

## Somerton Middle School

# Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship Policy

## 1 Aims and objectives

**1.1** Personal, social and health education (PSHE) 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.

**1.2** 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

**2.1** 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 evening, or involvement in an activity to help other individuals or groups less fortunate than themselves. Priorities for fundraising are generally discussed and agreed at School Council. 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 church, 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

**3.1** We teach PSHE and citizenship in a variety of ways. In some instances, e.g. drugs education, we teach PSHE and citizenship as a discrete subject.

**3.2** Some of the time we introduce PSHE and citizenship through other subjects, e.g. when teaching about local environmental issues in geography. As there is a large overlap between the programme of study for religious education and the aims of PSHE and citizenship, we teach a considerable amount of the PSHE and citizenship through our religious education lessons.

**3.3** We also develop PSHE and citizenship through activities and whole-school events, e.g. the school council representatives from each class meet regularly to discuss school matters. We offer a residential visit to **Nettlestone Camp** 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 Teaching PSHE and citizenship to children with special educational needs**

**4.1** At our school we teach PSHE and citizenship to all children, whatever their ability. PSHE and citizenship forms part of the school curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education to all children. Through our PSHE and citizenship teaching we provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make progress. We do this by setting suitable learning challenges.

Intervention through School Action and School Action Plus will lead to the creation of an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for children with special educational needs. The IEP may include, as appropriate, specific targets relating to PSHE and citizenship, especially relating to developing Social Skills. This target is set by the class teacher.

We enable pupils to have access to the full range of activities involved in learning PSHE and citizenship. Where children are to participate in activities outside the classroom, for example, a charity fund-raising event in a local forest we ensure that the activity is safe and appropriate for all pupils.

## **6 Assessment and recording**

**6.1** Teachers assess the children's work in PSHE and citizenship by making informal judgements as they observe them during lessons. We have clear expectations of what the pupils will know, understand and be able to do at the end of each key stage. Guidance on assessment will mean that this subject can be assessed following National Criteria.

**6.2** We do not set formal examinations in PSHE and citizenship. The assessments that we make of pupil achievement do not imply that a pupil has 'passed' or 'failed'.

## **7 Resources**

We keep resources for PSHE and citizenship in a central store in Green Subject files for each year. In addition we have class sets of text books which are age appropriate with guides to teachers. The Headteacher holds a selection of reference materials for teaching sensitive issues.

This policy will be reviewed in June 2008