Introduction

Azhar Academy Girls School aims to provide an education that focuses on developing our pupils in all aspects of their lives, both as adherents to the Islamic faith and citizens of multicultural Britain. AAGS firmly believes that both of these perspectives sit in harmony with each other, and are not in conflict with each other. We also recognise that the personal development of pupils, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally plays a significant part in their ability to learn and achieve and develops their skills so as to be able to make an active contribution to both the community and world at large.

Rationale

The school is a close-knit community where pupils will find acceptance for themselves as unique individuals. However, pupils will, within this small environment, gain cultural awareness, respect and tolerance of those of other faiths and backgrounds.

Pupils will be encouraged to explore and develop their own values, spiritual awareness, along with high standards of personal behavior, all under the broad framework of Islamic teachings.

AAGS places a strong emphasis on building positive, caring attitudes towards others, an understanding of their social and cultural traditions and an appreciation of the diversity and richness of other cultures. All adults will model and promote expected behaviour, treating all people as unique and valuable individuals and showing respect for pupils and their families. The school community will be a place where pupils will learn to differentiate between right and wrong in as far as how their actions affect other people or society at large.

Pupils should understand the need for rules and the need to abide by rules for the good of everyone. School and classroom rules should reflect, reiterate, promote and reward acceptable behaviour and provide opportunities to celebrate pupils' work and achievements.

Aims

The General Aims of AAGS, with regards to the SMSC development of pupils, are to:

• Ensure that Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural issues are embedded throughout the school curriculum in a consistent way.
• Give each pupil a range of opportunities to reflect upon and discuss their beliefs, feelings and responses to personal experiences.
• Enable pupils to develop an understanding of their individual and group identity.
• Provide pupils the opportunity to begin to develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment and an appreciation of the many cultures that now enrich our society.
• Give each pupil the opportunity to explore social and moral issues, and develop a sense of social and moral responsibility.

While making provisions for the SMSC development of pupils is the responsibility of the entire school community, a great deal of responsibility for this, along with the Governing Body, Director and Headteacher, will be that of the Islamic Coordinator, as the leader of the Tahdhib al-Akhlāq Initiative.
Spiritual Development

At AAGS, we want to ensure that pupils are aware of what it means to be spiritual and support them in their spiritual development. Spirituality is about what it is to be human, to grow as a person, to become self-aware and to develop relationships with others. In the context of our school, this is achieved through the prism of belief and faith in Allah and the universal teachings of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

At AAGS, we aim to provide opportunities that will enable pupils to think, reflect and respond to the spiritual dimensions of life for themselves.

Our main aims are to:

• Inculcate in our pupils the active consciousness of responsibility to Allah and His Messenger (peace be upon him)
• Give pupils the opportunity to explore values and beliefs and the way in which they affect peoples’ lives.
• Provide pupils with the opportunity for self-reflection.
• Give pupils the opportunity to understand human feelings and emotions, the way they affect people and how an understanding of them can be helpful.
• Encourage pupils to relate their learning to a wider frame of reference - for example, asking ‘why?’, ‘how?’ and ‘where?’ as well as ‘what?’.
• Help pupils on their path of achieving wide spiritual literacy.

Moral Development

Moral development is considered as personal development relating to human behaviour, especially the distinction between good and bad or right and wrong. In order to develop a pupil’s moral awareness at AAGS we aim to:

• Provide a clear moral code as a basis for behavior, which is promoted consistently through all aspects of the school.
• Promote measures to prevent discrimination on the basis of race, religion, age and other criteria.
• Encourage pupils to take responsibility for their actions; for example, respect for property, care of the environment, and developing codes of behaviour.
• Provide models of moral virtue through literature, humanities, sciences, arts, external speakers.

Social Development

Personal development in this respect is concerned with living in a community rather than alone. In order to develop a pupil’s social awareness at AAGS, we aim to:

• Foster a sense of community, with common, inclusive values, which ensure that everyone, irrespective of ethnicity, nationality, gender, ability, sexual orientation and religion can flourish.
• Help pupils develop personal qualities, which are valued in society, for example, thoughtfulness, honesty, respect for difference, moral principles, independence, interdependence, self-respect.
• Provide a conceptual and linguistic framework within which to understand and debate social issues.
• Work together co-operatively.
Cultural Development

Cultural development is concerned with the myriad of inherited ideas, beliefs, values and knowledge which provide a solid foundation for social acceptance. AAGS aims to provide our pupils with the opportunity to:

- Recognise the value and richness of cultural diversity in Britain, and how these influence individuals and society.
- Develop an understanding of Britain's local, national, European, Commonwealth and global dimensions.
- Provide opportunities for pupils to explore their own cultural assumptions and values.
- Present accounts of the attitudes, values and traditions of diverse cultures.
- Extend pupils’ knowledge and use of cultural imagery and language.
- Recognizing and nurturing particular gifts and talents where possible.
- Provide opportunities for pupils to participate in literature, art and other cultural events, encouraging pupils to reflect on their significance.

SMSC in the Curriculum

All curriculum areas make a contribution towards a child's/pupil’s spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and opportunities for this will be planned in each area of the curriculum. Below are some examples of how SMSC development has been integrated into the curriculum.

