



SMSC at Russells Hall



What We Do at Russells Hall

At Russells Hall, our provision for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development is embedded in every aspect of school life. SMSC is not delivered as a stand-alone initiative, but is woven through our curriculum, enrichment programme, assemblies, pastoral systems and daily interactions.

Our twelve core values of respect, understanding, success, sincerity, excellence, love, loyalty, strength, hope, ambition, learning and leadership underpin everything we do and provide a shared language through which children develop as responsible, thoughtful and compassionate members of society.

We are committed to ensuring that every child not only achieves academically but also develops the character, resilience and understanding required to thrive in modern Britain. We recognise that some children have limited experiences beyond their immediate locality, therefore we deliberately plan opportunities that widen horizons, build cultural capital and promote aspiration. Through our values-led approach, we encourage children to develop ambition for their future, strength in overcoming challenges, and hope for what they can achieve.

Spiritual Development

Spiritual development at Russells Hall focuses on reflection, curiosity and developing a sense of identity and belonging. We provide structured and unstructured opportunities for children to explore their own beliefs, values and emotions while developing respect, understanding and appreciation for those of others.

Through assemblies, PSHE, RSE and curriculum subjects such as RE and English, children are encouraged to ask questions, reflect deeply and engage in meaningful discussion. They are taught to appreciate difference and to explore big ideas in a safe and balanced environment. Discussion and debate are encouraged, enabling children to articulate their thoughts clearly, respectfully and with sincerity.

Our curriculum promotes awe and wonder through literature, music, art, history, geography and engagement with the natural world. Children are exposed to experiences that broaden their understanding of life beyond Russells Hall, including visits to places of worship, participation in cultural events and engagement with visitors from a range of professional and community backgrounds. These experiences inspire hope, nurture curiosity and support a lifelong love of learning.

Spiritual development is also supported through our nurturing ethos. Children are explicitly taught emotional literacy and self-regulation strategies. They understand that they have the right to feel safe and that they can talk to a trusted adult about any concern. Reflection time in class, circle time and learning mentor support further strengthen children's ability to understand themselves and others. Through positive relationships built on love, respect and understanding, children develop confidence in who they are and who they aspire to become.

Moral Development

Moral development at Russells Hall is centred on helping children distinguish right from wrong, understand consequences and take responsibility for their actions.

Through our behaviour systems, restorative conversations and explicit teaching of our school values, children learn about fairness, justice and accountability. They understand that respect, sincerity and loyalty help to build positive relationships and strong communities, and that positive choices contribute to a respectful and safe environment for all.

Fundamental British Values are promoted consistently across school life. Children learn about democracy through pupil leadership opportunities and class discussions. They understand the rule of law through clear school expectations and consistent application of behaviour policies. Individual liberty is explored through discussions about rights and responsibilities, whilst mutual respect and tolerance are embedded in our daily interactions and assembly themes. Children are given opportunities to explore moral dilemmas in age-appropriate ways through PSHE, History and English. They are encouraged to justify their viewpoints using evidence and to listen carefully to alternative perspectives. This develops moral reasoning while encouraging understanding, empathy and thoughtful decision-making.

Our safeguarding culture also contributes strongly to moral development. Children know how to keep themselves and others safe, including online. They understand that they are responsible for seeking help when needed and that there are clear procedures in place to support them. They learn that demonstrating strength includes making safe choices, standing up for what is right and showing courage when faced with challenges.

Social Development

Social development is a strength of Russells Hall and is visible across the school. We are intentional in developing children's ability to collaborate, communicate effectively and contribute positively to society.

Children participate in a wide range of enrichment opportunities including sports clubs, arts activities, competitions and leadership roles. All clubs are accessible to every child without charge, ensuring equitable participation. Through these opportunities, children develop teamwork, resilience, leadership, strength and a commitment to excellence.

Pupil voice is central to our practice. Through Pupil Parliament and other leadership roles, children are able to influence aspects of school life. They learn to represent others, debate respectfully and contribute to decision making. This fosters confidence, responsibility and a strong sense of leadership and civic engagement.

Our lunchtime provision is also deliberately structured to promote social development. Dining arrangements encourage conversation and respectful interaction. Staff model high expectations for manners and behaviour, supporting children to develop social confidence, independence and mutual respect.

We work with families and the wider community to strengthen social understanding. Events such as fundraising initiatives, community partnerships and celebration assemblies reinforce the importance of contributing positively to society. Children learn the importance of loyalty to their community, demonstrating love and care for others and recognising the value of working together towards shared goals. They understand that they are part of a school community, a local community and a wider national and global society.

Cultural Development

Cultural development at Russells Hall is carefully planned and sequenced. We recognise that exposure to a broad range of experiences is essential in preparing children for future success. Our curriculum ensures that children learn about diverse cultures, traditions and beliefs. Through RE, PSHE, History, Geography and language learning, children develop understanding and appreciation of both local heritage and the wider world. They explore Britain's past and its influence on modern society, whilst also learning about other countries, cultures and global issues.

Children visit local historical sites and places of worship and engage with organisations that enrich their understanding of the Black Country's heritage. They also learn a modern foreign language, broadening their horizons, promoting a love of learning and challenging potential barriers to cultural understanding.

Celebration of events such as Black History Month, Remembrance Day, Harvest, Autism Awareness Month and other key cultural and religious festivals ensures children appreciate diversity and recognise the value of different perspectives. These opportunities reinforce the values of respect, understanding and love, while helping children develop empathy and appreciation for others.

Our curriculum is designed to close gaps in cultural experience. Trips, themed days, visiting theatre groups and community events ensure that children encounter experiences beyond their immediate environment. Cultural capital permeates everything we do and acts as a golden thread running through both curriculum subjects and wider school life. These experiences nurture children's ambition, raise aspirations and encourage them to pursue excellence in all that they do.

The Impact of SMSC at Russells Hall

As a result of our strong SMSC provision and values-driven culture, children at Russells Hall demonstrate respect, understanding and positive attitudes to learning. They are reflective, considerate and increasingly articulate about their views, beliefs and values.

Children understand that their voices matter and are empowered to demonstrate leadership within school life. They are confident in discussing different viewpoints while remaining respectful and sincere. They know how to keep themselves safe, where to seek help and how to support others. They demonstrate pride, loyalty and a strong sense of belonging to their school and community.

SMSC at Russells Hall is integral to our vision. Through a carefully planned curriculum, strong pastoral support and rich enrichment opportunities, we ensure that every child leaves us not only academically prepared but socially responsible, morally grounded, spiritually reflective and culturally aware. They leave Russells Hall equipped with the strength, hope, ambition and commitment to learning that will enable them to achieve future success and make a positive contribution to society.

