

MEADFURLONG SCHOOL

PSHE and CITIZENSHIP POLICY

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Personal, Social and Health Education and Citizenship Policy

The overall atmosphere and type of learning environment created by a school is vital to the personal growth and development of all children. The organisation and rules, the relationships of staff with children all carry significant messages about the values the school places on promoting positive attitudes, behaviour and codes of conduct. The part of the 'hidden' curriculum is as important as the quality of the teaching and learning that takes place. At Meadfurlong School, the whole staff share common attitudes and beliefs about the kinds of values and behaviour, which are essential to help promote the ethos of the school. These are highlighted in the statement of the key values attached to this policy.

PSHE can and should be one of the main drivers and influences on the school experience for our young people. This is being recognised more and more at government and local level through such documents as 'Every Child Matters' and the revised Ofsted Framework, September 2005. The underlying principal is about *putting children and young people first*, which has always been at the heart of good PSHE practice and life at Meadfurlong School.

The Every Child Matters five outcomes that underpin our work are:

1. Be healthy
2. Stay safe
3. Enjoy and achieve
4. Make a positive contribution
5. Achieve economic well-being

We feel that an environment where children feel safe and secure to explore and investigate new experiences, whilst also being able to reflect on and evaluate what has been learned, will further a child's learning. We ensure that the contributions and opinions of every child are valued and deserving of attention.

The central element of personal, social and health education is the development of the child's self-esteem. Anyone with a poor self-image finds it harder to learn new skills, to be confident in making decisions or to form stable relationships. It is vital, therefore that we help children to increase their self-awareness and self-confidence by ensuring that each has the opportunity to achieve and be successful.

'The National Curriculum Handbook teachers in England (1999) sets out two broad aims for the school curriculum:

- To prepare pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life;
- To promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society.

These interdependent aims for the school curriculum cannot be fully achieved without the provision of PHSE and citizenship.

Our school is committed to the health and safety of the children and will take action, where necessary to safeguard their well-being. We endorse the World Health Organisation's definition of health as:

'a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, not merely the absence of disease and infirmity'.

We support the Milton Keynes Youth and Children's Charters and are working in conjunction with Healthy Schools to develop all aspects of this work through a whole school approach to self-improvement.

We acknowledge the importance of our pastoral role in the welfare of young people and through the general ethos of the school, will seek to persuade children in need of support to come forward.

Personal, social and health education is thus an important part of every child's entitlement and a whole school policy will help to move the school towards achieving those aims. This policy incorporates advice and guidance on both our Drugs Education Policy and Sex and Relationship Education Policy.

Definitions of PHSE and Citizenship

PHSE is a planned programme of learning opportunities and experiences that help children and young people grow and develop as individuals and as members of families and communities. It equips them with the knowledge, understanding and practical skills to live healthy, safe, fulfilled and responsible lives. PHSE also enables children and young people to reflect on and clarify their own values and attitudes, and explore the complex and sometimes conflicting range of values and attitudes they encounter now and in the future. In short, PSHE makes a significant contribution to children and young people's personal development and to the five outcomes within 'Every Child Matters'. (National PSHE CPD Programme, 2007)

Citizenship skills give pupils and people the ability to be informed, thoughtful and responsible human beings who are able to take responsibility for their behaviour. These skills encourage community involvement and develop political, financial and democratic awareness.

AIMS

- Develop a set of personal values and attitudes/develop principles for distinguishing between right and wrong;
- Develop self-esteem/promote pupils' self esteem and emotional well-being;
- Develop positive relationships/help them to form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships based on respect for themselves and others;
- Make informed choices and decisions;
- Take responsibility for their own actions;
- Develop skills and knowledge to understand personal health and growth;
- Develop positive attitudes towards health;
- Prepare them for adult life/help them to be responsible and caring citizens;
- Develop knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the pupils' own and different cultures;
- Pass on enduring values, develop pupils' integrity and autonomy;
- Promote equal opportunities and challenge discrimination and stereotyping;
- Enable pupils to respond positively to opportunities, challenges and responsibilities, to manage risk and to cope with change and adversity;
- To begin enabling pupils to deal effectively and efficiently with a range of financial decisions in their present and adult life;
- Develop their ability to relate to others and work for the common good/contribute towards the school's welcoming and health promoting environment.

