



PSHE Policy

INTENT:

Today's children and young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world and living their lives seamlessly on and offline. This presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but also challenges and risks. In this environment, children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way.

To embrace the challenges of creating a happy and successful adult life, pupils need knowledge that will enable them to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships and to build their self-efficacy. Pupils can also put this knowledge into practice as they develop the capacity to make sound decisions when facing risks, challenges and complex contexts. (Department for Education)

Personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE) helps to give children and young people the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to lead confident, healthy and independent lives. At Merton Bank, we aim to help our pupils understand how they are developing personally and socially, tackling many of the moral, social and cultural issues that are part of growing up. We offer learning opportunities across and beyond the curriculum, in specific lessons as well as in assemblies, circle time, special school projects and other activities that enrich pupils' experiences.

The teaching of PSHE enables us to equip our children to become 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 doing so, we help 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 and through the Junior Leadership Team. We teach them about their rights and responsibilities. They learn to appreciate what it means to be a positive member of a diverse multicultural society.

The aims of PSHE and citizenship are to enable 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

IMPLEMENTATION:

At Merton Bank, we teach PSHE in a variety of ways using a range of teaching and learning styles. We place an emphasis on active learning by including the children in discussions, debates, investigations and problem solving activities. PSHE lessons are guided by the PSHE Association's question based model, which ensures that Statutory content is covered by learning opportunities for each key stage across the Programme's three core themes: 'Health and Wellbeing', 'Relationships', and 'Living in the Wider World'. Each unit is structured around an overarching question for each term or half term. These begin in Key Stage 1 as 'What?' and 'Who?' questions and build throughout Key Stage 2 into 'Why?' and 'How?' questions. Teaching builds according to the age and needs of the pupils throughout their

primary journey with developmentally appropriate learning objectives given to respond to each key question.

Alongside our PSHE lessons, we encourage children to take part in a range of practical activities that promote active citizenship, e.g. charity fundraising, the planning of special school events, such as an assembly, or involvement in an activity to help other individuals or groups less fortunate than themselves. Charities and events that the school regularly contributes to are McMillan Cancer Care, The Poppy Appeal, Jeans for Genes, NSPCC. 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 charities whom we invite into the school to talk about their role in creating a positive and supportive local community.

Sometimes, e.g. when dealing with issues in drugs education or relationships and sex education we teach PSHE as a discrete subject (See RSE policy). On other occasions, we take the opportunity to teach PSHE themes through teaching in other subjects. For example, when teaching about local environmental issues in geography, we offer pupils the opportunity to find out who is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of local parks and cycle paths. We also develop PSHE through various activities and whole-school events, e.g. the Junior Leadership Team representatives from each class meet regularly to discuss school matters.

PSHE work, whether it is discussion based, written or in the form of a poster, is recorded in our Young Citizens of the Future floorbook, alongside RRSA and SMSC. Each page of the book is cross-referenced to the appropriate coverage from the planning and assessment document. These books are a real celebration of the work that goes on at Merton Bank to enable our pupils to become well-rounded citizens.

IMPACT:

Through our teaching of PSHE we will develop skills and attributes such as resilience, self-esteem, risk-management, teamworking and critical thinking in the context of our three core themes: relationships, living in the wider world and health and wellbeing. Our curriculum also provides our pupils with the knowledge and skills they need to safeguard themselves in different circumstances. These are necessary skills that will enable them to succeed whilst at Merton Bank and beyond. Our curriculum helps to develop a knowledge and understanding of the important issues that they may encounter in world that we live in as they grow up.

Written by: Karen Weatherby

Date: September 2022

Review Date: September 2023