

SMSC Newsletter

Welcome to our first Newsletter of 2017. Whether you subscribe to Gridmaker or have an ongoing trial, we hope that you will find something within this newsletter that is useful or inspiring. We make it our business to know as much about SMSC, PSHE and British Values as possible and so over the coming months, there will be tips on how to make the most of Gridmaker, news articles that we found interesting and highlighted events which may be discussed in school.

This month we are looking at Geography and our Newsletter [Grid](#) has examples of SMSC, British Values, and PSHE from Year 1 to Year 13. Click 'Save to PDF' on the Grid to see the full report.



We'll be looking at a different subject every month so if you have any examples of SMSC in other subjects we'd love to hear from you.

Did you know?

Gridmaker comes complete with Grids for SMSC, British Values, PSHE and Citizenship (for Secondary schools), however, did you know that we can make a custom Grid for your school to cover any criteria you may want to track such as School Values - for further details, please contact support@opeus.org

In the News

Things often happen in the news that coincide with current topics of learning. Here is a couple of news articles which may be relevant to your current curriculum:

Dippy the Dinosaur is being prepared for a tour of the UK from his home at the British Museum - the tour begins in Dorset February 2018 - here are the details:

<http://www.nhm.ac.uk/visit/exhibitions/dippy-the-dinosaurs-going-to-move.html>

Sticking with a geographical theme, here's an article about the countries where people are banned from entering the United States

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/761087/Donald-Trump-immigration-ban-what-seven-countries-reasons-US-banning-Muslim-travellers>

Also ...

This interesting article on the changing face of Chinese Culture could be useful.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-4111862/Lessons-respect-Chinas-Confucius-kindergartens.html>

This thought provoking article appeared in the Guardian on 4th January which may be of interest.

<https://www.theguardian.com/teacher-network/2017/jan/04/sport-skills-and-storytelling-how-charity-begins-at-school>

SMSC - more important than ever

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development has always been the backbone of everything that is taught in school. The World has changed so much and so has the way we teach our children and yet, SMSC is still a vital element of Education in this Country and overseas.

Most lessons and activities have an SMSC secret ingredient - some are visible in displays on the walls of the school, the way pupils treat each other and how they interact with staff, however, most is unseen and hard to pin down.

Somewhere between planning and execution, the elements of SMSC and British Values covered in an activity in school should be

monitored for several good reasons:

- **It helps to plan a broad and balanced curriculum, not just for the current year**
- **Elements of SMSC aid in emphasising and instilling the whole lesson, for example, The Christmas Truce - WW1 Football Match 25th December 1914**
- **It promotes good practice**
- **It should be part of the whole school self evaluation**
- **It will be looked at upon school inspection**

“Leaders have failed to plan opportunities for pupils to learn about fundamental British values or to promote their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Leaders are not preparing pupils sufficiently for life in modern Britain.”

Although an element of SMSC is nearly always there, gaps in provision occur. SMSC cannot be covered as a whole in every lesson. Where are the ‘Moral codes and models of moral virtue’ in a Maths lesson covering long division? Other lessons overflow with aspects of SMSC and British Values that will help to balance the curriculum

“Pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is insufficiently prominent in the curriculum and the broader life of the academy. In particular, pupils do not have a well-developed understanding of the different cultures and faiths in modern Britain”

Assemblies are such an important part of delivering SMSC and British Values and the topics are so different and diverse from years gone by.

“Topics in weekly assemblies are discussed further in lessons to promote pupils’ understanding of fundamental British values. Themes such as ‘standing together, teamwork, independence and mutual respect’ add significantly to pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development”

It is possible to achieve an understanding of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspects of life and the World around us, however, examples are needed for that understanding to grow.

“Spiritual, moral, social and cultural education is evident throughout the school. Pupils learn about British values, including

tolerance, in assemblies and form time as well as other subjects such as physical education, science and through the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) curriculum. Pupils understand issues including diversity, prejudice, immigration and changing communities. As a result of outstanding provision and practice, pupils are very well prepared for life in modern Britain.”

We are all responsible for the next generation - the pop star idolised by millions of screaming teenagers, Prime Ministers and Presidents by their actions, the elderly next door neighbour telling stories from her childhood. Our children will see diversity, appreciate culture and learn right from wrong. They will develop their own personal views and values and embrace tolerance, learn mutual respect and appreciate individual liberty for themselves and those around them because of examples they see in everyday life and those woven into the lessons they learn in school.

Extracts were taken from recent Ofsted reports

A quick note

To let you know that our website has much more information about Gridmaker, resources, video's and our contact details <http://smc.opeus.org> and don't forget Live Help can be accessed from Gridmaker while you are adding activities. We would love to hear about your Gridmaker experiences - contact details below

Gridmaker and more

Web based systems are what we do - simple, effective and reasonably priced. If you are looking to simplify your self evaluation and school improvement method, take a look at iAbacus. Four easy steps in a process that makes sense and has all the Ofsted information you need to make a judgement, add evidence, decide what helps and hinders progress and create an improvement plan. If you like Gridmaker, you'll love iAbacus. <http://www.iabacus.co.uk>

Bye for now

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