



## **MOWDEN HALL SCHOOL**

### **PERSONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH & ECONOMIC EDUCATION (PSHEE) and SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL & CULTURAL (SMSC) POLICY**

**This policy is applicable to all pupils, including those in EYFS.**

#### **Aims of Mowden Hall School with regard to PSHEE:**

A consideration for others, and an understanding of the world around us (its different religions and cultures) is central to all that we do at Mowden Hall. As well as this, it has always been the case that children have been encouraged to express their opinions, and to know that their thoughts and feelings will be heard and respected. Our aim is that our children should become confident young people, and our belief is that this can only come from creating a happy environment and happy children. Pupils are given opportunities, responsibilities and experiences to help them prepare for later life. The School promotes spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the School. Our last ISI inspection found Mowden Hall was strong in this area.

#### **Ethos**

Mowden's aim is to provide a first class education, in which every child is given the opportunity to achieve his or her potential within a broad range of academic, cultural and sporting pursuits. Above all, we believe that our high ideals, excellent pastoral care and traditional family values help Mowdenians to grow up happily and honourably, with self-respect, confidence and a strong sense of responsibility and consideration for others and the wider community.

Mowden Hall Pre-Prep is committed to maintaining our reputation as a caring, happy and creative school wherein each child is valued and encouraged to maximise all opportunities on offer.

We aim to do this by:

- providing a safe, secure environment;
- developing a sense of community in which staff and children respect one another and self-discipline and responsibility are important;
- creating, through example, an atmosphere where, not only excellence is valued but also commitment and effort;
- working to give children a love of learning and an enquiring mind;
- to promote pupil's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development throughout their school life.
- constantly evaluating what we do.
- helping children to understand that they have a part to play in the community and the wider environment including their impact upon it.
- our goal is to prepare children for the next stage in their education and for a successful and happy life in the wider world.

## **Christianity**

In a general sense Mowden Hall could be described as a Church of England school. Christian values are at the heart of what we believe in, and how we aim to live our lives. Children are taught Bible stories, and follow a Christian calendar throughout the year (Christmas, Easter, etc.). Mowden Hall does not discriminate against any cultures, religious beliefs or views. We actively promote a culture of respect and tolerance amongst both staff and pupils.

## **Assemblies**

Assemblies are central to our week and in addition to whole school assemblies, we have Prep School and Pre-Prep separate assemblies as well as congregating in our own nearby church. Assemblies begin by listening to some music played by a pupil, using his or her instrument of choice, and then there is a presentation by a member of staff. This can take the form of a short talk, with a moral point or through some role play situations enacted by pupils. Often, an outside visitor may be invited to come and talk to the children about a charity or other current points of interest in the School. There is always a hymn and some prayers, with one of the prayers read by a child and one by the Head or senior staff member taking the assembly. On most days, children play in a musical group to accompany the hymn that the School sings. The hymn number is always announced by a younger child. In the Pre-Prep assemblies are based on either religious, general knowledge or PSHEE themes. The PSHEE assemblies are based on different values such as kindness, courage, friendship or diversity. We cover Fundamental British Values in our assemblies.

## **School Chaplain**

Mowden Hall is fortunate to be able to turn to Miss Linda Hunter, who is our experienced and highly respected School Chaplain. She often leads the School in prayer and advice in our own church services at St James' Church, Newton and at our assemblies in the school theatre and in the Pre-Prep. She makes herself available to mentor both pupils and staff when necessary on matters of a personal or morally supportive nature.

## **Outside Speakers**

The School invites outside agencies to visit and give talks to different groups within the School on a variety of important issues. These may be addressed to different age groups, to staff and to parents. Recent talks have included ones on Mental Health, by Dick Moore, and "Teenagers Translated" by Janey Downshire. Talks on substance abuse and internet safety are given by specialists each year, equally aimed at pupils, staff and parents.

