



## **Personal, Social and Health Education Policy Guidance**

Date of policy: April 2023

Review date: April 2024

### **1. Context, including national and local policy and legislation**

The policy supports a whole school approach to PSHE in the curriculum, and throughout the life of the school and its community. It is consistent with current legislative frameworks and non-statutory guidance.

It was drafted in consultation with all school staff and children. Parents/carers were consulted through focus groups and questionnaires. This policy has been approved and adopted by the head teacher and governing body.

#### **Duty to promote wellbeing:**

PSHE is a non-statutory subject. However, there are aspects of it we are required to teach:

We must teach relationships education (primary) under the Children and Social Work Act 2017, in line with the terms set out in the statutory guidance. We must teach health education under the same statutory guidance.

The Education Act and Inspections Act 2006 place a requirement on schools to promote pupils' wellbeing as well as their academic achievement. We are committed to promoting the health and wellbeing of pupils, and of the whole school community, and fully recognise the important cyclical relationship between wellbeing and learning.

#### **Definition**

PSHE education can be defined as a planned 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 benefits to pupils of such an approach are numerous as PSHE prepares them to manage many of the most critical opportunities, challenges and responsibilities they will face growing up in such rapidly changing and challenging times. It also helps them to connect and apply the knowledge and understanding they learn in all subjects to practical, real-life situations while helping them to feel safe and secure enough to fulfil their academic potential.

PSHE Association

## **National Curriculum:**

The National Curriculum states that Personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education is an important and necessary part of all pupils' education. It states that schools to tailor their local PSHE programme to reflect the needs of their pupils, we expect schools to use their PSHE education programme to equip pupils with a sound understanding of risk and with the knowledge and skills necessary to make safe and informed decisions.

Health Education aims to give your child the information they need to make good decisions about their own health and wellbeing, to recognise issues in themselves and others, and to seek support as early as possible when issues arise. It includes:

- mental wellbeing
- internet safety and harms
- physical health and fitness
- healthy eating
- facts and risks associated with drugs, alcohol and tobacco
- health and prevention
- basic first aid

## **Health and wellbeing promoting schools/Healthy Schools:**

We are committed to providing an holistic approach to PSHE and health and wellbeing. This means that we place teaching and learning in the wider context of our approach to:

- Leadership, management and managing change
- Policy development
- Curriculum, planning, resourcing and impact
- Teaching and learning
- Assessment, recording and reporting progress and achievement
- Pupil voice
- Pupils' support services
- Staff professional development needs
- Partnerships with parents/carers, the community and external agencies
- School culture and environment
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## **Link to other policies**

The policy links to:

- Child Protection/Safeguarding
- Relationship Education
- Drug Education
- Managing Drug Related Incidents
- No Smoking
- Equal Opportunities
- SEN/Inclusion
- Relationships and Behaviour
- Health & Safety

- Visitors in School
- E-safety/IT
- Science

## **Development process**

We are committed to the ongoing development of PSHE in our school. We will use the following indicators to monitor and evaluate our progress:

- a coordinated and consistent approach to curriculum delivery has been adopted
- the content of the PSHE curriculum is flexible and responsive to pupils' differing needs which are gathered at least annually through the use of pupil perception data such as the My Health My School Survey.
- pupils are receiving an entitlement curriculum for PSHE in line with national and local guidance
- there are clearly identified learning objectives for all PSHE activities, and pupils' learning is assessed using both formative and summative approaches
- opportunities for cross-curricular approaches are being used where appropriate
- the impact of training for staff and governors on practice is evaluated
- policy and practice is revised regularly and involves staff, governors and, where appropriate, pupils
- opportunities are provided for parents/carers and members of our community to consider the purpose and nature of our PSHE, for example, through parent/carer information sessions
- a variety of methods is employed to communicate the key points of the policy and curriculum to the community.

We pride ourselves on our proactive and reactive curriculum.

### **1. Overall school aims for Personal, Social and Health Education**

Our PSHE programme helps pupils to develop the knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes they need to live confident, healthy, independent lives now and in the future, as individuals, parents/carers, workers and members of society. It is embedded within the wider learning offered by the school to ensure that pupils experience positive relationships with adults and with each other and feel valued, and that those who are most vulnerable are identified and supported. Pupils are encouraged to take part in a wide range of activities and experiences across and beyond the curriculum, contributing fully to the life of our school and community.

The overarching aim for PSHE education is to provide pupils with the skills, language and strategies they need in order to live healthy, safe, fulfilling, responsible and balanced lives. Within this, the school aims to develop pupils' understanding of:

- identity, including personal qualities, attitudes, skills, attributes and achievements and what influences these
- relationships, including different types and in different settings
- a healthy lifestyle, including physically, emotionally and socially
- a balanced lifestyle, including within relationships, work-life, exercise and rest, spending and saving and diet
- risk, including identification, assessment and how to manage risk rather than simply the avoidance of risk for self and others
- safety, including behaviour and strategies to employ in different settings
- diversity and equality, in all its forms
- rights, including the notion of universal human rights, responsibilities including fairness and justice and consent in different contexts
- change and resilience, the skills, strategies and 'inner resources' we can draw on when faced with challenging change or circumstance
- power in a variety of contexts including persuasion, bullying, negotiation and 'win-win' outcomes
- career, including enterprise, employability and economic understanding
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## **To whom the policy applies**

The policy applies to:

- The head teacher
- All school staff
- The governing body
- Pupils
- Parents/carers
- School nurse and other health professionals
- Partner agencies working in or with the school

## **2. Key responsibilities for PSHE**

### **i) All staff**

All staff will:

- ensure that they are up to date with school policy and curriculum requirements regarding PSHE
- attend and engage in professional development training around PSHE provision, including individual and whole staff training/inset, where appropriate
- report back to the PSHE Coordinator on any areas that they feel are not covered or inadequately provided for in the school's PSHE provision
- encourage pupils to communicate concerns regarding their social, personal and emotional development in confidence and listen to their needs and support them seriously
- follow the school's reporting systems if a pupil comes to a member of staff with an issue that they feel they are not able to deal with alone
- ensure that their personal beliefs and attitudes will not prevent them from providing balanced PSHE in school
- tailor their lessons to suit all pupils in their class, across the whole range of abilities, faiths, beliefs and cultures, including those pupils with special educational needs
- ask for support in this from the school SEND coordinator or the PSHE Coordinator, should they need it

### **ii) Lead member/s of staff**

The lead member/s of staff will:

- develop the school policy and review it on a yearly basis
- ensure all members of the governing body will be offered appropriate PSHE training
- ensure that all staff are given regular and ongoing training on issues relating to PSHE and how to deliver lessons on such issues
- ensure that all staff are up to date with policy changes, and familiar with school policy and guidance relating to PSHE
- provide support to staff members who feel uncomfortable or ill-equipped to deal with the delivery of PSHE
- ensure that PSHE is age appropriate and needs-led across all year groups; this means ensuring that the curriculum develops as the pupils do and meets their needs
- ensure that the knowledge and information regarding PSHE to which all pupils are entitled is provided in a comprehensive way
- support parent/carer involvement in the development of the PSHE curriculum
- ensure that their personal beliefs, values and attitudes will not prevent them from providing balanced PSHE in school
- communicate freely with staff, parents/carers and the governing body to ensure that everyone is in understanding of the school policy and curriculum for PSHE, and that any concerns or opinions regarding the provision at the school are listened to, taken into account and acted on as is appropriate

- ensure that provision of PSHE at home is complementary to the provision the school provides and communicate to parents/carers any additional support available where necessary or requested

### **iii) Governors**

The governing body as a whole plays an active role in monitoring, developing and reviewing the policy and its implementation in school. There is a named link governor for PSHE who works closely with, and in support of, the lead member/s of staff. When aspects of PSHE appear in the School Improvement Plan, a governor will be assigned to reflect on, monitor and review the work as appropriate.

### **iv) Pupils**

We recognise that an interactive approach to PSHE will better develop the skills of our pupils and also to ensure we meet their needs in terms of their age, stage and development. We involve pupils in the planning, development and evaluation of their PSHE through school council, pupil questionnaires and interviews.

All pupils:

- should support one another with issues that arise through PSHE
- will listen in class, be considerate of other people's feelings and beliefs, and comply with confidentiality rules that are set in class
- will be made to feel comfortable to talk to a member of staff, in confidence, regarding any concerns they have in school related to PSHE or otherwise
- will be asked for feedback on the school's PSHE provision termly/yearly and be expected to take this responsibility seriously; opinions on provision and comments will be reviewed by the lead member/s of staff for PSHE and taken into consideration when the curriculum is prepared for the following year's pupils

### **v) Parents/carers**

The school recognises the key role that parents/carers fulfil in supporting their children through their personal development and the emotional and physical aspects of growing up. Therefore, we seek to work in partnership with parents/carers when planning and delivering PSHE. We will keep parents/carers informed about all aspects of the PSHE curriculum, including when it is going to be delivered and provide access to resources and information being used in class and do everything to ensure that parents/carers are comfortable with the education provided to their children in school.

## **3. Staff support & CPD**

The school provides regular professional development training in how to deliver PSHE.

