Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural (SMSC) Development in Geography

SPIRITUAL – The study of Geography is promoting a sense of wonder and fascination with the physical and human world. An understanding of scale is an important aspect of Geography and how small changes in climate can have far reaching consequences. Understanding that all life is linked together and create the processes that make Earth the only known inhabited planet. Pupils reflect on the long and short term impacts noting the rights and wrongs linking into the value of justice. The value of stewardship is covered looking at reduce, reuse and recycle.

MORAL – Moral issues are a vital part of many of the topics covered in Geography. We look at how the development of cites have put pressure on wildlife and the rural-urban fringe. At GCSE we cover the issues of an ever increasing population and the different approaches taken by countries to tackle the problem. Examples include the one child policy in China, the education of women in India and the aging population in the UK. We explore issues of poverty and the development of shanty towns and the issue of food miles and the moral dilemma of importing food and the consequences of it on global warming.

SOCIAL – Social issues are common themes within Geography. At KS3 we study the causes of migration and tackle the issue of immigration in the UK and pupils look at the views of asylum seekers and refuges to develop compassion. Year 8 complete a project on global warming with an emphasis on how they can make a difference by making small changes to their lifestyles. At GCSE social impacts are studied in detail from natural disasters to meeting the increasing demand for water. Pupils also develop leadership and teamwork both in the classroom and on field work visits.

CULTURAL – Understanding different cultures is an important part of Geography. We look at how different cultures and beliefs can impact on issues such as birth control. Students look at the development of settlement within the United Kingdom and the importance of leisure and tourism and how shifts in culture have impacted on tourism. At GCSE pupils look at different places such as Brazil, India and China and are introduced to their customs and traditions allowing pupils to develop their humility and an understanding of the world as a global community.

Specific examples of Spiritual, Moral Social and Cultural Develop in Geography include:

- Studying the needs of a settlement and deciding on the best location
- Analysing the effectiveness of the one child policy in China, giving their views and suggesting alternative methods to combat the issue of increasing populations.
- Using case studies of natural disasters to understand the social and cultural impacts
- The moral issue of fair trade and food miles putting profit before others and the environment.