

## SMSC at On Track Education

At On Track Education Northampton, the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of our pupils is at the heart of everything we do. Our ethos is rooted in the belief that education should nurture the whole child, equipping them not just with academic skills, but with the values, confidence and cultural capital they need to succeed in life and contribute positively to society.

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### Our SMSC Aims

We are committed to actively promoting all four strands of SMSC, which underpin everything we do.

#### Spiritual Development

- We encourage pupils to develop self-knowledge, self-esteem, resilience and creativity.
- Pupils are given time to reflect on their own beliefs, feelings and experiences through mentoring, creative subjects, and wellbeing sessions.
- We foster curiosity and a sense of wonder through immersive WOW Days, visits, and opportunities to experience the wider world.
  - Pupils are supported to express themselves confidently, developing their individuality and imagination.

*“Pupils’ SMSC development is closely aligned to the overall ethos and values of the school. The school aims to equip pupils with the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life.”*

— On Track Education SMSC Policy

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#### Moral Development

- We teach pupils to distinguish right from wrong, understand consequences, and make positive choices.
- Behaviour expectations are consistent and clear, with opportunities to reflect on decisions and learn from mistakes.
  - Pupils are supported to develop empathy, compassion and fairness through debate, ethical discussions, and restorative approaches.
- We ensure pupils understand the laws of the UK and how they apply in everyday life, promoting respect for the rule of law.

### Social Development

- Pupils are encouraged to take responsibility, work cooperatively, and contribute to their school and local community.
- Every pupil has a voice and is involved in decision-making through student councils, class discussions, and feedback forums.
- Group activities, leadership roles and enterprise projects develop teamwork, communication, and problem-solving skills.
- Through school trips, community visits and workplace experiences, pupils learn how to engage positively with the wider world.

*“Pupils were proud to be part of On Track Education and were so enthusiastic to share and explain your Thrive Values, which are fully embedded into school life... ‘This school is brilliant and the teachers are brilliant. They treat us like humans, and they really care about us.’”*

— National SMSC Quality Mark Verification Report, November 2023

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### Cultural Development

- We celebrate diversity and promote respect for different faiths, cultures, and beliefs.
- Pupils take part in cultural days, role-play, art, music, and food experiences from around the world.
- Our curriculum introduces pupils to the best of human creativity and achievement, developing cultural capital and broadening horizons.
- Displays, wall wraps of local history, and our creative spaces (Music Studio, Construction Room, Engineering Room and more) showcase and celebrate pupils’ work and achievements.

*“Thank you for sharing your wonderful learning environment with me, it is immersive, celebratory and gives all pupils the tools to succeed.”*

— National SMSC Quality Mark Verification Report, November 2023

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## Our Gold Standard in SMSC

In November 2023, On Track Education Northampton was proud to be awarded the **Gold level of the National SMSC Quality Mark**. This external recognition highlights the outstanding SMSC provision embedded throughout our curriculum and school culture.



*“I congratulate On Track Education on the Gold standard of SMSC development that is offered to their pupils.”*

— National SMSC Quality Mark Verification Report, November 2023

## What Ofsted Say About Us

Ofsted have recognised the positive culture and values-driven ethos that underpin life at On Track Education. Their findings reflect the same commitment to SMSC development seen in our daily practice:

*“Pupils build trusting relationships with staff. They feel safe and know staff care about them. This helps pupils to engage well with learning and begin to see education as a positive experience.”*

— Ofsted Inspection Report

*“Leaders create an environment where pupils are respected, valued and nurtured. They place pupils’ personal development at the centre of the school’s work.”*

— Ofsted Inspection Report

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## Our Commitment

SMSC is not an add-on, it is a golden thread running through every part of our provision.

Under strong leadership, we ensure that pupils are nurtured, challenged, and celebrated as individuals. We believe this approach enables our young people to thrive at school, in their communities, and in life beyond On Track.

