

# Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development of Students

## Summary

The activity involves teachers and students in a common work defining spiritual, moral, social and cultural values. This activity aims at students understanding better the different cultures through studying religion.

## Description of the activity

Belief, values, principles and spirituality will be explored across the different religions and cultures. The integrity and spirituality of faith backgrounds will be respected and explored. The diversity of spiritual traditions will be recognized, and pupils will be given access to alternative views. Teacher will model and promote socially responsible behavior, treating all people as valuable individuals and showing respect for pupils, their families and other stakeholders. Students should learn to differentiate between right and wrong in as far as their actions affect other people. They will be encouraged to value themselves and others. The activity can be organized as a discussion, brain storming or any other type of event that will encourage students explore and share their points of view. Students can form groups, each group to choose a religion and to study its moral values and similarities to secular values. Later each group can present their results and the class discusses similarities and differences across religions (with specific questions, which the teacher might set beforehand, for example: what is considered good (show a story from the sacred texts in certain religion); what is considered bad (discuss an action and give the arguments why is it considered bad); what are the main principles in human interaction that a certain religion teaches: respect/disrespect towards certain group of people; why, what is the attitude towards women, children, elderly people, what are your own feelings about it).

## Activity structure

- **Preferred premises of the activity:** the activity can be held in class
- **Resources needed:** A white board, projector or a black board, pens, post-it notes.
- **Recommended number of people participating:** between 15 and 20 students as maximum number.
- **Previous knowledge of participants necessary:** not necessary.
- **Activity duration:** the activity can be held as one time event during class or as a longer process through the school term.

## Learning Objectives

Students to acquire knowledge about belief, values, principles and spirituality explored across the different religions and cultures.

## Expected Outcomes

Students will understand different cultures in a better way, see themselves related to others, will learn to respect others and define together important values in life and in relationships with people from different backgrounds.



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### Target group

Students between 14 and 18 years of age

### Subject of the curriculum in which the activity could be implemented

Literature  
Philosophy  
Languages

### Learning style of this activity

Verbal, Social

### Learning objects to be used with this activity

Guidelines of the Glenmoor and Winton Academies for the Spiritual, Moral, Social, and Cultural (SMSC) development of students

<http://www.wintoncollege.org.uk/Portals/1/Library/PDF/Letters%20To%20Parents/Aims%20and%20Objectives%20SMSC.pdf>

### Variations of the activity

The activity can be done involving not only students but also parents. Teachers can give it as homework to students, who will have to discuss at home important topics about their culture, belief and values. Thus the students will have a better understanding of where they come from, family history and traditions. Parents can be invited to share their personal experiences about experience of different cultures in their lives.



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