

WHITCHURCH COMBINED SCHOOL



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PERSONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH AND ECONOMIC EDUCATION (PSHE) POLICY

Intent

PSHE and citizenship aims to give pupils the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to lead confident, healthy, independent lives and to become informed, active, responsible citizens. Pupils are encouraged to take part in a wide range of activities and experiences, and to contribute fully to the life of the school and local community. In doing so they learn to recognise their own worth, work well with others and become increasingly responsible for their own learning. They reflect on their experiences and understand how they are developing personally and socially, tackling many of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues that are part of growing up. They also find out about the main political and social institutions that affect their lives and about their responsibilities, rights and duties as individuals and members of communities. They learn to understand and respect themselves and others, so that they can go on to form the effective, fulfilling relationships that are an essential part of life and learning.

We have also thought carefully about the cultural capital of our pupils and designed our curriculum to give them access to ideas and experiences that they might not have otherwise. For example, an understanding of a wide range of jobs, the lives of children in an urban environment and how families can be varied and different from their own.

Implementation

PSHE is woven throughout the curriculum at Whitchurch school. It is taught as part of every subject and we make it part of everything that we do. Our focus is based around the school values: 'Be Kind, Be Respectful, Be Proud, Be Resilient, Be Curious'. All staff refer to these values in assemblies, in their teaching and at playtimes. The aim is that, by focusing on these values, we will teach children to "grow today, ready for tomorrow."

PSHE is also taught through stand-alone lessons. Teachers follow a Whitchurch scheme of work that covers the PSHE curriculum as set out in the revised 2020 curriculum and ensures progression as they move through their years with us.

Lessons are drawn from a range of schemes including 'Learning for life' (L4L) and resources from the PSHE Association. Teachers also plan their own lessons based around the learning objectives for their year group and the needs of their particular class. A range of teaching methods and learning styles are used. Children participate in discussions, debates, investigations and problem-solving activities. They are involved in role-play, imaginative writing and research tasks. Teachers use a range of media, including ICT and video, to present and review information.

Children are encouraged to take part in a range of practical activities that promote citizenship, such as charity fundraising, school special events – for example, an assembly or school play, or involvement in an activity to help others less fortunate than themselves. Links with the local community are made where possible. For example, the school choir sang to the residence of a local home and the school council are responsible for identifying charities and organising fundraising for them. Pupils participate in discussion to resolve conflicts and set agreed classroom rules of behaviour. Children are offered 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. PSHE and Citizenship is also developed through assemblies and whole-school events.

In year 3 and 5, residential visits are offered, where there is a particular focus on developing pupils' self-esteem, and opportunities to develop independence, social skills, leadership and co-operative skills. Many of our children have not had the chance in recent years to spend time away from their parents and we feel that providing this opportunity is a really important aspect of their development at Whitchurch.

Teachers are encouraged to teach each element of the curriculum in the order that is most appropriate for their cohort. They move around subjects to fit in with a particular topic or focus on an area earlier if there is a particular need that they have identified.

Assemblies focus on the Whitchurch School values and this is maintained throughout our work with children across the curriculum. For example, a whole school focus on 'be resilient' would mean assemblies with this theme and also teachers identifying resilient children in lessons, rewarding them with a 'resilience dojo', discussing and carrying out activities on resilience in PSHE lessons and talking with children about how to be resilient on the playground during break duty.

Regular Circle Time in classes may focus on the whole school theme or address particular issues raised in that class. A worry box is also placed in every class and regularly monitored so any concerns can be picked up straight away and addressed.

Some of the content of PSHE is taught through themed weeks such as 'Anti-bullying Week,' and 'Safety Week.' This helps to bring these themes to the forefront and allows the children to take part in whole school activities to further highlight these topics.

EYFS

PSHE and Citizenship is taught in Reception as an integral part of the topic work covered during the year. As the reception class is part of the Foundation Stage, the PSHE and Citizenship aspects of the children's work are related to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals, of developing a child's personal, emotional and social development. We aim to develop each child's knowledge and understanding of the world through a wide range of activities.

Mental Health

The school has an identified Mental Health Lead (MHL) who is responsible for supporting all staff to identify mental health concerns across the school. The wellbeing of both children and staff is monitored regularly and the MHL works closely with the Senior Management Team and Governors to resolve problems and support staff or children in a way that is appropriate.

