

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship Policy

What is PSHE and citizenship?

PSHE and citizenship is a planned, developmental programme of learning through which children and young people acquire the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to manage their lives now and in the future. As part of a whole-school approach, PSHE education develops the qualities and attributes pupils need to thrive as individuals, family members and members of society.

The importance of PSHE and citizenship

PSHE and citizenship education equips pupils to live healthy, safe, productive, capable, responsible and balanced lives. It encourages them to be enterprising and supports them in making effective transitions, positive learning and career choices and in achieving economic wellbeing. A critical component of PSHE and citizenship education is providing opportunities for children and young people to reflect on and clarify their own values and attitudes whilst exploring the complex and sometimes conflicting range of values and attitudes they will encounter throughout their lives.

PSHE and citizenship education contributes to personal development by helping pupils to build their confidence, resilience and self-esteem. It also enables them to identify and manage risk, make informed choices and understand what influences their decisions. It enables them to recognise, accept and shape their identities, to understand and accommodate difference and change, to manage emotions and to communicate constructively in a variety of settings. Developing an understanding of themselves, empathy and the ability to work with others will help pupils to form and maintain good relationships, develop the essential skills for future employability and better enjoy and manage their lives.

PSHE and citizenship enables us to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum which is defined in Section 78 of the Education Act 2002 as one that “promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, and prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.” Additionally, PSHE and citizenship enables us to offer our pupils a rich spiritual, moral, social, cultural (SMSC) education.

Aims

The aims of PSHE and citizenship are to enable the children to:

- know and understand what constitutes a healthy lifestyle;
- be aware of safety issues;
- understand what makes for good relationships with others;
- have respect for others;
- be independent and responsible members of the school community;
- be positive and active members of a democratic society;
- develop self-confidence, self-esteem, and make informed choices regarding personal and social issues;
- develop good relationships with other members of the school and the wider community.

Teaching and learning style

We use a range of teaching and learning styles. We place an emphasis on active learning by including the children in discussions, investigations and problem-solving activities. We encourage the children to take part in a range of practical activities that promote active citizenship, e.g. charity fundraising, the planning of school special events such as an assembly or open evening, or involvement in an activity to help other individuals or groups less fortunate than themselves. We organise classes in such a way that pupils are able to participate in discussion to resolve conflicts or set agreed classroom rules of behaviour. We offer children the opportunity to hear visiting speakers, such as health workers, police, and representatives from the local church, whom we invite into the school to talk about their role in creating a positive and supportive local community. Children are encouraged to take on roles of responsibility within school such as peer listeners, school council members, eco-council members, head boy and head girl. These roles help children to develop a sense of ownership and community spirit, whilst they also enable children to develop their confidence and self-esteem in a safe environment.

PSHE and citizenship curriculum planning

In Key stages one and two, we teach PSHE and citizenship through the scheme, "You, Me, PSHE" which is a structured and comprehensive teaching resource quality assured by the PSHE Association.

Some of the time we use other curriculum areas and whole-school events to enhance PSHE and citizenship education opportunities, e.g. the school council representatives from each class meet regularly to discuss school matters. Additionally, we take part in national events such as Anti-Bullying Week and Safer Internet Day. Whilst we offer a residential visit in Key Stage 2, where there is a particular focus on developing pupils' self esteem and giving them opportunities to develop leadership and co-operative skills.

As there is a large overlap between the programme of study for religious education and the aims of PSHE and citizenship, we teach a considerable amount of the PSHE and citizenship through our religious education lessons.

Relationships and sex education (SRE) is taught through the "A Journey in Love" scheme which is the recommended programme of study for Catholic schools.

Foundation Stage

We teach PSHE and citizenship in reception classes as an integral part of the topic work covered during the year. As the reception class is part of the Foundation Stage of the National Curriculum, we relate the PSHE and citizenship aspects of the children's work to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals (ELGs). Our teaching in PSHE and citizenship matches the aim of developing a child's personal, emotional and social development as set out in the ELGs. We also support citizenship education in reception classes when we teach 'how to develop a child's knowledge and understanding of the world'.

Teaching PSHE and citizenship to children with special educational needs

At our school we teach PSHE and citizenship to all children, whatever their ability. PSHE and citizenship forms part of the school curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education to all children. Through our PSHE and citizenship teaching we provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make progress. We do this by setting suitable learning challenges and responding to each child's different needs. Assessment against the objectives set out by the PSHE Association allows us to consider each child's attainment and progress against expected levels.

When progress falls significantly outside the expected range, the child may have special educational needs. Our assessment process looks at a range of factors – classroom organisation, teaching materials, teaching style, differentiation – so that we can take some additional or different action to enable the child to learn more effectively. This ensures that our teaching is matched to the child's needs.

Intervention will lead to the creation of an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for children with special educational needs. The IEP may include, as appropriate, specific targets relating to PSHE and citizenship.

We enable pupils to have access to the full range of activities involved in learning PSHE and citizenship. Where children are to participate in activities outside the classroom, for example, a charity fund-raising event at a local church hall, we carry out a risk assessment prior to the activity to ensure that the activity is safe and appropriate for all pupils.

Assessment and recording

Teachers assess the children's work in PSHE and citizenship both by making informal judgements as they observe them during lessons and by doing formal assessments of their work, measured against the specific learning objectives set out in the You, Me PSHE scheme which follows the objectives set out in the PSHE Association programme of study. We do not set formal examinations in PSHE and citizenship. The assessments that we make of pupil achievement do not imply that a pupil has 'passed' or 'failed'.

Teachers record the achievements of pupils in PSHE and citizenship on the school tracking system.

Resources

We keep resources for PSHE and citizenship in a central store in topic boxes for each unit of work. We have additional resources in the library. Our PSHE and citizenship coordinator holds a selection of reference materials for teaching sensitive issues.

Monitoring and review

The PSHE and citizenship coordinator is responsible for monitoring the standards of children's work and the quality of teaching. The coordinator supports colleagues in the teaching of PSHE and citizenship, by giving them information about current developments in the subject and by providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school. The coordinator is also responsible for setting out an action plan

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and giving the headteacher an annual summary report, evaluating strengths and weaknesses in the subject and indicating areas for further improvement. We allocate special time for our subject leader to enable him/her to fulfil this role by reviewing samples of children's work and visiting classes to observe teaching in the subject.

Staff Training

As with all other areas of the curriculum, training courses are available which staff are encouraged to attend.

Note

This PSHE and citizenship policy should be read in conjunction with the Health, Safety and Welfare Policy and the Anti-Bullying Policy.

Signed:

Date: