



1decision and SMSC

Personal, Social, Health & Economic Education

Schools are required under the Ofsted School Inspection Toolkit (2025) and the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) Handbook (2025) to actively promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development. This ensures children are prepared for life in modern Britain, develop personal responsibility, and contribute positively to society.

1decision provides schools with a range of resources, modules, and interactive materials that cover topics and themes that directly support SMSC provision, aligning with statutory expectations and inspection frameworks.

How is SMSC defined?

In broad terms, SMSC development can be summarised as follows:

- **Spiritual Development:** Pupils reflect on beliefs, values, and experiences, respect the views of others, and develop a sense of curiosity about the world.
- **Moral Development:** Pupils recognise right and wrong, understand consequences, and respect the law and fairness.
- **Social Development:** Pupils work with others, engage in the community, and understand the responsibilities of living in society.
- **Cultural Development:** Pupils appreciate diversity, respect different faiths and beliefs, and understand British values such as democracy, liberty, and tolerance.

Practical Impact for Schools

Through 1decision resources, schools can evidence their SMSC provision in line with inspection requirements. Teachers can demonstrate how lessons foster reflection, responsibility, collaboration, and respect for diversity. Lesson plans, videos, and pupil voice feedback provide inspectors with clear examples of SMSC development in action.

In the following sections below, this content gives you a clear idea of how 1decision contributes to expectations within each of the elements of SMSC development.

Spiritual Development

- Pupils reflect on their own beliefs (religious or otherwise) and perspectives on life.
- Pupils develop a sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others, and the world.
- Pupils use imagination and creativity in learning.
- Pupils show a willingness to reflect on experiences.

Ofsted Toolkit 2025 (p.44): *“Inspectors evaluate the extent to which pupils are encouraged to reflect on their own beliefs and respect the views of others.”*

How 1decision supports these:

- Range of Social Stories exploring different backgrounds, family structures, and religious views.
- Respect and Understanding fostered through lessons that celebrate diversity and encourage empathy.
- Interactive Video Scenarios allow pupils to explore dilemmas and reflect on spiritual and moral values.
- Debates and Enquiry activities support critical thinking and encourage curiosity.
- Assessment and Reflection Tools provide teachers with insight into each pupil's engagement with spiritual themes.
- Creative Expression opportunities (through drama, art, and writing) enable deeper reflection.

Moral Development

- Pupils recognise the difference between right and wrong.
- Pupils respect the law and understand consequences of behaviour and actions.
- Pupils are interested in moral and ethical issues and can offer reasoned views.

Ofsted Toolkit 2025 (p.46): *“Personal development includes pupils’ ability to recognise right and wrong, respect the law, and understand the consequences of their actions.”*

How 1decision supports these:

- Decision-Making Scenarios present real-life situations where pupils must consider consequences of choices.
- Exploring Right and Wrong through modules on honesty, fairness, safety, and responsibility.
- Law and Justice Links embedded in resources around rules, consequences, and respect for authority.
- Classroom Debate Activities allow pupils to explore moral dilemmas, justify decisions, and respect differing views.
- Individual Assessments track how pupils’ moral reasoning develops over time.
- Cross-Curricular Integration with PSHE and citizenship ensures that moral understanding is embedded across school life.

Social Development

- Pupils use social skills in varied contexts, including working with pupils from different backgrounds.
- Pupils participate in communities, volunteering, and teamwork.
- Pupils accept and engage with British values such as democracy, liberty, rule of law, and mutual respect.

Ofsted Toolkit 2025 (p.48): *“A strong culture of personal development ensures that pupils develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes to contribute positively to society.”*

How 1decision supports these:

- Group-Based Activities encourage collaboration, communication, and teamwork.
- Role-Play Scenarios help pupils practise problem-solving and resolving conflict.
- Modules on Community Roles highlight responsibilities in school and wider society.
- Active Citizenship Opportunities through lessons on democracy, elections, and responsibilities in society.
- Assessment Tracking records pupils’ growth in teamwork, leadership, and cooperation skills.
- Celebrating Success reinforces positive contributions to school and community life.

Cultural Development

- Pupils understand and appreciate diverse cultural influences in Britain and beyond.
- Pupils gain knowledge of Britain’s democratic parliamentary system.
- Pupils respond positively to artistic, sporting, and cultural opportunities.
- Pupils respect diversity and difference across religions, ethnicities, and socio-economic groups.

Ofsted Toolkit 2025 (p.50): *“Pupils should be taught to appreciate diversity, respect different faiths and beliefs, and engage positively with British values of democracy, liberty, and tolerance.”*

How 1decision supports these:

- Equality and Diversity Lessons highlight respect for different cultures, religions, and traditions.
- Case Studies on British Values provide real-life contexts for democracy, liberty, and tolerance.
- Cultural Awareness Activities link to music, art, food, and festivals to broaden understanding.
- Interactive Scenarios encourage pupils to challenge stereotypes and appreciate differences.
- Assessment Data evidences individual understanding of cultural awareness and appreciation.
- School-Wide Engagement – resources support themed events (e.g., World Religion Day, Black History Month).

ISI Handbook 2025 – Wellbeing and SMSC

Relevant extracts relating to SMSC development in independent schools, using the range of evidence listed above:

ISI Handbook 2025 (p.6): *“The proprietor, leaders and managers must actively promote pupils’ wellbeing, which includes their physical and mental health, emotional wellbeing, education and recreation, contribution to society, and social and economic wellbeing.”*

ISI Handbook 2025 (p.7): *“The standard about the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils is met if the proprietor ensures that principles are actively promoted which encourage respect for other people, paying particular regard to protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.”*

How 1decision Assessments Support SMSC Progress

1decision assessments provide schools with individualised data on every child’s personal development journey. Unlike whole-cohort measures, which may mask individual progress, 1decision tracks understanding, skills and attitudes for each pupil across related SMSC themes. This allows teachers to identify strengths and areas for improvement at a child level, ensuring targeted interventions and personalised support.

This approach supports schools in demonstrating progress for all pupils, including those who may require additional support to engage with SMSC related learning. Inspectors value evidence that schools can monitor and evaluate how each child is developing spiritually, morally, socially and culturally – not just broad cohort averages.

Through accurate assessment and monitoring within PSHE, schools can begin to:

- Evidence how individual pupils reflect on beliefs, values and behaviours over time.
- Show improvements in children’s ability to make moral choices and understand consequences.
- Track social skills such as teamwork, empathy and respect across key stages.
- Monitor appreciation of diversity, cultural awareness and respect for British values.

By embedding individual assessments, 1decision helps schools to demonstrate how each pupil is making measurable progress in SMSC development.