

St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Junior School

Policy for PSHE and Citizenship (PSHCE)

*'Realising the potential of every child within a caring, Christian
community'*

"Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself"—Matthew 19:19



Policy for PSHE and Citizenship

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Section 1 Context

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

Duty to Promote Wellbeing

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 places a requirement on schools to promote pupils' wellbeing (as defined in the Children Act 2004 – see Appendix 1) as well as their academic achievement. We are committed to promoting the health and wellbeing of children and of the whole school community, and fully recognise the important cyclical relationship between wellbeing and learning.

National Curriculum

The National Curriculum states that all schools must provide a curriculum that is broadly based, balanced and meets the needs of all pupils. It must also:

‘ promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, and

- prepare pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.’

The National Curriculum Framework (2013) and the non-statutory guidance for PSHE Education (2013) state specifically that schools should make provision for PSHE within their school curriculum. We recognise that PSHCE makes an essential contribution to the requirements of the National Curriculum.

Ofsted

Our PSHCE programme makes an essential contribution to the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development of the children in our school, and also to their behaviour and safety. The recent Ofsted report into PSHE in schools (see Appendix 1) highlights the link between effective PSHE and overall findings in Ofsted reports.

Health Promoting Schools/ Healthy Schools

We are committed to providing a ‘Health Promoting School’/‘Healthy School’ climate and culture. This means that we place teaching and learning in the wider context of our approach to:

- Leadership, organisation and management and the management of change
- Policy development
- The school ethos, culture, environment and SMSC development, and positive relationships throughout the school
- Learning and teaching, curriculum planning and resourcing
- Giving children a voice
- Provision of support services for children
- Staff continuing professional development (CPD), health and wellbeing
- Partnership with parents/carers, the local community, external agencies and volunteers to support pupil health and wellbeing
- Assessing, recording and monitoring impact and outcomes.

SEAL

We are committed to promoting and developing the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning through the curriculum and beyond. This is supported by the national SEAL programme and materials (originally part of the Behaviour and Attendance strand of the National Strategies). These are embedded into the Primary Personal Development Programme.

Our SEAL programme consists of a whole school teaching programme, and whole school approaches including collective worship, focus of the week, and the use of key strategies linked to our approach to behaviour management. More detail is available by reading the school Character Education policy.

Section 2 Introduction to PSHE and Citizenship (PSHCE)

Our shared beliefs about PSHCE

As a Church of England School we believe that Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship are part of our Christian ethos. As such, they are not separate subjects, but part of everything that we do. Our Character Education policy is therefore our response to the 'requirements'¹ of PSHE and Citizenship. The following is a brief outline of the link between the two. However, for further details reference should be made to the Character Education Policy

Schools that embrace citizenship tend to treat it not only as a 'subject' but also as a value that runs across school life.' Submission of ATL to Cambridge Primary Review p. 154

Character Education places a whole school focus on Christian Gospel values. We summarise these values in seven words that are known throughout the school and part of everything that we do:

Respect, Responsibility, Honesty, Trustworthiness, Caring, Fairness and Forgiveness

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 their school and communities. 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 their responsibilities, rights and duties as individuals and members of communities.

As a Church of England school our challenge is to identify the distinctive role of the Christian citizen. Central to the teachings of Jesus is the commandment to love God first and then to love our neighbour. Education for good citizenship requires that justice and equality are promoted and that injustice and inequality are challenged.

Section 3 Implementing the PSHCE Policy in our school

School Aims and Values

This PSHCE policy is set within the wider context of the school's overall aims and values, which include the following:

At St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Junior school:

- We promote a healthy, safe and caring Christian environment for all pupils and staff
- We provide a broad and balanced curriculum for all our pupils, which recognises and values their diverse backgrounds and needs, extending opportunities for personalised learning.
- We promote pupils' self esteem and emotional wellbeing and help them to form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships, based on respect for themselves and for others, at home, school, work and in the community
- We prepare our pupils to engage confidently with the challenges of adult life
- We provide sufficient information and support to enable our pupils to make safe choices
- We provide pupils, through an enriched curriculum, with opportunities to develop the necessary skills to manage their lives effectively
- We help our pupils to learn to respect themselves and others and move safely from childhood, through adolescence, into adulthood
- We create a wider awareness of religious, cultural and moral values within a Christian framework and respect for different ethnic groups, religious beliefs and ways of life
- We promote an inclusive ethos and a culture of mutual respect where diversity and difference are recognised, appreciated and celebrated
- We work in partnership with parents and carers, the church and with the wider community, to support children in all aspects of their wellbeing.

