



St. Mary's Church of England Primary School

Policy for Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education

St. Mary's Church of England (Aided) Primary School

Be the best I can in the love of Christ

At St. Mary's School we aim to:

1. Create a caring Christian community in which everyone is valued and able to grow in the love of Christ;
2. Inspire all our children to develop enquiring minds and a lifelong love of learning;
3. Release potential through a broad and creative curriculum;
4. Create an environment in which independence, respect and resilience will flourish;
5. Further strong links between home, school, church and the local community;
6. Equip children to become responsible global citizens.

Introduction

Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education helps to give pupils the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to lead confident, healthy, independent lives and to become informed, active responsible citizens.

At St Mary's we place great emphasis on PSHE and SRE and believe it is important to develop the child not just academically, but socially and emotionally. We aim to instil positive values, which are under-pinned by the school's Christian ethos

Aims

Through PSHCE we aim to:

- Encourage children to take part in a wide range of activities and experiences across and beyond the curriculum;
- Encourage children to play a full part in the life of the school and our community;
- Encourage children to recognise their own worth and to develop confidence;
- Encourage children to reflect on their experiences and understand how they are developing personally and socially;
- Help children to be informed about, and therefore approach confidently, the spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues that are part of growing up;
- Understand the changes that they will go through as they grow older through our SRE scheme of work
- Help children to begin to 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;
- Help children to understand and respect our common humanity, diversity and differences so that they can go on to form the effective, fulfilling relationships that are an essential part of life and learning.
- Help children to understand their rights and responsibilities toward members of our school community and the wider world, and have an understanding – at the appropriate level for their age group – of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The school's approach to the teaching of PSHCE

Our scheme of work for PSHCE uses the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning materials, in addition to school designed units of work in order to follow the non statutory guidelines within the National Curriculum for citizenship.

There is an additional scheme of work for Sex and Relationship Education which gives particular guidance for the teaching of this area of the curriculum.

The nature of the subject means that, in addition to time set aside for PSHCE lessons, issues are addressed throughout the school day and the school year. This means that if a child has a particular concern, a group of children need help with friendships or if an issue is highlighted locally or nationally the teacher or teachers will address the issue as and when the need arises.

The development of children's personal, social and learning skills is integral to the work of the school so we will also set aside specific days to work together in different groups, such as mixed age groups, on some global and national issues such as UNICEF and Fairtrade activities.

Other subjects taught also give opportunities for teaching the PSHCE curriculum. This includes such areas as environmental issues in Geography and Science, Life Cycles and Food and Healthy Eating in Science and aspects of the RE curriculum and PE curriculum.

Teaching Strategies

Our Teaching and Learning Policy applies to all subjects including PSHCE. The school's Sex and Relationship Education Policy gives particular guidance about the teaching of this area.

During timetabled PSHE time, an emphasis is placed on active learning through planned discussions, Circle-time, investigations, role-play activities, group-work and problem-solving.

All teachers will endeavour to provide a safe learning environment through the establishment of clear ground rules which are made explicit to the children and reinforced consistently.

Visiting speakers – for example, the police and health workers - also contribute to the taught curriculum.

Beyond timetabled PSHE lessons, pupils are supported in applying the skills they are learning, in real-life situations as they arise: e.g. resolving conflicts; working a part of a group on a project.

Children are encouraged to take part in a range of practical activities to promote active citizenship, e.g. charity fund-raising; the planning of special events at school; contributing to class and school charters; class council meetings; and by demonstrating an understanding of the rights of all children.

Resources

Resources are stored centrally or in classrooms. SEAL resources are available on the school intranet. The subject leader maintains a list of school based resources and audits these regularly. Needs are noted and met according to the priorities in the School Development Plan.

Children with Special Educational Needs

Work may be differentiated to meet the needs of particular children. See the school's Teaching and Learning Policy and SEN and Inclusion Policy.

Provision of Equal Opportunities and Inclusion

All children will have equal access to the PSHCE curriculum. See SEN and Inclusion Policy.

Assessment

Where appropriate, expectations are set for each unit of work. SEAL materials support assessment through 'I can' statements across relevant areas. Although it is a major concern of PSHCE to help pupils develop their own beliefs, values, attitudes and behaviour, it is not appropriate to make these matters for assessing, recording and reporting.

It is not appropriate to assess

- matters which pupils may wish to keep to themselves; or
- whether pupils' own beliefs and values are 'right' or 'wrong'.

Assessments are passed to the child's next teacher and are used by the PSHCE subject leader to monitor achievement in the subject.

Teachers will comment on children's understanding of material covered in the Annual Report to Parents.

Further information regarding assessment will be found in the Assessment, Recording and Reporting Policy.

Developing and monitoring the PSHCE curriculum

The subject leader will:

- Support and advise class teachers in matters relating to PSHCE
- Manage PSHCE resources;
- Monitor planning to ensure that the scheme of work is covered;
- Monitor achievement;
- Maintain the subject leader's file.