

Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Development

Spiritual Development

Students at Weatherhead show an excellent set of values, principles and beliefs which help inform their perspective on life and patterns of behaviour. Through their work supporting each other and charities they have a tremendous awareness and understanding of the needs of others. They understand the beliefs of others from their lessons in RE and by students from other faiths and cultures taking the lead on delivering assemblies. Students, through the way they present themselves, have a respect for others and for themselves, there is a real sense of empathy and they constantly show concern and compassion. This compassion is demonstrated in the charity fund raising activities that take place throughout the school. This is further enhanced by across year 'buddy' and support activities organised in form time and as part of the extra-curricular programme and 6th form volunteering programme.

Students have the courage to stand up for their beliefs and where there has been intolerance from others, they are not prepared to stand back and they have been proactive ensuring that action takes place.

Students have great ambition and self-confidence and are involved in many activities that challenge sexism, racism and other forms of discrimination. Through their assemblies and through the work that they do in their subjects they have an appreciation for the intangible as well as for mystery and paradox. They are creative and expressive and have an understanding of feelings and emotions and their likely impact. As a school, Weatherhead encourages spiritual development by giving students an opportunity to explore their values and beliefs and develop in a climate where all students can grow and flourish and respect each other. This is evident in their aspirations, their destinations when leaving the school and their general behaviour around the school. Through teaching we promote and value students' questions and give them space for their own thoughts, ideas and concerns and encourage students to relate their learning to a wider frame of reference asking how and why. Their self-confidence and ability to form positive relationships is demonstrated widely, beyond the classroom, from trips and visits to sporting events and from Year 10 Work Experience to the 6th form volunteering programme.

Moral Development

Students display an understanding of the difference between right and wrong – this is evidenced on a daily basis at Weatherhead through the students' actions. They are confident to act according to their principles; they regularly speak to each other and to staff if they think there is anything unjust or wrong. Student voice is strong with curriculum and year leaders using written, individual and group discussions to inform teaching and learning and student wellbeing. For example, year leaders organise 'Kit Kat' breaks with students to give them the opportunity to talk to someone about how they are getting on at school. We receive many positive letters about students' good deeds and actions. They are able to express their views through form periods and also through the School Council and they make responsible and reasonable judgements on moral dilemmas, for example, the ten students writing to the House of Commons and a petition put together in relation to student fees. They are considerate and respect others' needs and feelings as well as their own. The school's clear Code of Conduct in relation to behaviour promotes an excellent moral provision. Students are given opportunities across the curriculum to take responsibility, to explore issues of truth, justice and right and wrong and there is a very open and safe learning environment as evidenced through lesson observations and behaviour around the school. Good behaviour is rewarded through the IRIS scheme and where breaches of conduct are made, action is taken in a fair manner and students respect staff. Students recognise and respect the codes of conduct of different cultures

and are encouraged to take responsibility throughout the school through care of the environment, develop their own codes of behaviour and respect of property. This is evidenced by the high standard of the building. Also, there are models of moral virtue promoted through literature, assemblies etc. We reinforce the school's values through posters in classrooms and also through the school website.

Social Development

Students become more socially aware as they move through the school and this is evidenced by the way they relate to themselves and others. Behaviour is sensitive and they share their opinions with others and try to work to a consensus. Very few conflicts develop in the school, they are resolved and students do reflect on their contribution to the school through the work they do as representatives and ambassadors. They show tremendous respect for people and this is evidenced through the work that we do with Outreach, for example, the Mariners' Park, performing arts and charity projects. They very much benefit from the advice that is given by external speakers and they appreciate the rights and responsibilities of others in the wider social setting. They participate in many different activities and understand the notion of interdependence. As a school we try to foster a sense of community with inclusive values, the Staff Wellbeing Co-ordinator does a tremendous amount of work on this. We promote racial, religious and other forms of equality through lessons, through our actions and through visitors to the school. We provide opportunities for other experiences, for example, assemblies, residential experiences, including a visit to a school in Italy, and school productions. Honesty and respect for others are inherent in what we do and students, through the work of the Mentors and others, are encouraged to resolve tensions. The students are aware of cyber safety and safe use of the internet, including social networking through assemblies, PSHCE lessons and support from our e-learning coordinator as appropriate. They debate various issues, for example, students contribute to debating events and competitions. Students have an opportunity to contribute to the democratic process through their participation in council elections, and selection of the SSLT (6th Form Leadership Team). A very significant part of the school's work is to develop leadership and responsibility and this is an outstanding piece of work that the school has done and very positive and effective links have been developed with the wider world of work and community.

Cultural Provision

At Weatherhead there is an outstanding provision for students to develop their cultural education. Many opportunities are provided for individuals to explore their own cultural assumptions and values and they have a clear understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity and to other people's values and beliefs thus challenging racism and valuing equality. The many visits, trips, activities, visiting speakers and assemblies that are organised help ensure that this provision is of a high quality. Students have an ability to understand and explore cultural influences whether that be through the medium of literature, music or art. The school hosts Author's Week, specialist reading provision, film-makers events and whole school assemblies are delivered by the Head of Art who helps children understand some of the great works of art. Students are very willing and responsive to cultural experiences, this is evidenced through the Gold Arts Mark Award and that the school works in partnership with FACT in Liverpool, and the links that we make with World Arts Day at Weatherhead. There are well developed partnerships with outside agencies.

The school has achieved the International School Award (Foundation) from the British Council for its commitment to developing the cultural awareness of students. The school has been involved in the Comenius Projects with assistants from Poland and Portugal working in the school to enhance the wider cultural experience of the students. Across the school the values are promoted through displays, posters, exhibitions etc. Students are always willing and able to participate in artistic and cultural events and students have

many opportunities to explore and develop their gifts and talents. The Extra-Curricular Programme is outstanding. The work on the Intergenerational Project liaising with people from a local nursing home helps students understand their local heritage and the contribution made by those who sacrificed much during the Second World War.