## **Religious Studies**

Religious Studies is followed throughout the School and within each year group, there is time spent studying Bible stories from the Old and New Testaments, World Religions and Contemporary Issues. The lives of significant personalities from the recent past are studied as well as organisations that have helped promote well-being in the World and world peace. Frequent educational visits are made to places of religious interest in our area, such as churches, cathedrals, temples and synagogues.

## **Form Tutor Time and PSHEE Scheme of Work**

Both form time and PSHEE schemes of work offer class teachers the opportunity to raise issues that relate specifically to their children, and the circumstances in which they find themselves. This can be as focused and obvious as circle time, or as subtle as reading a story that has in it a message that the teacher wants to convey. This is a crucial time for building up trust and positive relationships between teachers and pupils. In such a context, sensitive topics such as bullying, personal relationships and personal development can best be discussed avoiding

prejudice-based language. We actively promote Fundamental British Values such as how our democratic process works, that the rule of the law is there to protect citizens and how our Police and Armed Forces are there to protect us. (This precludes the promotion of partisan views.)

### **PSHEE main areas of study**

The school offers age appropriate guidance on:

- Drug education
- Careers education
- Financial and Economic education
- Sex and relationship education
- The importance of physical activity and a diet for healthy lifestyle
- Citizenship
- Years 7 & 8 careers advice

This is covered in a variety of methods including Assemblies, Science, PSHEE, outside visitors and form tutor time.

### **Topic studies**

Through History, Geography and PSHEE topic studies, the children can learn about lives that are very different from their own, and more about the world, both past and present. They will learn about Economic education and respect for other people, with particular regard to protected characteristics.

### **Extra-curricular Curriculum**

We offer a wide range of after school activities including an opportunity for older children to stay and complete their Prep.

### **Internet Safety**

Internet Safety is taught during computing lessons and as part of PSHEE lessons. The older children are also encouraged to prepare and present their own opinions on internet safety.

### **Safeguarding**

Pupils are taught an awareness of safeguarding issues and are given guidance on who to. They are reminded that Mowden Hall is a 'SHARING' school and they may speak with the Headmaster or staff member at any time without feeling it is wrong to do so. Miss Linda Hunter is 'the friend of Mowden Hall' and 'listener' for our pupils.

## **SMSC Development**

Mowden Hall School is mindful of its responsibility to actively promote the Fundamental British Values (FBV) of:

- **Democracy,**
- **The rule of law,**
- **Individual liberty,**
- **Mutual respect**
- **Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.**

By so doing, Mowden Hall believes that the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils is catered for, alongside ensuring that pupils are enabled to:

### **Develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence:**

- Mowden Hall celebrates the achievements of all our children, individually and as part of a team.
- Mowden Hall adults are proud to act as role-models for our children and to encourage them to be the best that they can be.
- Mowden Hall provides many opportunities for children to develop these qualities. Examples include:
  - Pupil involvement in Assemblies
  - Concerts/Solos in Assembly
  - Year group plays
  - Reading match reports
  - Delivering the reading during our Church services
  - Reading the prayer
  - In the Prep School every child has the opportunity to represent Mowden Hall in a sports team
  - Each year group, from Year 1 upwards, participates in a field weekend. This allows children to benefit from participation in outdoor activities
- Achievements outside the classroom/ school are also celebrated. Presentations for achievements outside of school are often made in Assembly.

### **Distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England:**

- Mowden Hall children are supported as they learn to make this important distinction, and are encouraged to understand that living in England comes with the responsibility to abide by the law.

**Accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative and understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in Stocksfield/ Northumberland and to society more widely:**

- Mowden Hall supports this principle by promoting and celebrating the value of community service, such as Student Council, duties and positions of responsibility.
- Mowden Hall actively promotes participation in annual charity events, such as the NECCR.
- Mowden Hall supports two charities each year, one that is local to the area and one that is further afield.
- Mowden Hall hosts a number of sporting competitions and academic workshops that benefit children in the local area.
- The wider community are regularly invited to attend services at St. James' Church, Newton, which is owned by the Cothill Educational Trust.