Aims of the policy

The aim of our PSHE and Citizenship Policy is to ensure quality and consistency in our approach to all aspects of PSHCE/Personal Development in our school. This includes our whole school approach to promoting health and wellbeing, as well as the curriculum.

The policy aims to:

- explain the central role PSHCE plays in the life of the school and in children's learning, within the context of national and local guidance
- provide guidance to members of staff in all roles about their responsibilities in relation to PSHCE
- ensure that the entire school community understands the role of PSHCE in the ethos of the school
- ensure a consistent approach to planning and delivering PSHCE
- ensure that children receive an entitlement curriculum with progression and a high quality experience of teaching and learning
- ensure that staff have the knowledge, understanding and skills to deliver the PSHCE curriculum
- promote partnership work with parent/carers to support children's learning and development in PSHCE, health and wellbeing
- support children's involvement in reviewing and developing work related to PSHCE and Healthy Schools
- enable the assessment of children's learning in line with local and national guidance
- ensure the continuing development of policy and practice relating to Healthy Schools, with the support of the PSHE Service
- provide guidance about the criteria for selecting and using high quality resources
- support the PSHCE subject leader in monitoring, reviewing and developing practice.

Related policies

This policy acts as an overarching policy for theme specific policies and guidance in the following areas: Anti-bullying, SRE, Drug Education, Food and Physical Activity. These policies include more detailed explanation of implementation of these themes.

It is also linked to and is delivered in the context of the following policies: Behaviour, Safeguarding and Child Protection, Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, SEN/Inclusion, Equality and Diversity, Health and Safety, Emotional Wellbeing, Staff Health and Wellbeing, Use of Visits/Visitors, Confidentiality, Loss and Change, ICT/Computing (including E-safety), Science.

Inclusion/Equality and Diversity

We promote the needs and interests of all pupils, inclusive of gender, culture, ability or aptitude. Our approaches to teaching and learning take into account the ability, age, readiness and cultural backgrounds of the children to ensure that all can access the full PSHE and Citizenship provision.

In relation to those with special educational needs, we will review our PSHCE programme to ensure that provision is made for those with additional needs. When working with children with additional needs we consider:

- their level of vulnerability
- their need to develop self-esteem and positive body image
- the need to involve all staff and carers in policy development, planning and training
- the need for a range of approaches to teaching and learning to ensure they are genuinely inclusive
- sources of support for pupils.

In relation to ethnicity, religion and cultural diversity, we value the different backgrounds of our children and, in acknowledging and exploring different views and beliefs, seek to promote respect and understanding.

In order to ensure the PSHCE curriculum meets the needs of all:

- We encourage respect and discourage abuse and exploitation.
- We do not ask young people to represent the views of a particular religious or cultural group to their peers, unless they choose to do so.

We promote social learning and expect our students to show a high regard for the needs of others. PSHE and Citizenship are important vehicles for addressing both multicultural and gender issues and for ensuring equal opportunities for all.

We support children in developing their knowledge about and attitudes towards diversity throughout the Personal Development Programme. This is addressed specifically in units including 'Diversity and Communities', 'Family and Friends', and 'Beginning and Belonging'.

Curriculum Organisation

Our PSHE and Citizenship programme (which is covered through the taught curriculum and our wider provision) includes teaching and learning within the following strands and themes:

Myself and My Relationships - including Emotional Wellbeing, Beginning and Belonging, Anti-bullying, Family and Friends and Managing Change.

Healthy and Safer Lifestyles – including Personal Safety, Drug Education, Sex and Relationships Education, Healthy Lifestyles and Safety Contexts (including Road Safety) and e-safety.

Citizenship – including Diversity and Communities, Rights, Rules and Responsibilities and Working Together

Economic Wellbeing – including Financial Capability.

Children receive their entitlement for learning in PSHCE (as set out in the Audit of Learning) through a 2 year rolling curriculum which demonstrates progression. This PSHCE/PD programme is delivered through a variety of opportunities, including:

- PSHCE time within class
- subjects across the curriculum, e.g. science, literacy, RE, Design Technology
- visitors, e.g., dental nurse, health nurse, PCSO
- residential and day visits, e.g. Year 6 visit to PGL, Year 5 visit to Letton Hall, Year 3 and 4 visit to Colchester Castle
- collective worship
- small group work, e.g. social skills groups and related circle time activities

Ground Rules

PSHCE is taught in a safe, non-judgemental environment where adults and children are confident that they will be respected. Teachers and children together develop and establish ground rules in place, which ensure that every child feels safe and is able to learn in a supportive and caring environment. These cover, in particular, the asking and answering of personal questions and strategies for checking or accessing information.

