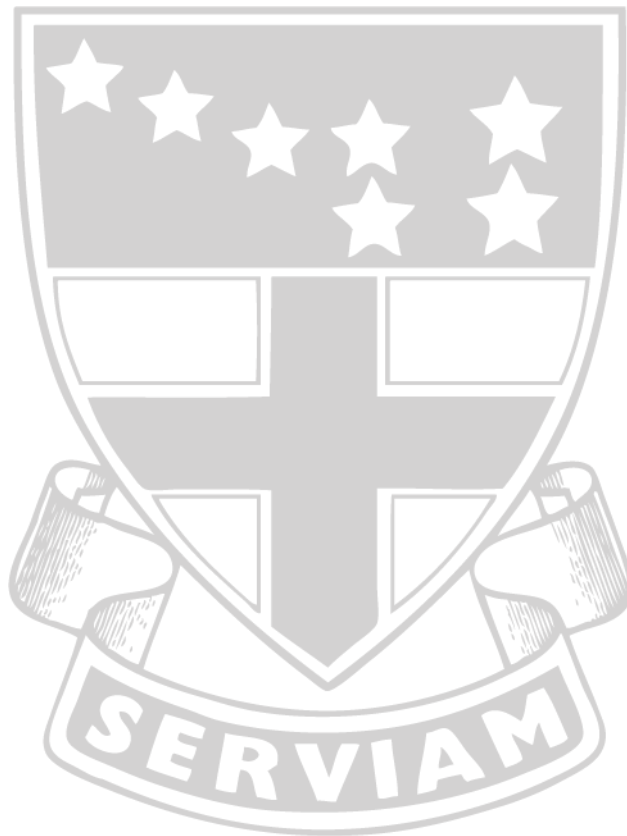


SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL and CULTURAL EDUCATION (SMSCE) POLICY



Date of Review: July 2026

Date of Next Review: July 2028

SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL and CULTURAL EDUCATION (SMSCE) POLICY

St Angela's Ursuline Mission Statement

St Angela's school is part of the Ursuline tradition which has as its hallmark the pursuit of the highest standards possible in education. Through our curriculum and community life we seek to meet the needs of the whole person and to enable all to achieve their full potential. We offer all the challenge of building up and living in a Catholic Christian community in which all members are equally valued. We share with St Angela, a commitment to the service of young people which will empower them to play their full part in society.

In the light of this we aim to:

- * recognise and respond sensitively to the talents and needs of every student and provide the most appropriate means of developing their full potential;**
- * ensure that equality of opportunity is available to all;**
- * welcome, value and respect all who come to the school;**
- * provide opportunities for experiencing the fullness of Catholic life while developing a spirit understanding and respect for other cultures, traditions and faiths;**
- * build a community based on justice and a sense of personal responsibility while acknowledging the power of healing, reconciliation and forgiveness;**
- * promote dialogue and co-operation with the wider community.**

Statement of Policy

St Angela's Ursuline is a school which is Catholic in character and tradition. The school is an Ursuline School of the Roman Union order established in 1862. We are proud to be part of the Ursuline Community and engage with the community both nationally and internationally. The Catholic life and ethos, as well as the spiritual, moral, social and cultural values held within the school are based on the gospel of Christ. The school is an active member of our wider community and the world, with its rich variety of faiths, cultures and ethnicities.

St Angela's Ursuline is committed to offering our students the opportunities to:

- Develop in their faith journey as outlined in the mission statement through the teaching of St Angela
- Develop an understanding of social responsibilities and citizenship
- Celebrate a diversity of cultures
- Be prepared for a life in modern Britain as responsible citizens

The school aims to create an ethos that fosters the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all of our students.

- To provide the highest quality of teaching and learning
- To provide an exciting, challenging and flexible curriculum that inspires all students to achieve their potential
- To provide opportunities for students to develop their talents and interests
- To promote respect for others and a clear understanding of rights and responsibilities
- To develop self-confidence, self-esteem and the desire to succeed

At St Angela's Ursuline SMSC is developed through;

- Our whole curriculum, especially in RE, Rise Up and extra-curricular activities, including our careers programme and enrichment opportunities
- Whole School and Year Assemblies (see assembly rota)
- School student leadership including but not inclusive of Student Council, Liturgy Reps and Serviam Stewards

Our Curriculum Aims

- To stimulate students into giving expression to their own moral beliefs and understanding
- To challenge students
- To enable students to share with others their reflections, listen to others and to resolve their disagreements
- To help the students to apply their growing moral competence in the context of vocational experience and the workplace
- To facilitate moral reflections beyond the student's own immediate experience to national and international issues

