LARCHES
HIGH SCHOOL

SMSC and British Values Policy

2026–27

Policy Statement

Larches High School is committed to promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of all pupils and preparing them for life as responsible, respectful and active members of society.

We believe that SMSC development is fundamental to pupils' personal development, wellbeing, behaviour, achievement and preparation for adulthood. Through our curriculum, wider enrichment opportunities, pastoral support and school ethos, we provide pupils with the knowledge, skills and experiences they need to thrive in modern Britain.

This policy should be read alongside the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, Equality Policy, RSHE Policy, Behaviour Policy and Personal Development Curriculum.

Aims

The school aims to:

- Promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all pupils.
- Develop confident, resilient and responsible young people.
- Foster respect, understanding and tolerance for others.
- Promote equality, diversity and inclusion.
- Encourage pupils to become active citizens who contribute positively to their communities.
- Support pupils to make informed and responsible decisions.
- Prepare pupils for future education, employment and adult life.
- Promote the Fundamental British Values of:
    - Democracy
    - The Rule of Law
    - Individual Liberty
    - Mutual Respect
    - Tolerance of Different Faiths and Beliefs

Definitions

Spiritual Development

Spiritual development enables pupils to:

- Develop self-awareness and self-esteem.
- Reflect on their beliefs, values and experiences.
- Appreciate the achievements of others.
- Explore questions about meaning, purpose and identity.
- Experience creativity, imagination and inspiration.
- Develop a sense of curiosity and wonder about the world.

Moral Development

Moral development enables pupils to:

- Understand the difference between right and wrong.
- Recognise the consequences of their actions.
- Consider ethical issues and moral dilemmas.
- Show honesty, integrity and fairness.
- Respect the rights of others.
- Develop an understanding of justice and responsibility.

Social Development

Social development enables pupils to:

- Build positive relationships.
- Work cooperatively with others.
- Resolve conflict appropriately.
- Contribute positively to the school community.
- Develop leadership skills.
- Understand their responsibilities as citizens.

Cultural Development

Cultural development enables pupils to:

- Appreciate and respect cultural diversity.
- Understand local, national and global communities.
- Explore different traditions, beliefs and ways of life.
- Participate in artistic, sporting and cultural opportunities.
- Celebrate diversity and challenge prejudice.

Fundamental British Values

The school actively promotes Fundamental British Values through all aspects of school life.

Democracy

Pupils are taught the importance of having their voices heard and contributing to decision-making.

This is promoted through:

- Student Council activities.
- Pupil voice surveys.
- Classroom discussion and debate.
- Leadership opportunities.
- Consultation on school improvement.

The Rule of Law

Pupils develop an understanding of rules, laws and responsibilities.

This is promoted through:

- The school Behaviour Policy.
- Classroom expectations.
- Restorative approaches.
- Visits from external agencies.
- Personal Development lessons.

Individual Liberty

Pupils are encouraged to make informed choices and take responsibility for their actions.

This is promoted through:

- Personal Development and RSHE programmes.
- Careers education and guidance.
- Enrichment opportunities.
- Leadership responsibilities.
- Support in developing independence and resilience.

Mutual Respect

Respect underpins all relationships within the school community.

This is promoted through:

- Positive behaviour expectations.
- Anti-bullying initiatives.
- Inclusive practice.
- Celebration of achievement.
- Staff modelling respectful relationships.

Tolerance of Different Faiths and Beliefs

Pupils are taught to understand, respect and value diversity.

This is promoted through:

- Religious Education.
- Personal Development lessons.
- Assemblies and awareness events.
- Exploration of different cultures, communities and traditions.
- Opportunities to challenge prejudice and discrimination.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Larches High School is committed to creating an inclusive environment where every pupil feels safe, respected and valued.

We promote:

- Equality of opportunity.
- Respect for diversity.
- Awareness of protected characteristics.
- Positive relationships.
- Inclusion and belonging.
- Challenge to stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination.

Pupils are encouraged to recognise and celebrate the strengths and contributions of individuals from all backgrounds.

Personal Development

Personal development is embedded throughout school life.

Opportunities are provided for pupils to:

- Develop confidence and self-esteem.
- Build resilience and emotional literacy.
- Learn about healthy relationships.
- Develop employability and career awareness.
- Understand financial responsibility.
- Promote healthy lifestyles.
- Engage with community activities.
- Prepare for adulthood and future destinations.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

The school recognises the importance of positive mental health and emotional wellbeing.

We support pupils through:

- A strong pastoral system.
- Personal Development lessons.
- Access to emotional wellbeing support.
- Opportunities for reflection and self-awareness.
- Promotion of healthy lifestyles.
- Early identification of concerns and appropriate intervention.

Online Safety and Digital Citizenship

Pupils are supported to become safe, responsible and respectful users of technology.

This includes learning about:

- Online safety.
- Cyberbullying.
- Privacy and security.
- Responsible social media use.
- Digital footprints.
- Misinformation and fake news.
- Respectful online communication.

Preventing Extremism and Promoting Safeguarding

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all pupils.

As part of this commitment, we:

- Promote Fundamental British Values.

- Encourage critical thinking and respectful debate.
- Provide opportunities for pupils to understand different perspectives.
- Challenge prejudice, discrimination and intolerance.
- Support pupils in recognising and responding appropriately to risk.
- Ensure staff receive appropriate safeguarding training.

Curriculum Provision

SMSC development is embedded across the curriculum and wider life of the school.

Opportunities are provided through:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Humanities
- Religious Education
- Personal Development
- Creative Arts
- Physical Education
- Vocational and enrichment activities

Teachers identify opportunities for SMSC development within curriculum planning and ensure that pupils are encouraged to reflect, discuss and engage with wider social, moral and cultural issues.

Enrichment and Wider Opportunities

Pupils are encouraged to participate in activities that extend learning beyond the classroom, including:

- Educational visits.
- Residential experiences.

- Community projects.
- Charity fundraising.
- Sporting activities.
- Creative arts opportunities.
- Careers activities.
- Leadership roles.
- Participation in local and national events.

Pupil Voice

The school values the views of pupils and provides opportunities for meaningful participation in school life.

Pupil voice is promoted through:

- Student Council.
- Surveys and questionnaires.
- Pastoral discussions.
- Leadership opportunities.
- Curriculum feedback.
- School improvement activities.

Roles and Responsibilities

Governing Body

The Governing Body will:

- Monitor the effectiveness of this policy.
- Ensure SMSC and British Values remain central to school development.
- Support the promotion of equality, inclusion and safeguarding.

Senior Leaders

Senior Leaders will:

- Ensure implementation of this policy.
- Monitor provision and impact.
- Promote a whole-school approach to SMSC development.

Staff

All staff are responsible for:

- Promoting SMSC development through their work.
- Modelling positive values and behaviours.
- Creating inclusive learning environments.
- Supporting pupils' personal development.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The effectiveness of SMSC and British Values provision will be monitored through:

- Curriculum reviews.
- Learning walks.
- Lesson observations.
- Student voice activities.
- Behaviour and attendance data.
- Safeguarding monitoring.
- Enrichment participation.
- Governor monitoring visits.

Outcomes will be used to inform future planning and school improvement priorities.

Policy Review

Policy Title	SMSC and British Values Policy
Policy Owner	Assistant Headteacher / Personal Development Lead
Approved By	Governing Body
Date Approved	September 2026
Review Frequency	Annual
Next Review Date	September 2027

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner where legislative, statutory or school requirements change.