**Acquire a broad general knowledge of, and respect for, public institutions and services in England:**

- Mowden Hall children experience, through our PSHEE curriculum and visiting speakers, the roles and responsibilities of other professions related to public institutions such as health care professionals, emergency service professionals and the Police.

**Demonstrate tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling pupils to acquire an appreciation of, and respect for, their own and other cultures:**

- Mowden Hall is a diverse community which celebrates children from every race, colour and creed and every combination of the same.
- Our PSHEE programme supports this valued part of our ethos.
- Mowden Hall welcomes international pupils.
- In recent years, Mowden Hall has cultivated a link with The Early Bird Education Centre in Kenya. Pupils have raised money to improve both the fabric and fixtures of a local school, and pupils from both schools have become 'pen pals'.
- All pupils in Year 7 spend a term at Sauveterre, which is part of the Cothill Educational Trust. This opportunity allows the pupil to fully immerse themselves in a different culture and language.

**Develop and show respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic process, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England:**

- Democracy is alive and well at Mowden Hall and our children experience it in an age appropriate fashion when voting for the School Committee, or School Council in the Pre-Prep.
- Through our PSHEE programme, Mowden Hall children gain an understanding of the role of the Police, Armed Forces and the emergency services.
- Tolerance of all faiths and faiths different from one's own, forms the bedrock of our RS curriculum.
- Where appropriate 'mock' votes take place to allow pupils to understand the democratic process.
- Pupils in Year 8 all take part in a Debating Club, allowing them the opportunity to understand differing points of view and vote on the outcome of a debate.

**In addition, Mowden Hall aims for all our children to:**

- Show respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010.

Mowden Hall is a community of children and adults from different races, colours and creeds and combinations of the same. We believe that we are stronger as a result of our diversity, which makes Mowden Hall a very special place to be. We take very seriously our responsibility to ensure that every member of our community is valued in an atmosphere of mutual respect and tolerance, and we are proud of the ways in which we understand and celebrate our differences. With the Prevent strategy in mind, Mowden Hall actively promotes Fundamental British Values through the curriculum, assemblies and other activities, as well as through the expected behaviour of pupils and staff. They are embedded in the ethos of the school.

Additionally, our teaching must not discriminate against pupils contrary to the **Equality Act 2010**, that is, on the basis of the protected characteristics. The protected characteristics are listed as follows:

**PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS - Equality Act 2010**

- age,
- disability,
- gender reassignment,
- marriage and civil partnership,
- pregnancy and maternity,
- race,
- religion and belief,
- sex,
- sexual orientation.

**Mowden Hall's curriculum is designed to:**

- enable all members of our community to develop their self-knowledge,
- raise self-esteem and self-confidence through PRAs (Personal Records of Achievement).
- enable pupils to distinguish between right and wrong, and to accept responsibility for their own behaviour, as detailed in the Behaviour Policy.
- promote 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 and foster respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic process in England.
- effectively prepare our pupils for British life by developing a range of character attributes that underpin success in the community.

## **ACTIVE PROMOTION OF VALUES AND PRINCIPLES**

Mowden Hall understands its responsibility to “actively promote” both:

### **Fundamental British Values**

- Democracy
- Rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

And the following principles must be actively promoted:

- enable pupils to develop their self-confidence, self-knowledge and self-worth
- 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 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 2010 Act
- encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic process, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England

## **THE FUNDAMENTAL BRITISH VALUES**

### **The Principles**

- To achieve this at Mowden Hall, we strive to promote the following concepts.

### **Democracy**

- All children participate in the democratic process of voting for a member of our community to represent the class at School Committee.
- The principle of Democracy is also explored in an age appropriate fashion in History and RS lessons across the school, as well as in Assemblies.
- Decisions are made by majority voting which reflects accurately one of the corner stones of British culture.