The role of our teachers:

- To be alert to the moral dimensions of issues which are raised by students, or by the syllabus/ context and having the confidence to explore
- To create materials, activities and tasks for students, either alone or in groups
- Putting questions into discussions which challenge the positions students take and to help them to think more deeply

Spiritual Development

St Angelas' Ursuline supports the process of acquiring positive personal beliefs and values as:

- An active basis for personal and social behaviour
- For the consideration of the meaning and purpose of human existence

Spiritual development is experienced fundamentally through Religious Education and Chaplaincy. All students study RE until the end of Year 11, culminating in a full course GCSE qualification. All Post 16 students follow our Post 16 Core RE programme and we have excellent A Level group sizes.

All Religious Education lessons support our students to gain insight into their own religious beliefs and spiritual values. It is expected that wider opportunities exist in the school's curriculum that enable students by discussion to consider their religion and appreciate the variety of faiths by through art, drama, music, languages, science and technology as well as humanities to heighten awareness of the spiritual dimension in our lives creating tasks which question students and enables them to develop their own position on their faith religious.

Moral Development

Moral Development concerns the ways in which an individual is able to act with integrity, justice, compassion and respect for self and others as well as make choices, decisions and judgements based on an informed conscience. Moral development takes place within the context of tradition, values, attitudes and teaching which celebrates and respects life, and creation as God's gift.

The school encourages students to develop fundamental precepts about behaviour and the reasons for behaviour. The RSE, Behaviour and Online Safety express the values and attitudes towards oneself, others and the environment which reflect those of the Gospel and our community. There is a planned programme of personal, social, and citizenship education (Rise Up Days), which aims to develop student awareness of moral issues as well as fostering a sense of responsibility and community values.

The school promotes equality and challenges discrimination in line with the Equality Act 2010. Our SMSC provision ensures students understand and respect the protected characteristics, which supports students' understanding of dignity of the human person.

Through our curriculum, particularly in RE, Rise Up, tutor time, and across subject areas, students explore these characteristics explicitly and implicitly, through the use of case studies, and develop empathy, understanding and respect for diversity. We address prejudice-based language and behaviour promptly and educate students about the impact of discrimination.

All students are mentored regularly both individually as well as in groups, in order that their full potential is reached. Records are kept of positive achievement, behaviour and effort through our Google log. Concerns are regularly monitored and prompt action is taken when required. Codes of conduct and expected standards of behaviour are discussed with students by staff, if necessary.

In aspects of the curriculum, external speakers are used to expose the students to a variety of viewpoints and opinions. The emphasis is to allow students to take responsibility for their own actions and provide them with a solid base of information on which to build the kind of self-confidence and self-control expected from our students. Effective communications are maintained between the school and parents to ensure students maximise their potential.

Social Development

Through social development students acquire the skills and personal qualities necessary for individuals to live and function effectively in society. This requires an understanding of society in all aspects, its structures and principles and life as a citizen, parent or worker in a community.

Our social development provision prepares students for their future roles in society and the workplace. We

work closely with our careers lead to ensure students:

- Understand the world of work and different career pathways
- Develop employability skills including collaboration, communication, and initiative
- Experience meaningful encounters with employers and workplaces
- Understand their rights and responsibilities as future employees and citizens
- Make informed decisions about their education and career choices
- Develop financial literacy and understanding of economic wellbeing

Our Rise Up programme, enrichment activities, 1:1 guidance meetings, and work experience opportunities all contribute to students' preparation for life beyond school, supporting them to become confident, capable citizens who can contribute positively to society.

Our students are encouraged through our school aims to identify themselves as members of St Angela' and the wider Ursuline Community. This involves an increasing awareness of their own identity as individuals and a need to work with the feelings and wishes of others. Both the formal curriculum and extra-curricular activities promote meta skills including leading, critical thinking and collaboration. The development of social skills is monitored through pastoral interactions and supportive measures are available where they may be needed.

Students are encouraged to participate in enrichment and extension activities outside of the school timetable. An international perspective is encouraged through the formal curriculum and the school's active support of a variety of charities and our work with Ursuline Links.

Cultural Development

Through their cultural development our students gain an understanding of those beliefs, values, customs, knowledge and skills that bond together to form cultures. Cultural development is closely related to, and integrates, certain aspects of spiritual, moral and social development. Our school reinforces the values and customs of society as a whole and celebrates diversity and multiculturalism.

