Oakfields
Montessori School

Personal, Social and Health Education and Citizenship Policy

For review: September 2016

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHCE) Policy

1 Aims and objectives

Personal, social and health education (PSHCE) 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.

2 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, the planning of school special events such as an assembly or open day, or involvement in an activity to help other individuals or groups less fortunate than themselves. 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. We offer children the opportunity to hear visiting speakers, such as health workers, police, and representatives from the local charities, whom we invite into the school to talk about their role in creating a positive and supportive local community.

3 PSHE and citizenship curriculum planning

We teach PSHCE in a variety of ways. In some instances, e.g. drugs education, we teach PSHCE as a discrete subject.

Some of the time we introduce PSHCE and 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 highways. As there is a large overlap between the programme of study for religious education and the aims of PSHCE and citizenship, we teach a considerable amount of the PSHCE and citizenship through our religious education lessons.

We also develop PSHCE and citizenship through activities and whole-school events, e.g. the school council representatives from each junior class meet regularly to discuss school matters. School prefects, Head boy and girl have responsibilities within the school. The School Friendship squad help children have happy playtimes and discuss with the Head teacher ways to do this. The house-captains have a responsibility to help and encourage members of their house. We offer a residential visit to an adventure holiday centre in 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

We teach PSHCE in reception classes as an integral part of the topic work covered during the year. As the reception class is part of the Foundation Stage of the National Curriculum, we relate the PSHCE aspects of the children's work to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals (ELGs). Our teaching in PSHCE 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'.

5 Teaching PSHCE and citizenship to children with special needs

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

6 Assessment and recording

Teachers assess the children's work in PSHCE both by making informal judgements as they observe them during lessons and by doing formal assessments of their work, measured against the lesson objectives.

We encourage our pupils to keep records of their contribution to the life of the school and community in their personal Record of Achievement File.

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

7 Resources

We keep resources for PSHCE in a central store in topic boxes for each unit of work. We have additional resources in the library.