### **The rule of law**

- All our children are encouraged to explore and to devise laws which govern their behaviour both within the classroom and also in the wider community.
- Children are encouraged to explore the values and expectations behind the laws which govern and protect the UK and which are reflected in the Mowden Hall Code of Conduct.
- Our PSHEE curriculum covers a variety of aspects including rights & responsibilities, drugs awareness and how to keep yourself safe.
- All year groups participate in a range of transition activities that develop their life skills, awareness of dangers within society and keeping themselves safe, prior to moving on to senior school, or moving from Pre-Prep to Prep School.

### **Individual liberty**

- All our children are treated as individuals at Mowden Hall, and are encouraged to acknowledge and exercise their rights and freedoms as well as those of others.
- Mowden Hall strives to provide an environment in which all members of our community can voice their opinions in a safe environment and one in which they can enjoy respect.
- Mowden Hall has robust Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policies, thus supporting and actively promoting the concept of individual liberty, thereby ensuring that all members of our community are able to develop their abilities and appreciate the importance of informed decisions and the consequences of their actions.

### **Mutual respect**

- Mowden Hall strives to ensure that all members of our community appreciate the effect that their actions may have on themselves and on others. To this end, mutual respect features strongly in our school aims and in our ethos.
- Our vision for every member of our community is that they will be the best that they can be. This aim is supported by everything that we do through the curriculum, extra-curricular activities and through enrichment events, and the ways in which we treat each other.
- Discriminatory or extremist opinions or behaviours are challenged as a matter of routine.

### **Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs**

- All members of our community benefit from the richness which different faiths, colours, races and creeds bring to the school, thereby developing a better understanding of how to take their place in a culturally diverse society in the United Kingdom.
- The RS, PSHEE and the Assembly themes all serve to support this aim and contribute positively to the SMSC experience our children enjoy.



**In approaching the subject of Fundamental British Values, Mowden Hall is mindful of guidance issued by the DfE which includes:**

- 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 well-being and safety;
- An understanding that there is a separation of power between the executive and the judiciary, and that while some public bodies such as the police and the army can be held to account through Parliament, others such as the courts maintain independence;
- 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 combatting discrimination.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

Mowden Hall discourages the promotion of partisan political views in the teaching of any subject, and will take such steps as are reasonably practicable to ensure that where political issues are brought to the attention of pupils they are offered a balanced presentation of opposing views, while they are in attendance at the School or taking part in extra-curricular activities which are provided or organised by or on behalf of the School or in the promotion at the School, including through the distribution of promotional material, of extra-curricular activities taking place at the School or elsewhere.

Mowden Hall understands it has the legal responsibility to comply with the regulatory requirements, and acknowledges its duty to ensure the effective monitoring and evaluation of policies and procedures takes place in a timely and regular manner.

**Mowden Hall's Role in the Prevention of Political Indoctrination**

'Prevent duty' with regard to radicalization and extremism, and its reporting:

- The School must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to prevent members of staff and pupils from being drawn into terrorism.
- Extremism is vocal or active opposition to fundamental British Values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.
- Schools can build pupils' resilience to radicalisation by providing a safe environment for debating controversial issues and helping them understand how they can influence and participate in decision making.
- Indicators of radicalisation may include:
  - a. disclosures by pupils of their exposure to the extremist actions.
  - b. graffiti symbols, writing or art work promoting extremist messages or images.
  - c. pupils accessing extremist material online, including through social media.
  - d. parental reports of changes in behaviour.
  - e. pupils voicing opinions drawn from extremist ideologies and narratives.

- f. use of extremist or 'hate' terms to exclude others or incite violence.
- g. intolerance of difference, whether secular or religious or, in line with the school's equal opportunities policy.
- h. attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others.
- i. anti-Western or anti-British views.

We believe that Mowden Hall is, and must always be, a safe space in which children and young people can understand and discuss sensitive topics, including terrorism and the extremist ideas that are part of the terrorist ideology and learn how to challenge these ideas. Mowden Hall works hard to ensure that our pupils are taught in a way that is consistent with the law and British values, and which challenges discriminatory and extremist opinions or behaviours as a matter of course.

Please refer also to the school's Curriculum policy, Safeguarding policy, and E-safety policy.