



ST. MARK'S CE SCHOOL
ONE SCHOOL - SERVING ALL - THROUGH EXCELLENCE

PSHE POLICY

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Our Context:

St. Mark's CE School is situated in the culturally and ethnically diverse inner city of Southampton. We work closely with our partner schools across the Southampton Cooperative Leading Trust and have developed our policy in line with them.

Within inner city Southampton, current situations that our children regularly encounter include, according to our safeguarding training:

Domestic Violence

Drug and Alcohol Abuse

Mental Illness

Obesity

Deprivation

Neglect

Gang membership

Cultural challenges which can include so called Honour Based violence, radicalisation and extremism

PSHE within Education

2020 marks a new era for PSHE education; Under the Education Act 2002 / Academies act 2010 it is recognised that all schools must provide a balanced and broad curriculum which, "promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of children at the school and at society and prepares children at our school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life."

PSHE at St. Mark's CE School

"PSHE is the school subject through which children acquire the values, skills and attributes they need to stay healthy, safe and thrive, now and in the future" PSHE Association 2019.

PSHE is an important subject to teach, it is vital if children are to learn how to keep safe and healthy in an ever changing world. PSHE is a key way our school can ensure that children are receiving a wide and varied curriculum that is relevant to the lives they live today and prepares them well for their future whilst enriching their cultural capital. We take into account the society and world in which we live and aim within our teaching to carefully consider the implications for our community.

As a collection of schools across the Trust, PSHE remains a priority for us and is informed and enhances our Ethos, Education and Christian values.

Aims

As a collection of schools, we recognise our responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 to do the very best for all our children, irrespective of the protective characteristics (see Equality Policy).

Our fundamental aim is to ensure the present and future wellbeing of our children and to meet their learning needs; in doing so encouraging our children to recognise their worth, work well with others and become increasingly responsible for their own learning.

The overarching aims and objectives for our children are...

- To support the children to reflect personally on their learning and experiences and understand how they are developing both personally and socially, tackling many of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues that are a part of growing up in Southampton, modern day democratic Britain and as a member of a global community.
- To encourage children to adopt an independent growth mindset approach to make informed choices and be resilient when faced with new challenges and situations. ● To help our children to stay safe and reduce or remove barriers to learning. ● To help children connect that in order to have a sense of wellbeing; emotional, physical, mental and economic balance needs to be achieved and to provide them with a wide range of strategies to achieve a healthy lifestyle.
- To encourage our children to be actively involved in a wide range of experiences and activities across and beyond the curriculum to help them contribute fully to the life of the school and the communities they serve.
- To form effective, respectful and fulfilling relationships that are an essential part of life and learning.
- To promote tolerance and respect by helping our children realise the nature and consequences of discrimination, teasing, bullying (including cyber bullying) and aggressive behaviours such as the use of prejudice based language, and how to respond and ask for help
- To maintain safe working environments where children's ideas and opinions are valued and where they can safely discuss themes that affect them and their lives (see Safeguarding Policy)

- To develop independent and lifelong learners, maximising academic achievement, and in doing so increase employability skills for the 21st century

Creating a Safe and Supportive Learning Environment

As PSHE education works within children's real life experiences, it is essential to establish a safe learning environment. Clear ground rules and a confidentiality culture that underpins the Safeguarding Policy, helps us to create this.

Classroom pedagogy will take into account children's ability, age, readiness and cultural backgrounds and teaching is adjusted to enable all children to access the learning.

Visitors

Visitors are carefully selected and will be inducted into our Safeguarding policy before commencing any sessions. Any session plans are carefully considered in advance of teaching and resources are checked for relevance and suitability in advance. All visitors will be accompanied by a member of the school team as outlined in our Safeguarding Policy; teachers are always present to manage the learning.

School approach

Through our core values of love, respect, inclusion and equality, we will create a safe and supportive learning environment by:

- Respecting each child's contribution, ideas and opinions
- Promoting social learning and expect our children to show a high regard for the needs of others by promoting tolerance and respecting others ideas and opinions, recognising that these do not have to agree with their own, thus further promoting our fundamental British Values
- Help children to seek to understand others and be understood themselves
- Share a confidentiality culture that is recognised by all staff
- Train our staff explicitly on how to create safe environments
- Train our children to raise opinions in an impartial and indirect way which keeps them safe
- Ensure all staff adhere to our school safeguarding policy regarding disclosures and that children are aware that no teacher can offer complete confidentiality.

Key Principles and Teaching Methodology

All PSHE education within our school starts from where our children are; we identify any misconceptions or gaps in understanding to provide a starting point for any topic or unit of work using 3 questions to begin:

1. What do I know about...?
2. What do I think about...?
3. What can I do about...?

Children are taught how to reflect critically to help make connections between the learning they receive in PSHE education and their current and future real life experiences.

Our teaching is organised into 3 key themes which interlink, they are;

- Health and wellbeing
- Living in the Wider World
- Relationships

PSHE education is taught as a spiral curriculum and as a planned programme of teaching where previous learning is revisited and built on and is sensitive to the children's ability, age, readiness and cultural backgrounds; teaching is adjusted to enable all children to access the learning. Learning will always take a positive approach providing realistic, relevant and factual information that helps children to explore the range of social norms.

We ensure that sessions including those that are of a culturally sensitive or socially sensitive nature are shared ahead of time with parents. As a school, we will do our best to signpost further advice and support for our families and children with trusted agencies.