Staff, including non-teaching staff, CPD needs are identified and met through the following ways:

- an audit of staff CPD needs will be completed each year or at appropriate times throughout the year
- training and support is organised by the PSHE lead who may choose to liaise with SLT and the Health and Well-being lead.
- teaching and non-teaching staff involved in the delivery of PSHE issues seen as potentially more sensitive will be offered appropriate training to encourage confidence in dealing with matters of confidentiality, child protection, sensitive issues, and with potentially difficult questions

## **4. PSHE Provision and intended learning**

## **Early Years**

PSHE is taught through the Personal, social and emotional development (PSED) area of the EYFS curriculum. PSED underpins all areas of our the EYFS curriculum. It is developed continually throughout the year through embedding classroom routines, encouraging positive relationships between children having clear expectation of behaviour and through sensitive child/adult interactions

## **Curriculum organisation**

Pupils receive their entitlement for PSHE through the scheme You, Me and PSHE, a spiral curriculum which demonstrates progression. The PSHE programme is delivered through a variety of opportunities including:

- designated PSHE time
- use of external agencies/services
- school ethos
- small group work
- cross curricular links
- assemblies
- enrichment days / weeks
- residential trips

## **5. Working with visitors and other external agencies**

Where appropriate, we may use visits and visitors from external agencies or members of the community to support PSHE. This is an enrichment of our programme and not a substitute for our core provision which is based upon the strong relationships between teachers and pupils. It may be the case that the subject under discussion is better coming from an expert or experienced health professional who can challenge pupil's perceptions. When visitors are used to support the programme, the school's policy on use of visitors will be used. A teacher will be present throughout these lessons. Visitors will be given a copy of this policy, and any other relevant policies, and expected to comply with the guidelines outlined within it.

Residential trips can make a significant contribution to pupils' personal development. When planning such visits, we use opportunities to promote pupils' learning in relevant areas of the PSHE curriculum. Our partnership with the local community is also a priority, and we recognise and value its contribution to the PSHE programme.

Before involving visitors in any aspect of PSHE, teachers will ensure that:

- the visitor understands the school's confidentiality policy, values and approach to the educational programme
- there is appropriate planning, preparatory and follow up work for the sessions
- the visitor understands the emotional, intellectual, cultural, religious, social and ability level of the pupils involved, including where there may be a specific issue relating to child protection
- the teacher needs to be part of the experience in order for the pupils to value the lessons and to build on the pupils' learning after the session/s as well as answer any questions the pupils may subsequently have
- the guidelines and checklist (Appendix 2a and 2b) should be used with the visitor to ensure success

## **Inclusion and equal opportunities**

All pupils, whatever their experience, background and identity, are entitled to quality PSHE that helps them build confidence and a positive sense of self, and to stay healthy. All classes include pupils with different abilities and aptitudes, experiences and religious/cultural backgrounds, gender and sexual identities. To encourage pupils to participate in lessons, teachers will ensure content, approach, and use of inclusive language reflects the diversity of the school community, and helps each and every pupil to feel valued and included in the classroom.

We promote the needs and interest of all pupils. The school's approaches to teaching and learning takes into account the ability, age, readiness and cultural backgrounds of pupils to ensure all can access the full PSHE provision. We promote social learning and expect our pupils to show a high regard for the needs of others. PSHE is an important vehicle for addressing both multicultural and gender issues and ensuring equal opportunities for all.

### **Responding to pupils' diverse learning needs:**

Considerations will be made for:

- religious and cultural diversity
- differing gender needs and abilities, including SEND
- diverse sexuality of pupils
- homophobic/transphobic bullying and behaviour
- pupil's age and physical and emotional maturity
- pupils who are new to English

### **Ethnicity, religion and cultural diversity:**

Our policy values the different backgrounds of all pupils in school and, in acknowledging and exploring different views and beliefs, seeks to promote respect and understanding. We encourage respect for all religions and cultures. We do not ask pupils to represent the views of a particular religious or cultural group to their peers, unless they choose to do so.

### **Special educational needs and learning difficulties:**

We ensure that all pupils receive PSHE and we offer provision appropriate to the particular needs of our pupils, taking specialist advice where necessary. Staff will differentiate lessons to ensure that all members of the class can access the information fully. The school will use a variety of different strategies to ensure that all pupils have access to the same information. Some pupils will be more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation than their peers, and others may be confused about what is acceptable public behaviour. These pupils will need help to develop skills to reduce the risks of being abused and exploited, and to learn what sorts of behaviour are, and are not, acceptable.

### **Sexual identity and sexual orientation:**

We have a clear duty under the Equality Act 2010 to ensure that our teaching is accessible to all pupils, including those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT). Inclusive PSHE will foster good relations between pupils, tackle all types of prejudice, including homophobia, and promote understanding and respect, enabling us to meet the requirements, and live the intended spirit, of the Equality Act 2010.

