PDMU Policy

Sacred Heart Primary School
Dundrum

(Updated 2017)

Introduction

Teacher, parents and governors will work together to develop each child spiritually, morally, intellectually, socially, emotionally and physically within our school ethos so that by realising their potential, they can maximise it and have an appreciation of self-worth and self-learning.

Policy Statement

At Sacred Heart Primary School we believe that Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU) is an area which will support our school mission statement in developing the personal, emotional, social and physical well-being of each child in our care. This curricular area also compliments our school ethos, which permeates all aspects of school life. As a whole staff we will endeavour to focus on the empowerment of the pupils,

"To unlock and develop their potential to help them make informed and responsible decisions throughout their lives."

We believe that PDMU is at the core of the curriculum and that all curricular areas and classroom ethos evolve from this area. PDMU concentrates on developing each child from Foundation Stage to Primary 7, giving them the knowledge, developing their attitudes, their awareness of life skills, fostering good relationships, knowing about appropriate behaviours in and out of school, broadening one's thinking skills and personal capabilities, making each child emotionally aware, engraining values and promoting life skills to take them into their future as adults.

PDMU does not begin or end with school but will continue to feed into society and the life of each child and their family.
We endeavour to continue to develop and expand upon our solid working partnerships with parents and the local community to help develop and foster PDMU in the teaching and learning, and through the catholic ethos within the whole school community.

Why teach PDMU?

PDMU is one of the six areas of learning in the Northern Ireland Curriculum (CCEA 2007), for Foundation Stage to
Primary 7.

PDMU is divided into two main strands which addresses a range of themes under the following headings:

- Personal Understanding and Health
- Mutual Understanding in the Local and Wider Community

PDMU has major benefits for the school and the local community as it helps:

- Build self esteem and develop confidence
- Promote health awareness: healthy eating, exercise, drug and alcohol awareness etc.
- Encourages teamwork, consideration for others' feelings, opinions and beliefs, and consider the effects that bullying can have on a person's life.
- Fosters social skills – teaches one how to behave appropriately in particular situations.
- Respect for all people no matter their culture, disability, ethnicity, intelligence level, religion or gender.
- Teaches us to make responsible and informed choices in life, know right from wrong, and to seek advice and guidance when needed.

Benefits for children

All children will develop:

- Self-confidence and self-esteem
- Insight into managing their own emotions and attitudes
- Moral thinking and decision-making
- Awareness of the benefits of a healthy lifestyle
- Skills for keeping safe and avoiding danger
- Knowledge of who can help if worried or frightened
- An understanding of how they learn
- The ability to work with others
- A knowledge and respect for other cultures and beliefs
- An awareness of interpersonal skills
- The knowledge of how society is diverse and how this can raise challenges in life
- An awareness of how they will have an active role in the society of the future.

Benefits for the school

- All children will feel valued which will lead to a more productive learning environment for all.
- Staff and pupil relationships will be more open and will show more trust.
- Standards will be raised as pupils will be more confident and more motivated, showing a desire to learn and to be more ambitious with regards to their futures.
- There will be a marked improvement in the health and well-being of the children as they become more knowledgeable and aware of the benefits of leading a healthier lifestyle.

Benefits for the community

The local and wider community will gain young people who:

- Have an awareness of being socially responsible
- Will demonstrate positive behaviours
- Have respect and understanding for others e.g. neighbours, the elderly, the disabled, those with special needs, property owners, local businesses, the church, other cultures etc…
- Are confident and responsible members of the community who will contribute to its improvement and development.

Aims of PDMU

PDMU is one of the six areas of learning in the Northern Ireland Curriculum (CCEA 2007), and it will permeate through all curricular areas, thus having a positive impact on the teaching and learning within our school.

We intend to:

- Deliver PDMU through the two interconnected strands and teach and explore all 9 statutory statements of minimum requirement, from Foundation Stage to Primary 7.

- Integrate the "Living Learning Together Programme" to help support the teaching and learning of PDMU.
- Help the children to learn about themselves, how they fit into society, how they learn and how they deserve to be respected and valued.
- Develop children's self-esteem, self-confidence and self-worth.
- Provide the children with the necessary skills to help them manage their feelings and emotions.
- Encourage our children to be motivated and ambitious young people with a desire to succeed.
- Promote Personal Capabilities and Thinking Skills.
- Ensure that all children are aware of the dangers in our society e.g. drugs, alcohol, bullying, abuse etc.
- Promote good relationships with family, friends and future colleagues.
- Promote working as an individual, in pairs and in groups, to encourage the children to develop their own ability to express themselves in a variety of ways.
- Encourage children to follow a healthy lifestyle and to keep safe.
- Understand why rules are needed, how to act responsibly and how to deal with conflict effectively.
- Develop an awareness of peoples' similarities and differences, be respectful of peoples' beliefs and cultures and be aware of the diversity in our society.
- Encourage the children to become moral and just citizens, taking responsibility for their own actions and understanding how ones' actions can impact on society.
- Encourage children to show patience and tolerance towards others.

Who should be involved?

All staff at Sacred Heart Primary School, the Board of Governors, senior managers, teachers, classroom assistants, secretarial staff, caretaker, domestic supervisors, student teachers and children will be encouraged to promote PDMU throughout all aspects of daily life within the school.

The Role of the Principal

The Principal will promote the development of PDMU. In consultation with all staff, he will decide on how the subject is to be implemented into the daily life of the school and how he sees its development through all areas of the revised curriculum.
The Principal will encourage the training of all staff, offer support and liaise with the Board of Governors. He will monitor and review the subject's progression.

How will PDMU be delivered?

PDMU will be delivered as an individual area of learning on a weekly basis.

It will support our ethos within the school, and it will support all aspects of teaching and learning in Sacred Heart Primary School.

Teachers will deliver PDMU using the "**Living Learning Together**" Programme (CCEA).

Pupils will acquire skills and knowledge of the following nine statutory statements within the two strands:

1. Self-awareness
2. Feelings and Emotions
3. Learning to Learn
4. Health, Growth and Change. 4a.Safety
5. Relationships
6. Rules, Rights and Responsibilities
7. Managing Conflict
8. Similarities and Differences
9. Learning to Live as Members of the Community

Teachers will use a variety of teaching approaches to assist in the delivery of PDMU – whole class, group work, and paired work.

All teachers will create a safe and secure learning environment which will promote a positive learning climate.

Pupils will exercise autonomy in their learning; they will have an interest and increased understanding of the importance of learning. *The role of the teacher is to facilitate the learning of each child in their care.*

Staff will use a wide variety of active learning strategies to support teaching and learning -

- Brainstorming
- Role play, freeze frames, hot seating
- Visitors to the class
- Co-operative games
- Photographs, picture stimuli
- Media and television
- Open ended questioning and statements
- Debates: with agree and disagree continuums
- Circle time
- Story telling
- Books
- Puppets
- Learning through Play sessions
- Games
- Power points of stories

Cross Curricular links

PDMU has strong links with other areas of learning:-

The Arts:

- Help children to explore ways of expressing themselves through drama, music, art and design.

Language and Literacy:

- Help children to develop vocabulary to discuss emotions and feelings through talking and listening, reading, independent writing, drama and role play situations.

Physical Education:

- Encourages children to adopt a healthier lifestyle.
- Develops teamwork, and an awareness of fairness.

The World around Us:

- Helps children to understand other cultures, places and times.
- Develop an awareness of one's talents, thoughts and feelings.

Self-Assessment

Children should have opportunities to reflect on their own and others' work.

Children will learn to:

- Plan. Do. Review
- Set targets
- Negotiate their own learning
- Record their own achievement
- Talk about and reflect upon the lessons, activities and situations in which they are involved.
- Self evaluate – ask and answer questions -

What did I do/say?
What were the consequences?
How did I feel about it?
What might I do differently in the future?
What did I find easy/ difficult/ enjoyable/etc….
How did I do…..? Could I have done it any better?

Equal Opportunities

All children have the right to learn and develop as individuals at school. At Sacred Heart Primary School we aim to teach our young children how to become confident and responsible citizens who can demonstrate tolerance, respect and understanding of others.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually.