Cothill Policy Documents

ISSR 5 SMSC Policy

NMS for Boarding: 3.1, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4

Date: September 2026
Next review: September 2027

Overview
Cothill endeavours to ensure that pupils' development in non-academic terms will enable them to play a confident and informed role in society, have a fully developed value system, and be able to interact with other people in a positive way

The school respects, and rejoices in, diversity within its community. The school actively promotes the fundamental British values of:

- democracy
- the rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect
- tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

Religious Needs
Pupils attend Christian worship assemblies, led by the school chaplain each week. The school chaplain also leads additional assemblies during the course of the school year and Christian festivals such as Easter and Christmas are celebrated by the school community.

Pupils are permitted - by arrangement with the Head - to opt out of any religious celebrations which contravene their personal beliefs and would be cared for by staff as required. Parents are permitted - by arrangement with the Head - to take their children out of school for important religious ceremonies or festivals, e.g. for a Bar Mitzvah or to celebrate Eid al Adha.

Clothing and jewellery worn for religious reasons is permitted within Health and Safety restrictions. The school would seek to accommodate any specific requests as required such as prayer routines or fasting.

R.S. is not an examined subject in the school, but R.S. lessons are included in the curriculum for all year groups.

Moral & Social
Refer to the PSHE Policy (ISSR 2)

Dietary Needs
The school is mindful of the special dietary requirements of some pupils and staff and ensures that medical and dietary requirements are satisfied.

Aims:

- To identify all pupils with special dietary needs, whether they be on medical, religious or cultural grounds.
- To ensure that special dietary needs are met and catered for wherever possible.
- To identify pupils at risk from allergic reactions to certain foods.

School Kitchen

The school produces good quality cooked meals three times a day, together with snacks mid-morning, mid-afternoon and before bed. The school is very keen that pupils eat a well balanced diet and the quality and choices made by pupils are closely monitored by the staff on the tables at meal times and by the catering staff who serve the pupils. All staff liaise with the DSL, DDSLs or school nurse if they feel a pupil is not eating well.

The younger pupils' food choices are monitored by staff before they sit to eat. They are asked to include at least one portion each of protein, carbohydrate and vegetables. There is a wide selection of food to choose from with up to 10 salads available, in addition to the hot food - including vegetarian options - on a daily basis.

All pupils have access to drinking water throughout the day and night.

At Chinese New Year, on special occasions and during Theme Weeks, the kitchens create menus reflecting the national dishes of overseas pupils.

Procedure for Notifying School and Staff

Parents of new pupils are required to fill in a medical form to alert the school to any dietary needs. They are also required to advise the school of any intolerances or allergies that their child may have. It is the parent's responsibility to notify the school immediately of any change in circumstances so that adjustments can be made accordingly. The Head Matron or the School Nurse will contact parents, where necessary, to discuss their child's needs.

Parents are repeatedly discouraged from bringing additional food into school, for example at matches and after weekends at home. Birthday cakes are allowed, however, vigilance needs to be exercised to ensure that these are safe for the pupils to eat. Parents are encouraged to arrange cakes through the school, which are made on site. Match teas for parents and pupils are provided by the school.

Safeguarding those with Allergies

A list of pupils who have allergies to certain foods is placed in an easily visible position with the pupil's photograph in the kitchens, surgery & staffroom. Pupils' Epipens (if required) are located in the surgery in the Main Building, with a second epipen kept at Bowlers for Junior boarders. The names of pupils with allergies are also listed in the Learning Support teaching notes to staff.

Staff receive training in how to administer an epipen and pupils are reminded about the importance of not sharing grub or bringing additional tuck into school which may contain allergens. Parents also receive regular reminders that the school is 'allergy aware' and food should not be brought onto the site.

This policy should be used in conjunction with the Medical and First Aid Policy.

Language Needs
The Learning Support department provides support for all EAL pupils. See the EAL/EFL Policy.

All Staff are advised by the LS department as to how best to provide for children whose first language is not English. Pupils are encouraged to participate in LAMDA activities to aid communication.

Cultural Needs
Cothill celebrates the diversity of its community and pupils are encouraged to share information about their own cultural background. In the curriculum - English, History, Geography, General Studies, Music, Art, Pottery, R.S. and PSHE - pupils are informed about both their own and other cultures. Some pupils also take additional language lessons and the school facilitates these activities.

Weekly ‘celebration assemblies’ provide a platform for pupils (and staff) to give presentations to the whole school. The subject matter of these assemblies is chosen by the individual presenter and a wide variety of topics have been covered. Throughout the year, visiting speakers, theatre groups, etc. provide further input. School debates and mock elections (when there are general elections) are also held and activities are organised to celebrate a variety of cultural events such as Chinese New Year.

Through concerts, recitals, plays, exhibitions, poetry competitions, debates, lectures, local trips (to museums, the House of Commons, galleries, etc), the school library (with an emphasis on the Accelerated Reader programme in the lower half of the school) and assemblies, the pupils are able to enjoy a rich variety of cultural activities. Evidence can be found for this in any school magazine. International trips are organised each year, which allow pupils to broaden their horizons and experience different cultures first-hand. Year 8 participate in a wide variety of activities after their C.E. exams, including cooking, cleaning, ironing, debating, music making, etc.

Many pupils have music lessons and/or belong to choirs and ensembles. Optional LAMDA lessons throughout the school encourage pupils to explore their dramatic potential and pupils participate in Junior and Senior plays each year. The choir have performed in various churches as well as fulfilling regular engagements at a local pub (to sing carols) and an old people’s home.

Each year, a ‘Theme Week’ or artist in residence provides opportunities for cultural input. In 2021 pupils were given the task of producing presentations on the geographical, environmental and cultural importance of a variety of countries to mark the COP21 conference and in 2023 pupils participated in a series of STEM activities for Theme Week which included a Lego Building Workshop.

Concert performances with other schools within the Trust, social evenings with girls’ schools (in Years 7 or 8) and family reeling evenings help ensure pupils do not form a negative or restrictive view of the role of the opposite sex.

ASP - September 2026