

St Joseph's RC Primary School

Citizenship Policy

2018 - 2019

This policy is written with consideration to our school commitment to the Rights of the Child and in light of us being a Rights Respecting School. Although direct reference to this is not continually made, the policy has been written with full awareness of our commitment to Children's Rights. It also complies with Article 28 of the UNCRC 'Every child has the right to an education'.

### **Purpose of study**

A high-quality citizenship education helps to provide pupils with knowledge, skills and understanding to prepare them to play a full and active part in society. In particular citizenship education should foster pupils' keen awareness of how the United Kingdom is governed and how its laws are made and upheld. It should also prepare pupils to take their place in society as responsible citizens by providing them with the skills and knowledge to manage their money well and make sound financial decisions.

### **Aims**

The national curriculum for citizenship aims to ensure that all pupils:

- acquire a sound knowledge and understanding of how the United Kingdom is governed, its political system and how citizens participate actively in its democratic systems of government
- develop a sound knowledge and understanding of the role of law and the justice system in our society and how laws are shaped and enforced
- develop an interest in, and commitment to, volunteering that they will take with them into adulthood
- are equipped with the financial skills to enable them to manage their money on a day-to-day basis, and plan for future financial needs

### **Objectives**

- To develop self-awareness, positive self esteem, independence, responsibility and self-discipline.
- To recognise their own abilities, make informed choices and set themselves realistic goals.
- To develop an understanding of the world of work and leisure.
- To be encouraged to demonstrate commitment to the well being of a variety of communities (school, neighbourhood and wider world).
- To promote a sense of fairness, with a respect for the law and the rights of others.
- To learn about the issues, problems and practices of our democracy.
- To make informed decisions on how to allocate money, e.g. fundraising.
- To understand the consequences of spending on themselves and others.
- To recognize potential risks to safety of self and others and to teach strategies to stay safe.
- To teach pupils what makes a healthy lifestyle by learning the importance of exercise, healthy eating, rest, personal care and hygiene, mental health and how to make informed choices.
- To alert pupils to health hazards such as poor hygiene, unsuitable diet, use and misuse of legal and illegal substances e.g. drugs, alcohol and tobacco.
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- To teach pupils about the functions and development of their own bodies.
- To promote understanding of the importance of child care and family life.
- To be aware of and respect other peoples cultures, traditions, beliefs and ways of life.

- To know about bullying, why it happens, its consequences and strategies for dealing with it.
- To demonstrate tolerance and respect for others and to treat people fairly and in a non-discriminatory way.
- To be aware of the nature of relationships, including those between friends, families, peer groups and in the work place.
- To be given opportunities to develop the necessary skills for effective relationships.
- To support equal opportunities for all.
- To show concern for conservation of the natural world and the environment in which they live.

These objectives are interrelated and cannot be taught in isolation.

### **When Citizenship is taught**

Citizenship is not always confined to specific timetabled time as teaching takes place as opportunities arise. A variety of forms of provision have been considered and will be used in combination at different times. As part our Citizenship curriculum we are engaged in a Rights Respecting programme. Children work together in 'Family' groups every week to explore the United Nations convention of the rights of the child (UNCRC).

### **How Citizenship is taught**

A range of teaching strategies will be used to provide the breadth of effective learning opportunities. This will include an emphasis on active learning, enquiry, discussion and participation in citizenship activities. The forms of curriculum provision for citizenship will include:

- Curriculum time, e.g. Circle Time
- Teaching Citizenship through and in other subjects/curriculum areas, e.g. English: Stories that illustrate aspects of personal development;
- Maths: Counting and sharing;
- Science: Safety and the environment
- Citizenship activities such as family group time and school events, e.g. visits, visitors, special days in school provide opportunities for children to plan and work together and develop and maintain relationships under different circumstances.

The activities will develop pupil knowledge, skills and understanding by working together, making decisions, taking responsibility and reflecting on experiences.

### **Who Teaches Citizenship**

- Teachers
- Support staff
- Visitors
- Parents/carers and other family members
- Other children in school
- Lunchtime Supervisors

### **Attainment targets**

By the end of each key stage, pupils are expected to know, apply and understand the matters, skills and processes specified in the relevant programme of study.

## **Equality of Opportunity**

We are committed to providing a learning environment which promotes the educational, social, moral and spiritual progress of all children.

For children with special educational needs we recognize the value of a variety of teaching approaches, learning experiences and resources. This will include:

- Carefully planned and differentiated work/activities
- Individual support where necessary
- Practical and oral work
- Use of the computer/iPads to aid written work.

## **External Links**

Support from outside agencies is an integral part of the Citizenship programme. A planned programme of visits into and visits out of school will extend and enhance pupils' experiences.

## **Review**

This policy was written by the Citizenship Co-coordinator following discussions with teachers and non teaching staff at St Joseph's RC Primary School.

This policy will be reviewed at appropriate intervals to meet school needs and in response to national and local policies.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following school policies:-

Behaviour Management, Anti-Bullying, Equal Opportunities, Sex and Relationship Education, Drug Misuse, Science, R.E., P.E., Child Protection, Health and Safety, Most Able and Talented, S.E.N., SMSC., Environmental and Business Links.