The cultural influences of home, community and religion are explored in order to extend our students' awareness and breadth of understanding. This is achieved through the formal curriculum, through extra-curricular activities and the value placed overtly on the students' own cultural interests and achievements and the way in which they enrich their experiences of all aspects of culture particularly through our USP programme.

The school seeks to provide an education, which not only develops and strengthens students' current awareness, but also allows them to develop new cultural insights by:

- Avoiding cultural bias
- Promoting an appreciation of cultural diversity and value
- Student should value their own cultural identity
- Know about societies and cultures other than their own
- Taking an active role in planning social justice activities

Promoting Fundamental British Values

St Angela's Ursuline actively promotes Fundamental British Values as part of our commitment to preparing students for life in modern Britain. These values are embedded throughout our curriculum, pastoral care, rewards and registration sessions and school ethos:

Democracy

- Students experience democratic processes through our Student Council elections and year group representation
- Students have opportunities to express their views through student voice activities and student voice surveys
- Lessons across the curriculum explore democratic systems and encourage respectful debate

The Rule of Law

- Students understand the importance of rules and laws through our behaviour policy and school expectations
- Our formal curriculum and assembly programme explores concepts of justice, rights and responsibilities
- Students learn about the legal system and consequences of actions through the Rise Up programme
- We invite external speakers including legal professionals to share their expertise
- Students understand that laws exist to protect individuals and communities

Individual Liberty

- Students are encouraged to develop their own beliefs, values and opinions within a safe and supportive environment
- We promote freedom of choice through our broad curriculum offer and extensive extra-curricular programme
- Students learn to exercise their rights and personal freedoms responsibly
- Our safeguarding procedures protect students' right to be safe and to speak out about concerns
- Students are supported to make informed choices about their faith journey while respecting others' beliefs

Mutual Respect and Tolerance of Those with Different Faiths and Beliefs

- Our Catholic ethos promotes respect for the dignity of every person as made in the image of God
- We celebrate cultural diversity through assemblies, curriculum content, and our USP programme
- Students engage with our international Ursuline community and charitable work through Ursuline Links
- We challenge all forms of discrimination and prejudice
- Our behaviour policy explicitly addresses prejudice-based bullying
- Students learn about protected characteristics and equality through our Rise Up programme

Safeguarding and SMSC

The Prevent Duty

St Angela's Ursuline recognises that effective SMSC provision is essential in building students' resilience to radicalisation and extremism. Our approach includes:

- Developing students' critical thinking skills across the curriculum, enabling them to challenge extremist narratives
- Promoting fundamental British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect
- Providing a safe environment where students can discuss sensitive and controversial issues
- Ensuring students understand how to stay safe online and recognise harmful content
- Training all staff to identify students who may be vulnerable to radicalisation and to follow appropriate referral procedures

- Working closely with our Designated Safeguarding Lead and local Prevent coordinators where concerns arise
- Teaching students about different forms of extremism, including far-right extremism and Islamist extremism, in an age-appropriate way through the Rise Up programme

Safeguarding Context

All staff are made aware of our safeguarding systems as part of staff induction. Our SMSC provision supports safeguarding by:

- Creating an environment where students feel safe to discuss concerns
- Teaching students how to keep themselves safe, including online
- Developing students' understanding of healthy relationships
- Promoting mental health and wellbeing
- Ensuring students know who to speak to if they have concerns

Statutory Guidance and Key Documents

This policy has been developed in accordance with:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE, 2025)
- Promoting Fundamental British Values as part of SMSC in schools (DfE, 2014)
- The Prevent Duty: Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers (DfE, 2015)
- Equality Act 2010 and schools: Departmental advice for school leaders, school staff, governing bodies and local authorities (DfE, 2014)
- Statutory guidance: Careers guidance and access for education and training providers (DfE, 2025)
- Evaluating the quality of the Catholic life of the school and religious education (Section 48 inspection framework)

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Equality Statement and Opportunity Policy
- Relationships, Sex and Health Education Policy
- Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct

Monitoring

This Policy is monitored by the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team of St Angela's Ursuline School. Specialist staff related to the policy area also monitor its use and suitability making recommendations for development when the need arises.

Evaluation

The evaluation of the effectiveness of this policy is undertaken by the Governing Body of St Angela's Ursuline School as set at Governing Body meetings within a framework of annual/biannual compliance checks