

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School & Nursery

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) & Citizenship Policy

June 2011

“At Sacred Heart School, we are a loving Christian family who live and learn happily together and grow in the Catholic faith”

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. 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 a diverse multicultural society.

The aims of personal, social and health education and citizenship are to enable the children to:

- know and understand what constitutes a healthy lifestyle;
- be aware of safety issues;
- understand what makes for good relationships with others;
- have respect for others;
- be independent and responsible members of the school community;
- be positive and active members of a democratic society;
- develop self-confidence and self-esteem, and make informed choices regarding personal and social issues;
- develop good relationships with other members of the school and the wider community.

Teaching and learning style

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 e.g. CAFOD/CCS, the planning of school special events such as an assembly or involvement in an activity to help other individuals or groups less fortunate than themselves e.g. Comic Relief/Rwanda. We organise classes in such a way that pupils are able to participate in discussion to resolve conflicts or set agreed classroom rules of behaviour e.g. classroom promises at the start of every school year.. We offer children the opportunity to hear visiting speakers, such as health workers, police, NSPCC, whom we invite into the school to talk about their role in creating a positive and supportive local community.

PSHE and citizenship curriculum planning

We teach PSHE and citizenship in a variety of ways. This year the school has started using SEAL materials produced by the DFES. We have introduced them across the whole school from Nursery to Y6. In some instances, e.g. drug education, we teach PSHE and citizenship as a discrete subject. Some of the time we introduce PSHE and citizenship through other subjects, e.g. when teaching about local environmental issues in geography, we offer pupils the opportunity to explore who is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of local parks and cycle paths. As there is a large overlap between the programme of study for religious education and the aims of PSHE and citizenship, we teach a considerable amount of PSHE and citizenship through our religious education lessons. We are currently looking at all our Long Term Plans to co-ordinate more cross curricular work and link all subjects to the new primary framework. We are also looking to review and evaluate our plans with the Hertfordshire guidance for PSHE & citizenship.

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We also develop PSHE and citizenship through activities and whole-school events, e.g. the school council representatives from each class meet regularly to discuss school matters. We offer a residential visit to The Loft (Y5) and Manor Adventure (Y6) where there is a particular focus on developing pupils' self esteem and giving them opportunities to develop leadership and co-operative skills.

Foundation Stage

We teach PSHE and citizenship in reception classes as an integral part of the topic work covered during the year using the SEAL materials. 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 their Individual Education Plans (IEPs).

Assessment and recording

Teachers assess the children's work in PSHE and citizenship both by making informal judgements as they observe them during lessons and by doing formal assessments of their work, measured against the specific learning objectives set out in the National Curriculum. We have clear expectations of what the pupils will know, understand and be able to do at the end of each key stage.

Teachers record the achievements of pupils in PSHE and citizenship in their mark books. We report these achievements to parents each year.

We do not set formal examinations in PSHE and citizenship. The assessments that we make of pupil achievement do not imply that a pupil has 'passed' or 'failed'.

Resources

We keep SEAL resources for PSHE and citizenship in a central store in the staff room. IWB discs have been given to each teacher plus any new materials from SEAL forums attended by the PSHE subject leader. We have additional book resources in the library and a box in the staff room for teaching sensitive issues e.g. death

Monitoring and review

The PSHE and citizenship subject leader 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. We allocate special time for our subject leader to enable her to fulfil this role by reviewing samples of children's work and visiting classes to observe teaching in the subject.

This policy will be monitored and evaluated by the subject leader in consultation with all staff on a regular basis.

This policy will be reviewed in June 2012