**English** makes a major contribution to pupils’ SMSC development through:

- Developing confidence and expertise in language, which is an important aspect of individual and social identity;
- Enabling pupils to understand and engage with the feelings and values embodied in poetry, fiction, drama, film and television;
- Developing pupils’ awareness of moral and social issues in fiction, journalism, magazines, radio, television and film;
- Helping pupils to understand how language changes over time, the influences on spoken and written language and social attitudes to the use of language;
- Through written and discussion work on points of view and arguments pupils will reflect on a number of social and moral issues.
- Studying literature and art from different cultures supported by visits from writers and artists and participating in workshops.

**Mathematics** can provide a contribution to pupils’ SMSC by:

- Supporting whole school policy on issues such as discipline and behaviour.
- Enabling pupils to acknowledge the important contribution made to mathematics by non-western cultures.

**Science** provides opportunities for pupils’ SMSC development through examples such as:

- Encouraging pupils to reflect on the wonder of the natural world;
- Awareness of the ways that science and technology can affect society and the environment.
- Consideration of the moral dilemmas that can result in scientific developments.
- Showing respect for differing opinions, on creation for example.
- Co-operation in practical activity.
- Raising awareness that scientific developments are the product of many different
cultures.

**ICT** can contribute to SMSC development by:
- Making clear the guidelines about the ethical use of the internet and other forms of communications technology.
- Establishing boundaries in society by considering what is acceptable.
- Raising pupils’ awareness through the use of ICT.

**History** makes a contribution to SMSC by:
- Looking at the establishment of multi-cultural Britain.
- Enabling pupils to reflect on ethical issues such as slavery and Imperialism.
- Showing an awareness of the moral implications of the actions of historical figures.
- Taking pupils on relevant trips develop moral and social consciousness and empathy skills.

**Geography** contributes to SMSC where:
- Opportunities for reflection on the earth’s origins, future and diversity are given.
- Reflection on the fair distribution of the earth’s resources.
- Studies of people and places give pupils the chance to reflect on the social and cultural characteristics of society.

**Modern Foreign Languages (Arabic/French)** contributes to SMSC through:
- Pupils may gain insights into the way of life, cultural traditions, moral and social developments of other people in lesson time and through relevant trips (exchanges where possible).
- Pupil’s social skills are developed through group activities and communication exercises.
- Listening skills are improved through oral/aural work.
- Boosting knowledge and understanding of other cultures.

**Religious Education** makes a distinctive and substantial contribution to the delivery of SMSC:
- Learn about beliefs, values, and the concept of spirituality.
- Reflect on the significance of religious teaching in their own lives.
- Develop respect for the right of others to hold beliefs different from their own.
- Show an understanding of the influence of religion on society.
- Appreciation and understanding of different cultures, religions and traditions.

**Art** may contribute to SMSC by:
- Giving pupils the chance to reflect on nature, their environment and surroundings.
- Opportunities to study artists with a spiritual or religious theme.
- Examining pieces of art based on ethical/moral concerns raised by artists i.e.: War/racism/violence.
- Giving pupils the opportunity to reflect on thought provoking questions.

**Physical Education** – Pupils’ SMSC development is actively promoted through PE by:
- Individual activities that provide the opportunity for self-reflection, awareness and challenge i.e aerobics, movement.
- Activities involving co-operation, teamwork, competition, rules, self-discipline and fair play i.e team games.
- Creating links where possible with other schools to allow children to develop a
healthy sense of competition.
• Providing a range of sports and activities to allow pupils to explore their likes and dislikes as well as their own boundaries. Being accepting of other’s strengths and limitations.
• Providing an excellent basis for learning about others and accommodating other’s styles and skills.

Collective Worship

AAGS is a Muslim faith school, and as such, the promotion and the understanding of Islam and its values is a key part of Collective Worship. In Collective Worship, children will be given the opportunity to:

• Be part of a community
• Think about the needs of others
• Explore and share beliefs

Links with the wider community

In order to develop pupils’ SMSC we believe that it is extremely important to have close links with the local and global communities. We play an important role in promoting shared values and encouraging our pupils to actively engage with other people in the community to understand what common ground there is. In order to help all our pupils grow in SMSC and build close relationships with the community we:

• Welcome visitors to AAGS; local business owners, artists, sportsmen and women.
• Visits to places of worship of other faiths will be arranged to support the understanding of different cultures.
• Encourage the development of a strong home-school relationship which is regarded as very important, enabling parents and teachers to work in an effective partnership to support pupils.
• Teach pupils to appreciate and take responsibility for their local environment.
• Liaise with local organisations and schools with regards to the curriculum e.g. community projects, intergenerational work, sports, arts workshops, foreign language trips, creative arts.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Provision for SMSC is monitored and reviewed on a regular basis. This is achieved by:
• Monitoring of teaching and learning and work scrutiny by senior management
• PSHE topic plans
• Where possible finding ways to link in SMSC directly into schemes of work and on lesson plans but also into extra curricular provisions
• Through the outcome of the Tahdhib al-Akhlaq Initiative activities/projects
• Discussions at staff and parents’ meetings
• Getting student feedback about their interests and evaluate the success of different activities.

It is important to note that other policies directly influence, support and promote SMSC. E.g. our School Behaviour and Equal opportunities Policies and these form an integral part
of daily classroom practice.

Policy developed by: I Gajaria
Policy developed in: October 2011
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