Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Development (SMSC) in Business Studies

Spiritual

Pupils explore discrimination within the workplace, particularly the areas covered by the Equality Act and its use in business through the discussion of employment laws. We make reference to case studies and cases of discrimination in the news.

Students also explore their own feelings and reflect upon topics such as ethics. Students are encouraged to explore these concepts and challenge the actions that businesses do take or should take. This also helps to develop students' empathy and compassion skills and allows them to take into consideration other people aims, values, principles and beliefs.

Students are also encouraged to reflect on their experiences, for example, through producing CVs.

Moral

Pupils are required to evaluate, comment upon and discuss various moral issues relating to business practices. They will do this through the gathering of information and studying case studies. Students are given the opportunity to consider a variety of information relating to real life business scenarios in order to make valid judgments. Students learn about ethics in business and investigate why some business adopt ethical practices while others do not.

Students spend a large proportion of the course investigating the impact of a business' action upon society and the local community in which they operate. For example, students consider the political, social, environmental and technological issues arising as a result of a business decision. Students also draw upon their own knowledge to distinguish between what is right and wrong. An example of this is exploring the impact of globalisation. Debate encourages a balanced understanding towards what is right for businesses in contrast to the wider community/world.

Social

Pupils work collaboratively on a range of projects, particularly during the 10X Challenge where they have to work together to develop as a small business and develop product ideas and marketing strategies. Pupils cooperate with team members during the design and production of products.

Throughout the GCSE, students are encouraged to develop their team working skills through collaborative work and research. Pupils engage with the 'British values' of democracy, the rule of law, liberty, respect and tolerance.

Cultural

Different cultures have different ways of working and different beliefs that they need to follow. Businesses can be multinational and students learn about how these are considered when trading with businesses in different cultural backgrounds.

Students look at the media and advertising and how different beliefs can impact on the ways products are advertised and indeed what products can be advertised.

Students discover changes within society and how they may impact on businesses. For example, pupils study the impact of changes in the economy on businesses. Pupils explore demographics when learning about identifying market segments.