Whitchurch also works closely with our local Mental Health Support Team (MHST). They provide a range of support. Where staff have identified that children in school are at risk of anxiety or low mood they provide a six week course with the parents of that child. They also work with groups of children in school where a specific need has been identified. In addition to this, they support us with events to build awareness of mental health across the school and offer mental health awareness training to both staff and parents. This link is very valuable to the school and we work hard to ensure that Mental Health and wellbeing of both staff and pupils continue to have a very high profile and are made a priority.

The PSHE curriculum includes learning on how to stay healthy mentally within each year and children are taught language that enables them to talk about how they feel. The NSPCC is invited into school each year so that the knowledge of where they can go to get help is always there if they need it.

At Whitchurch we run a Peer Mentor programme. Each year ten year six children are chosen to be trained to work as Peer Mentors. They work to raise the awareness of mental health and the importance of wellbeing across the school. They also act as a listening ear and friend for younger children on the playground in their role as Playground Buddies. We also teach children throughout the school to use the DEBUG system, so that they can begin to learn strategies to resolve playground difficulties more independently.

Equal Opportunities

The school's general policy on equal opportunities applies to this area of the curriculum. However, there are some specific issues regarding aspects of sex education which are detailed in the separate policy and scheme of work for that subject.

Inclusion and Differentiation

Where necessary, work will be differentiated according to the learning needs of individual children. Planning takes into account different contexts e.g. boys/ girls. Cultural background is taken into consideration, including consulting and sharing with parents.

Impact

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Teachers will make informal judgements as they observe the children during lessons, and will keep general records of their learning throughout the year. A record of what has been covered is kept in the class PSHE scrapbook. Teachers keep a record of their ongoing assessment in this subject by annotating the learning objectives grid in the back of each class scrapbook. A note is made when children have achieved the learning objectives. In addition to this, it is noted when a child or group of children have not understood a learning objective fully. This is then either addressed later in the academic year or returned to next year. The scrapbook is passed up to the next teacher each year so that they are aware of what has been covered, any greater depth learners and any subjects that need to be returned to with individual children or groups.

Discrete PSHE work will be recorded in whole class scrap books. However, as PSHE is taught throughout the curriculum, there will also be evidence of work in other books. For example, children may complete an anti-bullying poster in English, learn about online safety in computing or look at healthy eating in Science.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The overall responsibility for monitoring standards of the children's work remains with the Headteacher; monitoring takes place as part of the general monitoring process. The Headteacher will liaise with the co-ordinator regarding new initiatives, resources and concerns. The co-ordinator will support colleagues in the teaching of PSHE and Citizenship, by informing them about current developments and by providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school; they will also be responsible for reporting to the governors. The coordinator will also identify training needs within the staff and organise or provide training to fill those needs.

Resources

Individual teachers keep resources applicable only to their year group. Additional key resources for PSHE and Citizenship are kept electronically on the school shared drive. This collection includes a selection of reference material for teaching sensitive issues. Children's reference books on a variety of issues are available in the library.

Note

This PSHE and Citizenship policy should be read in conjunction with the school's Health and Safety policy, the policy and scheme of work for sex education and the policy for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development.

APPENDIX

Partnership of children and young people

A School Council meets regularly under the guidance of Mrs Williams. Two representatives from years R, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 sit on the Council. Ideas are invited and passed to the Headteacher for consideration. Four children are also nominated Junior Road Safety Officers. Year 6 children are nominated as House Captains. Ten year six children are chosen as Peer mentors. All of these groups have the opportunity to lead assemblies. Regular pupil voice surveys are carried out.

Partnership with parents, carers and the wider community

We hold an annual Christingle service at the Parish Church. Contributions are made to the local village newsletters. The school participates in the Whitchurch May Feast E.g. Maypole dancing, parade, May Queen and attendants. The school enjoys links with the Parish Council and the Whitchurch Community Association. Members of the community visit to speak to the children.

Parent Evenings are held termly and a monthly newsletter is distributed. There is a School Travel Plan Committee made up of parents. The school also takes part in a scheme run by magistrates which focuses on children as citizens. Children have also helped with community environmental schemes such as tree planting in the Recreation Ground. Members of the community are invited to our Christmas celebration performances.

We hold regular coffee mornings / afternoon teas to give parents the opportunity to come into school informally to talk to the Headteacher / deputy / governors etc. Regular concerts and events take place throughout the year. We have a very active PTA who arrange events for the wider community to attend as well as funding special days for the children.

Reviewed April 2025