

CITIZENSHIP POLICY (INCORPORATING PERSONAL AND SOCIAL HEALTH EDUCATION)

Introduction

Education for Citizenship provides a major platform for the education of 'the whole child'. This policy is reinforced by the Equal Opportunities School statement.

Pupils must have the opportunity to acquire knowledge to develop a respect for facts and the truth so as they are able to understand their own values. Citizenship is about empowerment, relationships, rights and responsibilities. It is also about social systems, their structures and the forces of social change.

The School's general aims state that we will work with parents and the broader community in order to empower the children in our charge with the knowledge, skills, attitude and values required to:

- Become confident and effective members of a modern, multicultural and technological society.
- Take control of and be responsible for their own lives.
- Fulfil their potential.
- Live full and healthy lifestyles.

Aims

The aims below relate to Citizenship in a whole school context:

- Aspects of Key Skills - particularly those related to problem solving, communication and working with others.
- Social and moral responsibility.
- Political literacy.
- Responsible community involvement.

Factors Affecting the Child's Environment and Experiences

Many aspects of a child's environment and experiences have their part to play in the development of a sense of Citizenship, and the encouragement of self-discipline and shared values. Three different factors are taken into account when planning the scheme of work for Citizenship.

Factor 1: The Family

The School and a pupil's family must work together in developing and reinforcing a sense of Citizenship. The School actively promotes Citizenship and its associated events with the aim of encouraging involvement of parent/carers. The School's aims and strategies must therefore consider the nature and function of the pupils' families if we are to achieve our aims. We aim to encourage an understanding of the nature of family life in all its forms:

- By stressing the importance of the family for physical well being, parenthood, child development and the fulfilment of emotional and physical needs.
- By taking account of family life cycles, patterns of marriage, family structure and how these change.
- By making pupils aware of the challenges facing family units, e.g. separation, divorce and domestic disputes.
- By stressing the importance of relationships and responsibilities.

Factor 2: The School Community

The School can help to promote Citizenship by:

- Creating and promoting a caring ethos which promotes the values-related, social and moral aspects of Citizenship.
- Encouraging caring attitudes and a desire to participate in events happening in the world around them.
- Recognising and valuing the contributions made by the pupils and other members of the school community.

- Encouraging close working relationships between staff and pupils.
- Encouraging and practising mutual respect, tolerance and open-mindedness.
- Using positive management of behaviour in an environment of mutual respect which allows pupils to feel safe and secure and promotes their self-esteem.
- Direct teaching of Citizenship and addressing Citizenship issues in other subjects.
- Encouraging a climate that supports the proper exercise of responsibility through the use of a balanced range of teaching methods, which support the active involvement of pupils in lessons and decision making.

Factor 3: Delivery

The Citizenship Programme is taught via the Tutor Programme as follows:

Years 7 – 8 Period 0 between 08.40-09.10 on Wednesday mornings.
 Years 9 – 13 Period 7 between 14.00-14.40 on Wednesday afternoons.

The Head of Citizenship provides Tutors with lesson plans and teaching materials on a weekly basis.

Citizenship can be taught and learnt in many ways. This will be shown in the examples given.

- a) The School Curriculum and all schemes of work have been audited and cross-referenced with Citizenship, e.g.
 - History is used to review popular opinion and events such as the Holocaust and Emancipation.
 - P.E. and sports studies is used to study the issues of drug enhanced performances, women boxers, Olympic boycotts, the banning of competitive sports, etc.
 - Science allows pupils to make judgements on experimental design and procedure. Personal Health and Safety is a high priority as is the issue of environmental pollution and sustainable development.
 - Maths is specifically useful in studying the use and misuse of statistics by individuals, businesses, political parties and Governments, etc.
 - ICT is a major platform with which Citizenship can be delivered and the Internet is studied with respect to its ability to affect opinion, disseminate information and its other benefits and dangers.
 - English lessons are used to allow pupils to critically evaluate, use objectivity, and distinguish between fact and opinion.
- b) The driving lessons, swimming certificates and commendations system can give pupils a real sense of personal achievement.
- c) Equal opportunities is a high priority within the school community - especially with regard to gender, race, religion, culture, disability, sexual orientation and class.
- d) School visits, trips and residential visits are regularly organised.
- e) Community involvement features regularly in the School Calendar of events, e.g. involvement in the Romsey Show and Southampton Boat Show.
- f) The School has policies and good practice with respect to:
 - Acceptable behaviour.
 - Rewards and sanctions.
- g) The School Council and SMT for the Day Events are good vehicles for delivering an understanding of the democratic process and the responsibilities of organising an event for the school community.

Monitoring, Evaluating & Reviewing the Citizenship Provision

Monitoring and evaluation of the provision for Citizenship is undertaken by:

- A multiple choice internal examination procedure for Years 7-11 at appropriate times in the School Calendar.
- Weekly feedback forms from Tutors, accompanying weekly lesson plans.

Whole School Events

The Citizenship Programme includes a termly Whole School Event. The Class Acts Professional Promotions Company visit the School to perform two drama productions with associated workshops for bullying and drugs education. Other examples are the Head for the Day programme, the AIDS awareness event and National no smoking day.

Community and Visitors

A local smoking cessation team work with students in support of this topic. Various charities have received contributions from our fund raising club.

Reporting

End of term external Tutor reports must include a comment on Citizenship.

R J Bailey / D J Rose

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