SOLIHULL

Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Development of Pupils Policy

Owner:	Head of the Senior School and Head of the Preparatory School
Reviewers:	Senior School Deputy Head (Pastoral) Preparatory School Deputy Head (Pastoral)
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The school is committed to developing a climate of care amongst all members of the community. It is one of the aims of the school. The central part of this commitment lies in care and support on a personal level for every pupil by the staff. It is founded on an over-arching premise of responsibility and accountability by everyone in the community and includes a very clear anti-discrimination standpoint supported by the DEI Policy (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion).

Such care depends upon creating a positive environment in which staff take a personal interest in those pupils with whom they are involved, not only in lessons but also in the rich variety of activities that the school offers. It also depends upon open communication between staff, but also between staff and parents.

In all sections of the school the Form Tutor is the centre of pastoral care, and so is the primary point of contact for parents. The intention in our Senior School is that the Form Tutors and Year Heads will move with the pupils at least until the end of a Section, whereas in our Prep School the duration ordinarily lasts one academic year. Parents are encouraged to contact the school if they are concerned in any way about the school's care package.

1. Communication

From time to time there may be concerns or changes in circumstances that a pupil or parent may have. Form Tutors in all sections of the school are the primary point of contact for all parents and communications in the first instance, should be addressed to the Form Tutor.

In case of any problem or change of circumstances that a pupil may have, parents are asked to inform the school as soon as possible. Equally, the school will keep parents informed of any difficulties that may arise in school. The use of email is encouraged, and staff can be contacted through the Parent Portal using the following model: surname followed by first initial (lower case) @solsch.org.uk.

2. The Structure of Pastoral Care

The Form Tutor

The Form Tutor is the central figure in a pupil's life. He/she will see the pupils at least twice a day, at registration in the morning and in the afternoon, and there are, on average three form periods during the week. The Form Tutor's overall responsibility is to oversee the pupil's academic progress and personal welfare. This could be through checking the pupil's planner in the Thirds and Shells to ensure that prep is being done, but a Form Tutor will also know his/her pupil in many ways, e.g., through one-to-one meetings. He/she will be the clearing house for information from subject teachers, including Merits and Demerits, Reflection sessions, Detentions and Co-curricular Clubs, and he/she will contact parents if there are matters which need raising. It is important that parents should feel that the Form Tutor is the first person to contact, and parents should not be shy about doing so.

Form Tutors will be asked to perform different responsibilities depending on which Section of the school they are attached to. For example, a Fourth Form Tutor will assist a pupil in Options choices, an Upper Fifth Form Tutor will guide a pupil in A Level subject choices, and an Upper Sixth Tutor will guide a pupil in university choices, in the writing of his/her personal statement and will write a pupil's UCAS reference. In each case the Form Tutor will operate with the support of other specialists.
If the Form Tutor has concerns about a pupil, he/she will raise these with the Year Head, the Deputy Heads of Section, Assistant Heads, or the Head of Section.

Other Pastoral Leads

Senior School

There is a Year Head attached to each year. It is the Year Head's responsibility to oversee the progress of the whole year and support and guide Form Tutors with individual pupils and issues. They are: Mrs D Wana (Third Forms), Mrs H Davidson (Shell Forms), Mr O Anderton (Fourth Forms), Mrs G Lowe (Lower Fifth Forms), Mrs R Nicholson (Upper Fifth Forms), Mrs L Campbell (Lower Sixth Forms) and Mr M Davies (Upper Sixth Forms).

There are also two Deputy Heads of Section attached to the Lower and Middle school, one DHOS Welfare, and one DHOS Behaviour/Transition. These are:

Middle School (Miss C Bednall and Mrs J Elkington)
Lower School (Mr J Brown and Mrs H Hallworth)

There are three DHOS in the Sixth Form – for welfare, behaviour/transition and academic.
Sixth Form (Mrs L Spratley, Mr MJ Covill, Mrs K McAlister)

The Heads of Section have overall responsibility for every aspect of the life of their Sections, in academic, pastoral, and organisational terms. They are involved in the more serious issues of discipline. They are Mr A Gamble, Head of the Lower School, Dr P Spratley, Head of the Middle School, and Mr D Morgan, Head of the Sixth Form. They, with the Year Heads, meet the Deputy Head Pastoral and where applicable, the Deputy Head Co-curricular and Operations and the Head of the Senior School, to talk about pupils and issues.

Mr S A Morgan (Head of Senior School), Mrs K Robinson (Deputy Head Academic), Mrs N Evans (Deputy Head Pastoral)

Prep School

There is a Head of Year attached to each year/school section. It is the Year Head's responsibility to oversee the progress of the whole year and support and guide Form Tutors with individual pupils and issues. They are: Mrs J Litwinko (EYFS); Mrs H Grace (Head of I1); Mr J Walker (Head of I2); Mrs H Middleton (Head of J1); Mr M Tibbitts (Acting Head of J2); Mr S Grove (Head of J3) and Mr A Poole (Head of J4).

The Assistant Head (Alice House) Mrs H Coleman and Assistant Head (Juniors) Mrs S Farnan have overarching responsibility for many aspects of the life of their Sections, in academic, pastoral, and organisational terms.

They are involved in the more serious issues of discipline, working alongside the Senior Deputy Head, Mr M Jones, the Deputy Head Pastoral, Mrs M Bradshaw. They, with the Heads of Year, meet the Deputy Heads and where applicable, the Head of the Prep School, Mr M Penney to talk about pupils and issues.

3. Other Means of Care and Support

These core structures are only part of the care and support that the school is providing. In addition, there are other members of staff, pupils and systems who are here as part of the support system.

The Nursing Team is responsible for the health of the pupils, but they also have a pastoral role and liaise closely with others in the pastoral care structure.

A Nurse is on duty from 08.30 am until 4.30 pm each school day in the Prep School and 5:30pm in the Senior School. Anyone who is unwell is sent/taken to see the nurse on duty in the Health Centre. They maintain records of treatment and notify Form teachers when necessary. Only a Nurse can send a pupil home for medical reasons and when a pupil is to be taken home, a Nurse will contact the parents. In the event of a pupil going to hospital, a Nurse, or a member of staff, will accompany the pupil and remain there until parents arrive.

The Health Centre is on the ground floor of School House and remains open throughout the school day.

School Counsellors are available during the week and on selected lunchtimes in the Prep School. Pupils may choose to talk to the school Counsellor by utilising our 'Listening Service', or a member of staff may encourage them to do so. Pupils are able to talk to the school Counsellor for weekly confidential sessions, but confidentiality is not absolute in certain situations.

The Chaplain is always willing to see pupils of whatever religious persuasion to offer advice and guidance, and a multi-faith room is available for prayers or quiet reflection.

Multi-Faith rooms

Each site has a multi-faith room for prayer and reflection. For further details our multi-faith room guidance document is available on request.

Pupil Helpers

Senior School

The School Bench and the Middle School Bench are pupils in each section who are given responsibility to assist with the running of the school. They are often the first to be aware of the difficulties of individual pupils and they may be able to help, or to bring such situations to the attention of staff. There are regular, separate meetings of members of each group with the Deputy Head Co-curricular and Operations and the Head of the relevant section to discuss issues relating to each section of the school.

The Lower School, Middle School, Sixth Form and Executive School Councils are bodies which involve a representative from each Form/Year group. The meetings are organised and chaired by the elected pupil in each section and the agenda is based upon the concerns of the pupils. The Deputy Head Pastoral attends the Whole School Council, and the Head of the relevant Sections attend their meetings.

Peer mentors (pastoral and academic) are pupils trained from LVth upwards and are 'clinically supervised' to work with and provide pastoral and emotional support for younger pupils in the Lower and Middle school. Wellbeing buddies are trained by the Head of WPD and are a support for pupils who may feel lonely; they signpost pupils to further support

e.g., The Health Centre. Our School Equity Group offers support as well as involvement in matters surrounding the Equality Act 2010.

Prep School

The Prep School also have an Alice House and Junior Council. These are run by the Assistant Heads with the Deputy Head (Pastoral) attending Whole Prep Council meetings.

Every child in J4 takes a turn at being a **Monitor**. Each class has half a term as monitors where they support children in Alice House at breaktimes, run a door duty rota and take on other responsibilities. They are led by the Head Boy and Head Girl of the Prep School for that term.

A group of J4 pupils are nominated by staff and pupils as Mentors for the duration of the academic year. This group receive training in running playground games by an external provider and have regular meetings with the Senior Deputy Head (Pastoral) and/or Assistant Head (Juniors).

4. **Bullying** (*All detail to be found in the Anti-Bullying Policy).*

5. Chapel

Solihull is a Church of England foundation, but there is no religious bar to entry. Each Senior pupil attends a service in Chapel at least once a week and each Prep pupil attends a service with the School Chaplain at least once a week.

Families are very welcome to attend all Sunday services and those who have been admitted to full communicant membership of one of the Free Churches are welcome to receive Communion in Chapel.

The Bishop of Birmingham, or another Bishop on his behalf, holds a Confirmation in the Chapel each year. Candidates are prepared for Confirmation by the Chaplain. The classes begin in September and those who wish to be Confirmed should see the Chaplain as early as possible in the Christmas Term.

Occasionally a Sunday Service may be devoted to a certain section of the school, and while parents and pupils from that section are particularly encouraged to attend, all members of the school community are always welcome. Two particularly well-attended services are the Nine Lessons and Carols, which normally takes place on the last Sunday and Monday of the Christmas Term. Due to the demand, parents are invited to apply for tickets.

Exclusion from the services or from Religious Education lessons may be requested from the Executive Headmaster on grounds of conscience which should be stated at the earliest practicable moment.