At this stage of children's development, many personal, social and health issues are best covered through the fostering of close relationships with the class teacher. This enables young children to feel safe to explore new experiences. Such experiences are best presented at this stage in the context of classroom teaching and the everyday life of the school. Much of the work will be covered through planning and delivery and everyday occurrences can be used to raise and discuss social and moral issues.

At Meadfurlong School the PSHE and citizenship programme will be delivered in a variety of ways:

- Through themed assemblies.
- Incorporated into lesson planning.
- As separately timetabled sessions, e.g. visits by the community police.
- By means of class time and/or group discussion.
- By role play and educational games.
- Imaginative writing.
- Use of video and ICT.
- Research

It is likely that sensitive and controversial issues will need to be addressed from time to time whether they arise incidentally or as part of a planned programme of work. Children should be given the opportunities to consider such issues in order that they may make an informed decision on their own standpoint.

Two aspects of the personal, social and health programme need particular sensitive and careful handling by teachers, not only in their approach with children but in their involvement of parents. These are the school's policies on 'Drug Education, Sex and Relationship Education.

Management

The PSHE and Citizenship subject leader at this school is currently the Head of Year 5, who is responsible for resourcing and co-ordinating these aspects of PHSE and Citizenship provision within the school. This includes suitable books, posters, videos etc., recommending teaching strategies and keeping up-to-date with developments. Staff training needs can be brought to the school management's attention by the co-ordinator or a result of on-going staff review outcomes. The identified governor for PHSE and Citizenship is The Chair of Governors.

Resources

Visits and Visitors

Visitors play an important part in the PHSE and Citizenship programme in the school. Experts in particular areas are used not only for their specialist knowledge, but also to encourage pupils to see the relevance of the subject to life outside school. Some use is also made of visits. It is important that visitors are aware of school policy and agree to operate within them.

All parties involved in work with children and pupils at this school should be made aware of the school confidentiality policy.

Equal Opportunities

Meadfurlong School is committed to a policy of equal opportunities for all pupils. PHSE and Citizenship is an entitlement for all pupils regardless of their particular beliefs, gender, social class or ability and the curriculum and learning approaches are planned with this in mind. All people working with or supporting the children at this school should be made aware of the Equal Opportunities Policy in place.

Health & Safety

Teachers should be aware of the school's Health & Safety Policy, especially when taking pupils on visits.

Links to Other Policies

The broad nature of the content of PSHE means that links can be made with a large number of other aspects of school life and organisation. Other policies that can be read in conjunction with this PSHE one include:

- Child Protection
- Smoking
- Confidentiality
- Pastoral
- Discipline/Behaviour
- Anti-bullying
- Health & Safety
- Equal Opportunities
- Outside Visits

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of the programme, scheme of work and resources will be carried out in accordance with the Milton Keynes Primary School Monitoring and Evaluation Policy, as the responsibility of the PHSE subject leader.

References and Useful Contacts

- Initial guidance for schools, Personal, Social and Health Education and Citizenship at Key Stages 1 and 2 (2000).
- The National Curriculum for England – Citizenship Key Stages 3-4 and the PHSE Framework.
- Sex Education Forum information, c/o The National Children’s Bureau, 8 Wakeley St, London EC1V 7QE
- Drugs: Guidance for Schools, Feb 2004, DfES.
- QCA Schemes of Work.
- Sex and Relationship Education Guidance DFEE July 2000.
- Healthy Schools Website.
- Health for Life – sent free to Milton Keynes schools.
- Milton Keynes Draft Drug Statement of Intent.

Signed..... Date.....