### **Pupils who are new to English**

The school should take into account the language skills of individual pupils, ensuring that all pupils have equal access to the PSHE provision and resources.

## **Resources**

We use You, me and PSHE planning and the resources recommended within it. We will focus on the needs of the pupils and our planned learning objectives. We select carefully resources which meet these objectives. We evaluate carefully teacher resources, leaflets, online resources and videos before using them.



We use children's books, both fiction and non-fiction, extensively within our PSHE programme. Teachers will always read and assess the books before using them to ensure they are appropriate for the planned work. They will also consider the needs and circumstances of individual pupils in class when reading texts, in case they need to have a preparatory conversation with a pupil before the teaching takes place.

### **Learning environment and ground rules**

Staff are careful to ensure their personal beliefs and attitudes do not influence the teaching of PSHE. To this end, ground rules have been agreed to provide a framework of common values within which to teach. There are clear parameters as to what will be taught in a whole-class setting, and what will be dealt with on an individual basis.

If pupils are to benefit fully from a PSHE programme, they need to be confident speakers, good listeners and effective, sensitive communicators. When the needs of pupils are analysed, of overriding importance are two key areas: they need to feel safe and be safe. A set ground rules will help staff to create a safe and relaxed environment in which they do not feel embarrassed or anxious about unexpected questions or comments from the pupils. They also reduce the possibility of inappropriate behaviour and the disclosure of inappropriate personal information.

### **Answering questions**

We acknowledge that sensitive and potentially difficult issues will arise in PSHE as pupils will naturally share information and ask questions. When spontaneous discussion arises, it is guided in a way that reflects the stated school aims and curriculum content for PSHE. As a first principle, we answer questions relating to taught, planned curriculum for that age group to the whole class. We answer questions relating to areas beyond the taught, planned curriculum for that age group, in a sensitive and age appropriate way, only to the pupil or pupils who have asked the question. If a member of staff is uncertain about the answer to a question, or indeed whether they should answer it, they will seek guidance from the PSHE leader/ Child Protection Officer. Questions may be referred to parents/carers if it is not appropriate to answer them in school. We may use a question box where questions may be asked anonymously.

When answering questions, we ensure that sharing personal information by adults, pupils or their families is discouraged. Where a question or comment from a pupil in the classroom indicates the possibilities of abuse or risk of harm, teachers will pass this information to the designated person for safeguarding and child protection, in line with school policy and procedures.

### **Monitoring, evaluation and assessment.**

We assess pupils' learning in PSHE in line with approaches used in the rest of the curriculum (including assessment for learning). PSHE assessment isn't formation grade and is used to address gaps in knowledge and aim learning. Teachers monitor the progress of their pupils in PSHE throughout the whole school day and in all lessons. Progress can not only be seen in lessons but in their attitudes, behaviours and actions to and in real life situations.

Teachers' assessment enables them to plan the next steps in their pupils learning.

### **Safeguarding and Child Protection**

The nature of PSHE means that pupils may disclose personal information that staff will respond to appropriately. The classroom is never a confidential place to talk, and that remains true in PSHE. Pupils will be reminded that lessons are not a place to discuss their personal experiences and issues, or to ask others to do so, through the establishment of ground rules. Any visitor to the classroom will be

bound by the school's policy on confidentiality, regardless of whether they have, or their organisation has, a different policy. We will make sure visitors are aware of this, and make sure there are enough opportunities for pupils to access confidential support after the lesson if they need it.

Any information disclosed to a staff member or other responsible adult, which causes concern about the pupil's safety, will be communicated to the designated person as soon as possible and always within 24 hours, in line with our safeguarding and child protection policy. PSHE plays a very important part in fulfilling the statutory duties all schools have to meet and the PSHE policy should be closely aligned to the school's safeguarding policy. PSHE helps pupils to know and understand how to keep themselves and others safe, make informed decisions and manage risk and equips them with the knowledge and skills to get help if they need it. When teaching any sensitive issue, pupils may give cause for concern, and a link needs to be made with the pastoral system and safeguarding arrangements. All adults involved in PSHE delivery need to be aware of the pastoral system and safeguarding arrangements in place.

### **Support**

We hope that pupils will feel safe in the school environment to talk to any member of staff in confidence about any areas of concern regarding their personal, social and emotional development. We promote the school ethos as one of inclusion and acceptance throughout all areas of school activity and hope that pupils respond to this by feeling comfortable to ask questions and continue their learning both in and outside of the classroom.

### **Complaints**

Parents/carers who have complaints or concerns regarding the PSHE provision should contact the school and follow the school's complaints policy.