Answering Questions

We acknowledge that sensitive and potentially difficult issues will arise in PSHCE, as children 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 PSHCE. As a first principle, we answer questions relating to the taught, planned curriculum for that age group (or younger) 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 child or children 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 PSHCE leader. 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 possibility 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.

Further information about how we will answer questions about aspects of PSHCE such as SRE and Drug education can be found in the specific policies for those areas.

Resources

We use primarily the Cambridgeshire Primary Personal Development Programme and the resources recommended within it when planning and delivering PSHCE. We will avoid a 'resource-led' approach to delivering PSHCE, instead focusing on the needs of the children and our planned learning objectives. We select carefully resources which meet these objectives. We evaluate carefully teacher resources, leaflets and videos, before using them.

When PSHCE related resources are being used within other subject areas (for example books about the human body in science), the same criteria are applied. This also applies to electronic resources, such as the use of websites and presentations found on the internet.

We use children's books, both fiction and non fiction, extensively within our PSHCE/PD programme. The same selection criteria apply, and 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 children in the class when reading texts, in case they need to have a preparatory conversation with a child before the teaching takes place, for instance. The key texts we use are listed within our PSHCE/PD programme.

Confidentiality

The nature of PSHCE means that children may disclose personal information that staff will respond to appropriately. Where there is a genuine risk to the safety of the child, information must be passed on to individuals and/or organisations responsible for protecting the child. We will follow the procedures outlined in other policies such as Safeguarding and Child Protection, Behaviour and Health and Safety.

Any information disclosed to a staff member or other responsible adult, which causes concern about the child'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.

If visitors are working in a classroom or other teaching situation, they will follow the school's policies/guidance on confidentiality and on safeguarding, and other relevant school policies.

Assessment, recording and reporting

We assess children's learning in PSHCE in line with approaches used in the rest of the curriculum (including Assessment for Learning). Children's learning is planned using learning objectives which are explained to the children, and we negotiate their success criteria with them. Teachers draw on their observation of children's learning and children's self assessment to arrive at their overall assessments.

We report to parents/carers at the end of the school year on children's learning and progress concerning PSHCE within our general comments and on IEP's where appropriate.

Section 4

Involving the whole school and wider community

The role of governors

We have a named link governor for PSHCE who works closely with and in support of the subject leader.

When aspects of PSHCE appear in whole school development planning/the School Development Plan, a governor will be assigned to reflect on, monitor and review the work as appropriate.

The governing body as a whole plays an active role in monitoring, reviewing and developing the policy and its implementation in school.

Working with parents and carers

We recognise the key role that parents and 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 and carers when planning and delivering PSHCE. We encourage this partnership by:

- informing parents and carers by letter/ by email/on the website of forthcoming PSHCE topics and their learning content
- gathering parents'/carers' views on the PSHCE policy and taking these into account when it is being reviewed
- providing supportive information about parents'/carers' role in PSHCE and how they can develop protective factors with their children
- including out of school learning/family learning opportunities within our curriculum for PSHCE, encouraging children to share at home their learning about all aspects of PSHCE
- inviting parents/carers to discuss their views and concerns about PSHCE on an informal basis.
- Parents and carers will be given access to this policy on request. It is also available on the school website and upon request from the school office.

Involving the children

We recognise that an interactive approach to PSHCE will better develop the skills of our children, and also that, if they are involved in shaping the programme, it is more likely to meet their needs. We involve young people in the evaluation and development of their PSHCE in ways appropriate to their age.

- We encourage children to ask questions as they arise by providing anonymous question boxes and other similar approaches.
- We ask children to reflect on their learning using appropriate success criteria and to set goals for future learning.
- We consult with children, through School and CATS groups, about their perception of the strengths of our PSHCE programme and the areas to be further developed.
- Through assessment, in particular self assessment, we will learn more from the children about the effectiveness of the teaching and learning and its impact.

