

St. Mary's VC Primary School
Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)
and Citizenship Policy

“At St. Mary’s, we are a loving Christian family who live and learn happily together and grow in the Catholic faith. We practise our beliefs in the parish and the community in which we live.”

Introduction

Personal, social and health education (PSHE) and citizenship enables children to become healthy, independent and responsible members of society. We encourage our pupils to play a positive role in contributing to the life of the school and the wider community. In so doing we help develop their sense of self worth and belonging. We teach them how society is organised and governed. We ensure that they experience the process of democracy in school through the school council. We teach them about rights and responsibilities. They learn to appreciate what it means to be a positive member of our Catholic community and the diverse society in which we live.

At St Mary’s, we believe that personal development is a crucial aspect of learning: it has a direct impact upon all other areas of study. In order to develop personally, we believe that children throughout our school must achieve the following learning objectives:

- To try new things
 - To work hard
 - To concentrate
 - To push oneself
 - To imagine
 - To improve
- To understand others
 - To not give up

Teaching and learning style

2.1 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 such as Cafod and the Shoebox Appeal or involvement in an activity to help other individuals or groups less fortunate than themselves such as Drama productions. We ensure that children are involved in agreeing classroom rules of behaviour.

PSHE and citizenship curriculum planning

3.1 We teach PSHE and citizenship in a variety of ways, following the framework for PSCE and citizenship given as non-statutory guidance in the National Curriculum. We also follow Chris Quigley's framework. We have dedicated session time during the week to deliver PSHE where children are given the opportunity to develop themes and share ideas, e.g. through Circle Time or 'Worry Boxes'.

3.2 We also introduce PSHE and citizenship through other subjects, e.g. when teaching about local environmental issues in geography or health education in Science. As there is an overlap between our 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. We also use our weekly Circletime, particularly in Key Stage 1, to discuss PSHE and Citizenship issues.

3.3 We also develop PSHE and citizenship through activities and whole-school events, i.e. working together in raising funds for those less fortunate than themselves. We offer a residential visit each year to children in Upper 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.

4 Foundation Stage

4.1 We teach PSHE and citizenship in nursery and reception classes as an integral part of the topic work covered during the year and in the weekly Circletime. 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 needs

We teach PSHE and citizenship to all children, regardless of their ability. Our teachers provide learning opportunities matched to the individual needs of children with learning difficulties. When teaching PSHE and Citizenship, we take into account the targets set for the children in the Individual Education Plans (IEPs).

Assessment and recording

Teachers assess the children's work in PSHE and citizenship by making informal judgements as they observe them during lessons. We have clear expectations of what the pupils will know, understand and be able to do at the end of each key stage.

Each child has an Achievement folder which is used to keep certificates and other records of the achievements they have made in school, e.g. Student of the Week certificates, reading and sports certificates and those for participation in school events, e.g. Children taking part at the Cathedral and the school Choir singing for Teesside Hospice. We report these achievements to parents each year.

Resources

We have a range of resources to assist with supporting and enhancing teaching and learning in PSHE. Resources are kept *online in the staff area and other activities with the subject leader.*

Health Promoting Schools Award (the National Healthy School Standard).

We recognise the Health Promoting Schools Award as an effective vehicle to promote PSHE and Citizenship which offers an integrated whole-school process, set alongside nationally agree criteria, looking at health issues in their wider sense.

St. Mary's is working with local partners and agencies to develop PSHE and Citizenship, including emotional health, sex and relationship education, drug education, safety, healthy eating and physical activity.

Monitoring and review

8.1 The PSHE and citizenship co-ordinator is responsible for monitoring the standards of children's work and the quality of teaching. The subject leader 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 subject leader is also responsible for giving the headteacher an annual summary report, evaluating strengths and weaknesses in the subject and indicating areas for further improvement.

Signed:

Date: