebrates the rich diversity of cultures, faiths, traditions and perspectives that contribute to our community and wider society. We believe that every individual is uniquely gifted and has a valuable contribution to make. Following the ministry of Jesus, we seek to nurture and develop the unique talents, interests and strengths of each student, enabling them to flourish within a diverse and inclusive community.

We recognise that cultural development is enriched through encounters with different people, ideas, beliefs and experiences. By engaging with a wide range of cultures and worldviews, students broaden their horizons, deepen their understanding of others and gain greater appreciation of their own identity and gifts.

Students are encouraged to develop:

- An appreciation of Britain's cultural heritage
- Respect for diversity and difference
- Understanding of different faiths, beliefs and worldviews
- Awareness of local, national and global communities
- Openness, hospitality and respect towards others
- An appreciation of art, music, literature, sport and human creativity

Opportunities for Cultural Development

Ethos and Culture

- A culture of welcome and inclusion
- Respect for all faiths and beliefs
- Celebration of diversity within the school community
- Partnerships with local churches and community organisations
- Opportunities to challenge prejudice and discrimination

Curriculum and Enrichment

Through the PSHE programme, students are encouraged to explore diversity, cultural identity, inclusion and global citizenship, developing understanding of different perspectives, beliefs, experiences and worldviews. Through these experiences, students learn to value difference, challenge discrimination and contribute positively to a diverse society.

Through curriculum learning and enrichment activities, students are encouraged to:

- Explore diverse cultures and traditions
- Engage with literature, music, art and performance
- Visit places of worship, cultural institutions and places of historical significance
- Understand the contribution of different cultures to society
- Develop respect and appreciation for different communities and worldviews
- Prepare for life in a diverse and interconnected world

Examples of opportunities for cultural development include:

- Educational visits to places of worship, including the Abu Bakr Mosque in Reading and Wat Phra Dhammakaya in Woking
- Visits to museums, theatres, universities and places of historical significance
- Participation in music, drama, sport and creative arts
- Encounters with diverse beliefs, cultures and worldviews through the curriculum
- International experiences and exchanges
- Exploration of Britain's history, democratic traditions and cultural heritage

Fundamental British Values

Ranelagh School actively promotes the fundamental British values of **democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs**. These values are closely aligned with our Christian vision and commitment to enabling every member of our community to flourish as part of one body.

Through collective worship, the curriculum, student leadership, enrichment opportunities and everyday relationships, students learn to respect the rights and dignity of others, engage thoughtfully with differing viewpoints, take responsibility for their actions and contribute positively to society.

British Values are explored explicitly through the PSHE programme, where students learn about democracy, how laws are made, the rule of law, individual rights and responsibilities, equality, respect and active citizenship. These themes are reinforced through student leadership opportunities, School Council, Year Council, debate and public speaking, charitable initiatives, collective worship and wider participation in school life.

In promoting these values, we prepare students to participate confidently, responsibly and compassionately in modern Britain while living out the principles of dignity, compassion, hope, service and inclusion that underpin our Christian vision.

Summary

SMSC development is evident throughout the daily life of the school, including:

- Daily collective worship
- Tutor reflection and personal development activities
- Religious Education and PSHE
- Student leadership and student voice
- Service, volunteering and charitable action
- Debate, public speaking and courageous advocacy projects
- Duke of Edinburgh's Award
- Educational visits and residential experiences
- Arts, music, drama and sporting participation
- Partnerships with local churches, charities and community organisations
- Enrichment activities that develop character, belonging and aspiration

At Ranelagh School, Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development is integral to our mission as a Church of England school. Rooted in our vision, *Though we are many, we are one body*, we seek to nurture young people who are reflective, responsible, compassionate and hopeful.

Through collective worship, an ambitious curriculum, rich enrichment opportunities and the daily life of our community, students are encouraged to develop dignity, compassion and hope. They are supported to recognise their God-given gifts, deepen their understanding of themselves and others, engage thoughtfully with life's big questions and contribute positively to society through faithful service.

By weaving SMSC development through every aspect of school life, we seek to enable all members of our community to flourish and live life in all its fullness.