Our learning is always as interactive as possible to ensure that our children have the opportunity to engage socially and verbally in active learning, providing a range, where appropriate, of first hand experiences.

As part of our approach to learning; we prioritise the development of speaking and listening in our sessions to reflect the ever changing nature of our learners and the number of whom are at early stages of language acquisition to ensure we provide good role models for them.

E-Safety

E-Safety is intrinsically linked to our PSHE curriculum and the E-Safety policy details our approach and aims for this area.

Equality and Diversity ([Links to our Equality and Diversity Policy](#))

We promote the needs and interests of all children irrespective of gender, culture, ability, aptitude or stage of English acquisition by teaching the children to raise, explore and suggest topics and ideas in a respectful way promoting social learning and valuing their contributions.

Governors at St. Mark's CE ensures that our Equality obligations are fulfilled by meeting with the PSHE leaders and discussing curriculum content.

Differentiation: SEND and English as an Additional Language

As far as is appropriate, Children with special educational needs should follow the same PSHE education programme as all other children. Careful consideration will be given concerning the level of differentiation needed, and in some cases the content or delivery will be adapted. All children, irrelevant of their need, are included within our lessons and their opinions and ideas valued.

At our school we recognise that Personal and Social achievement is as important as academic achievement.

Children at the early stages of acquiring English will also be provided for and where possible visual images used to help them to share their ideas and opinions.

Assessment in PSHE education

Assessment within our PSHE education focuses on the learning and is not about passing or failing or about behavioural outcomes. Teachers and children both need to know that what has been taught has been learned and that their learning is progressing.

Our teachers use a range of strategies to elicit children's starting points, highlight misconceptions and explore what has been learned. This may include strategies such as:

Draw and write – baseline and then revisited at the end of a theme or topic

Thought bubbles

Discussion

Silent debate

Mind maps

Graffiti walls

Continuums

Sorting activities

Quizzes

Topic coverage and schemes of work

Our PSHE curriculum is organised within a series of recurring themes which are revisited and built upon each year. At each encounter the level of demand increases and learning is progressively deepened. We organise our learning within each half term, with clear topic content which is allocated specific learning time to ensure that our PSHE education is relevant, purposeful and connected in skill progression.

At St. Mark's CE School, delivery of the PSHE curriculum is taught using the Jigsaw scheme of work which provides even coverage and progression of the syllabus across all year groups. Jigsaw brings together PSHE education, emotional literacy, social skills and spiritual development in a comprehensive scheme of learning. Teachers use a wide range of teaching strategies, including role play, discussion, group work and circle time as a vehicle for delivering, discussing and reflecting on life skills.

Jigsaw is designed as a whole school approach, with all year groups working on the same theme (Puzzle) at the same time. This enables each Puzzle to start with an introductory assembly, generating a whole school focus for adults and children alike. There are six Puzzles in Jigsaw that are designed to progress in sequence from September to July. Each Puzzle has six Pieces (lessons) which work towards an 'end product', for example, The School Learning Charter or The Garden of Dreams and Goals. Each Piece has two Learning Intentions: one is based on specific PSHE learning (covering the non-statutory national framework for PSHE Education but enhanced to address children's needs today); and one is based on emotional literacy and social skills. Jigsaw is relevant to children living in today's world as it helps them understand and be equipped to cope with issues like body image, cyber and homophobic bullying, and internet safety.

Cross curricular links

Learning within our PSHE education forms explicit and implicit links to a wide range of areas where it enhances and complements other subjects. Where appropriate, teachers will make links to key learning themes or broader topics within the children's learning. Where not appropriate, PSHE education will be taught as a stand-alone subject within that half term.

Parental / Carers involvement

All our long term planning is published on our website which covers all our content by half term and year groups for our PSHE education. Parents are always welcome to request to look at resources, apps or websites that are used within their children's learning and should request, in the first instance, to meet with the Class teacher or Head of Phase. Parents are given every opportunity to explore and understand our content and approaches with opportunities to raise questions where appropriate. Workshops may also be offered with Parents to explore key themes within our planning or as a direct result of local or national events, as appropriate.

Right to withdraw

At St. Mark's CE School, PSHE Education respects the integrity of all participants, regardless of their cultural or religious background. All can participate without compromising their own faith or belief.

Children cannot be withdrawn from most elements of PSHE education, including Relationships education and Health education. Please see the schools RSE policy to determine which elements parents do have the right to withdraw their children from and procedures for doing so.

Staff at St. Mark's CE School will work closely with parents to ensure that the school's PSHE curriculum is shared, together with the concepts that will be covered, in order to provide parents with the information needed for them to make well informed decisions.

School Leaders for PSHE

At St. Mark's CE our School Leaders for PSHE are Mrs Parsloe and Mrs Richardson.

Monitoring and Evaluation

At St. Mark's CE School, all teachers are responsible for the teaching of the PSHE curriculum. PSHE Subject Leaders will:

- Provide the strategic leadership and direction for this subject
- Provide support and advice to colleagues planning and resourcing PSHE
- Ensure staff are aware of current developments in PSHE and make sure that this is shared with staff
- Monitor and evaluate the quality of teaching and learning as part of the school's agreed cycle of monitoring and evaluating
- Review, evaluate and update the PSHE policy every two years.

The Governing Body has a duty to ensure that PSHE provision fulfils statutory requirements. The Subject Lead will report to Governors at least once a year.

This policy will be reviewed at least every two years.

Linked policies

RSE Policy

Equality and Diversity

Safeguarding

E-Safety