



Cothill House Policy Documents

British Values

NMS for Boarding: 3.1, 15.1, 15.2, 18.5

Date: September 2023

Next review: September 2024

The Government updated its guidance on improving the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of pupils in November 2014.

Cothill aims to prepare its pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in British society. British (or 'traditional') values are promoted throughout the school: in the curriculum, through PSHE lessons, in activities, in assemblies and in routine behaviour. They are embedded in the ethos of the school.

Central to government guidelines are the active promotion of:

- democracy
- the rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect
- tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

The education programme provided at Cothill House encourages all of the above, as well as courtesy, honesty, frankness, loyalty, tolerance and respect for order and British institutions. Our goal is to build mutual respect and understanding and to promote the use of dialogue, not violence, as a form of conflict resolution. SMSC is infused within the day-to-day operation of Cothill, and staff appreciate the role that they play in providing moral and spiritual guidance for pupils.

The promotion of partisan political views in the teaching of any subject in the school is forbidden and such steps as are reasonably practicable are taken to ensure that where political issues are brought to the attention of boys, the boys are offered a balanced presentation of opposing views. This has been evidenced in a number of debates held in front of the whole school.

Boys will therefore have:

- an understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process.
- an appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety.
- an understanding that the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law.
- an acceptance that people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour.
- an understanding of the importance of identifying and combating discrimination.

Cothill ensures that principles are promoted which:

- enable pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence.
- enable pupils to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England.
- encourage pupils to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative and understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality in which the school is situated and to society more widely.
- enable pupils to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England.
- further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling pupils to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures.
- encourage respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010.
- encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England.

Discriminatory or extremist opinions or behaviours are challenged as a matter of routine.

The teaching of traditional / British values, together with SMSC is delivered in all year groups particularly through General Studies, PSHE and Religious Studies lessons. The Witan (School Council) also provides a forum for debate while Chapel Services, Assemblies and Form Time yield additional opportunities for the promotion of British values and discussion among pupils. *See the PSHE Policy for further detail.*

Daily newspapers and magazines in the Library provide boys with information about the world and encourage boys to be well informed with regard to current issues and what might be regarded as acceptable opinions and modes of behaviour. Pupils also have access to appropriate resources on the Boys Homepage in order to stay up to date on world affairs.

Refer to 'Teaching Standards' (Appraisal Policy), which outlines what is required of all teachers, as specified in the government publication *Teachers' Standards* (2013).

See also the *Safeguarding Policy* which details Cothill policy regarding the **prevention of radicalisation in the school.**