It is hoped that parents who withdraw their children from services or lessons will make other arrangements for their religious education outside the School. Provision will be made for pupils who are absenting from services within the school day.

6. Religious Studies

Religious Studies is a compulsory part of the curriculum during the Prep School and Lower School years and is a popular choice at GCSE and A Level. During the course of the Prep School and Lower School, there is a strong emphasis on understanding the religious beliefs of other faiths, so that there is an understanding and empathy with the differences of cultures. In the Prep School, a range of trips and visiting speakers encompassing a variety of faiths and beliefs are part of the curriculum. Pupils are regularly encouraged to share their own culture and traditions with their class, year group or section of the school.

7. PSHEE (Wellbeing and Personal Development)

The PSHEE Programme at Solihull School is delivered through our Wellbeing and Personal Development curriculum. It contributes to the school's aim to provide a complete education for the children in the school under the banner 'Learning for Life.' As such, it is part of a wider programme that involves the pastoral system and the work of different departments within the curriculum. If parents are interested in discovering more about the content of the WPD curriculum, they are encouraged to contact either the Head of WPD or the school's Anti-Discrimination Lead, the Deputy Head Pastoral. Further detail can be found in the WPD/RSE Policy and the Parent Handbook.

The programme aims to provide students with a complete education which includes some topics or issues which are not dealt with, or it is not appropriate to deal with in curriculum lessons.

Aims

- To promote the personal and social development of the students.
- To help prepare the pupils for a positive and active role in life.
- To help students develop a sense of mutual respect and understanding for each other.
- To develop study skills and enhance the learning potential of the students.

Delivery

The Wellbeing and Personal Development curriculum affords each person in the Prep and Senior School with one timetabled period per week. This is further supplemented by some topics being discussed and examined in Form time and through Sectional or Whole School assemblies.

Topics

Across the Lower and Middle School, the topics covered fall into several strands including Health, Personal and Social Development, RSE (Relationships and Sex Education), Citizenship and Learning Skills. A full timetable for the academic year can be found in the Parent Handbook and the WPD(RSE) Policy.

WPD endeavours to be contemporary, relevant and of practical use and thus topics may change in form or content to reflect this. You may find your son/daughter wishes to talk about some of the issues raised. If you have any questions regarding WPD and/or PSHEE content, parents are invited to contact Mrs LEM Rooney (Head of Wellbeing & Personal Development/Anti-Discrimination Lead) or Mrs S Haley (Subject Leader or WPD) for Prep specific queries. See WPD (inc.RHSE) Policy for further details.

8. Personal Development

Part of pastoral care lies in providing opportunities for pupils to develop in ways beyond the academic. Participation in these voluntary activities requires commitment from pupils, which we feel parents will also wish to encourage. Such participation helps enormously in developing confidence, social skills and in widening a pupil's horizons. Some of these opportunities are within the normal curriculum time, e.g., an extensive Games programme, Sixth Form Enrichment, the Community Service group, Snowdonia School, the involvement of Benchers, Mentors and Buddies with younger pupils, the Equity Group etc.

Other opportunities exist outside curriculum time, through our co-curricular programme, during break times, before and after school and in the holidays e.g., leadership or membership of the various clubs and societies, participation in the musical and dramatic life of the School, the CCF with its Army and RAF sections, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, various field trips, and other trips which vary from day excursions through to longer expeditions and sports tours, either in this country or abroad.

9. Assemblies

Below is a sample of assemblies that take place across sections of the school.
Preparatory School/Senior School.

Preparatory School	Senior School
Staying Safe in School The Monarchy Healthy Eating in the Refectory Understanding democracy Mock television Election debate Christmas Debate Being Happy (series of 10 assemblies) Fulfilling your Potential (series of 11 assemblies) Behaviours that Benefit Others Happy, Engaged & Meaningful living assemblies Solihull School: History of the Houses Birmingham Dog's Home Shelter Sign Language General Knowledge Quizzes Action on Hearing Loss New Year's Resolutions Safer Internet Use ICT Monitors assembly Mentors Assembly – Kindness Week School Council Assembly People Who Made a Difference Stories to Make You Think – using picture books to convey themes e.g., looking after our world, kindness, celebrating differences, overcoming adversity Charity Appeals - guest speakers & presentations	Celebration of outside school successes Tolerance and mutual understanding BHM LGBT History Month International Women's Day led by pupils Charity – pupil presentations Leadership Empathy Jeans for Genes New year's resolutions The general election special – four parties followed by a pupil vote Inclusion Pupils - anti-bullying Respect for school property Tutor - you are special & alcohol abuse Revision and exam stress Hopes, Dreams and Aspirations Community and respect Use of social media Men's mental and physical health – Movember and testicular cancer (visiting speaker (Oddballs)) SIFA fireside – homelessness and food banks] Remembrance