- Through engagement with the Schools Health Education Unit (SHEU) annual survey-
“Supporting the well-being of Children and Young People.” This makes comparisons about PSHCE with school data against Brentwood and Essex samples.

Use of visits and visitors

Where appropriate we use visits and visitors from outside agencies or members of the community to support the PSHCE/PD programme. 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.

When visitors are used to support the PSHCE/PD programme, the school’s policy on Use of Visitors is followed.

Residential visits can make a significant contribution to children’s personal development. When planning such visits, we use opportunities to promote children’s learning in relevant areas of the PSHCE curriculum (for example, relationship skills, group work skills, communication skills, healthy lifestyles, managing risk, safety).

Our partnership with the local community is a priority, and we recognise and value its contribution to the PSHCE/PD programme. This reflects our approach to active Citizenship.

We include a range of opportunities for community involvement and activities, such as:

- links with the church (e.g. harvest festival)
- charity fundraising (e.g. links with the local food bank, school charity focus, supporting events such as Comic Relief and Children in Need)
- school clubs (e.g. choir performance in care home)
- links with local services (e.g. visits from the fire service)
- Community use of school premises (e.g. summer fair).

Section 5 Monitoring, Review and Evaluation

The process for development and review

This policy has been drawn up in consultation with all teaching staff, other school staff, parents, young people, governors, members of the wider school community and other agencies.

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

- a co-ordinated and consistent approach to curriculum delivery has been adopted
- a flexible approach to delivering PSHCE that responds to children’s needs (identified through consultation, research or observation) is in place
- children are receiving an entitlement curriculum for PSHCE in line with national and local guidance
- 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, children

The member of staff responsible for overseeing and reviewing this policy is: Mrs Terry Ashby

Date of Policy: September 2014

Next review date: September 2018

Section 6 Appendices

Appendix 1: The 2010 Education White Paper

This makes clear the importance of effective PSHE in schools:

'Children can benefit enormously from high-quality Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education. Good PSHE supports individual young people to make safe and informed choices. It can help tackle public health issues such as substance misuse and support young people with the financial decisions they must make.'

The importance of teaching, Schools White Paper, Department for Education, updated 2012

DfE Research report

This report highlights the link between wellbeing, behaviour and social and emotional development and learning and achievement:

Children with higher levels of emotional, behavioural, social and school well-being on average have higher levels of academic achievement and are more engaged in school, both concurrently and in later years.

The impact of pupil behaviour and wellbeing on educational outcomes, Department for Education, 2012

National Curriculum

All schools must provide a curriculum that is broadly based, balanced and meets the needs of all pupils. Under section 78 of the Education Act 2002 and the Academies Act 2010 such a curriculum:

- 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.

This has been reiterated in the National Curriculum Framework published by the DfE in September 2013, which also states:

'All schools should make provision for personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE), drawing on good practice'

Department for Education Guidance on PSHE education

The DfE guidance on PSHE education (September 2013) states that the subject remains non-statutory

and that no new programmes of study will be published. However, the following statement is included:

'PSHE is an important and necessary part of all pupils' education. All schools should teach PSHE, drawing on good practice, and this expectation is outlined in the introduction to the new National Curriculum.'

Schools should seek to use PSHE education to build, where appropriate, on the statutory content already outlined in the National Curriculum, the basic school curriculum and in statutory guidance on: drug education, financial education, sex and relationship education (SRE) and the importance of physical activity and diet for a healthy lifestyle.'

Guidance Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education, DfE, September 2013

Ofsted

The contribution of PSHE and Citizenship can be recognised in particular in the following areas of the current inspection framework:

- *the quality of education provided, including the behaviour and safety of pupils at the school.*
- *the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils at the school.*

The requirements for Behaviour and Safety include:

'The extent to which school leaders: provide a broad and balanced curriculum that meets the needs of all pupils, enables all pupils to achieve their full educational potential and make progress in their learning, and promotes their good behaviour and safety and their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.'

In the recent Ofsted report into PSHE education in schools, the relationship between the quality of PSHE provision and the grading of schools for overall effectiveness is highlighted:

The contribution that effective PSHE education can make to good behaviour and safety and to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is evident throughout this report. It is interesting to note that there is a close correlation between the grades that the schools in the survey were awarded for overall effectiveness in their last section 5 inspection, and their grade for PSHE education.

Not yet good enough: PSHE education in schools, Ofsted May 2013

Appendix 2: Audit of Learning

- Audit of Learning
- List of resources (to follow)- see booklists