

West Monmouth School

Ysgol Gorllewin Mynwy



P S E Policy

Polisi Addysg Personol a
Chymdeithasdol

Date Approved by Governors:

Date Reviewed by Governors:

Policy for Personal and Social Education (including Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) at West Monmouth School

Our Aims for Personal and Social Education (PSE)

PSE comprises all that we undertake to support and promote the personal and social development and the well being of our pupils at West Monmouth School.

We are guided in what we do by the Welsh Government (WG), 'Personal and social education framework for 7 to 19 year-olds in Wales' (2008). In line with the WG framework, our aims for PSE at West Monmouth School are:

'To prepare learners to be personally and socially effective by providing learning experiences in which they can develop and apply skills, explore personal attitudes and values, and acquire appropriate knowledge and understanding.'

Specifically the aims of PSE are to:

- Develop learners' self-esteem and a sense of personal responsibility
- Promote self-respect, respect for others and celebrate diversity
- Equip learners to live safe, healthy lives
- Prepare learners for the choices and opportunities of lifelong learning
- Empower learners to participate in their schools and communities as active responsible citizens locally, nationally and globally
- Foster positive attitudes and behaviour towards the principles of sustainable development and global citizenship
- Prepare learners for the challenges, choices and responsibilities of work and adult life.

The themes identified in the PSE framework are:

- Active citizenship
- Health and emotional well-being
- Moral and spiritual development
- Preparing for lifelong learning
- Sustainable development and global citizenship.

It is important to recognise that these themes are not discrete areas of development but are inextricably linked.

(Welsh Government, 'Personal and social education framework for 7 to 19 year-olds in Wales', 2008)

Statutory Requirements and the Delivery of PSE

PSE is a statutory element within the basic curriculum for pupils aged 5 to 16. At West Monmouth School we understand that it is our responsibility to plan and deliver broad, balanced PSE provision to meet the needs of all learners.

Holistic PSE Provision

According to The WG 'PSE Framework for 7 to 19 year-olds in Wales (2008)', 'the aims of PSE provide the foundation for a broad, balanced holistic approach to PSE which features a range of experiences to promote the personal and social development and well-being' of pupils. This includes PSE being delivered in a variety of holistic ways:

- Through work shops and specific PSE themed days provided by outside agencies (e.g. Police Schools Liaison officers, Careers Wales, ASH Wales, School Health Nurse etc.)
- In our whole school 'Thought for the Week' programme in registration and assembly
- Through literacy sessions in registration, that are linked to PSE and SEAL based novels, with accompanying PSE and SEAL based discussion questions and literacy based written work
- Through PSE lessons as part of the Explore curriculum in Year 7
- In timetabled PSE lessons in Year 8-9.
- Through cross-curricular provision, particularly in the Humanities subjects (Geography, RE) throughout Key Stage 3 and 4.
- Through Social Studies lessons at Key Stage 4, which provide a combination of RE and PSE focused units of work.

Some experiences will also inevitably be incidental but PSE involves comprehensive planning through schemes of work for Key Stage 3 and 4 lessons, within which personal and social development takes place and well-being is promoted. All staff have a crucial part to play, as does the whole-school ethos.

Links with Other Whole School Policies

Other whole school policies refer to PSE-related issues and should be read in conjunction with this policy. These include:

- Sex and Relationships Education policy
- Substance misuse policy
- Careers and the World of Work policy
- Behaviour Management policy
- Safeguarding policy
- Anti-bullying policy
- Food and Fitness policy
- Strategic Equality Plan

The Co-ordination and Management of PSE

The Co-ordination of PSE is undertaken by a PSE co-ordinator, Mrs Ruth Frost. The position of PSE co-ordinator is also combined with the co-ordination of Careers and the World of Work, SEAL and ESDGC and is closely connected to the Humanities Faculty.

These links allow for the majority of PSE to be delivered via a combination of timetabled PSE lessons and cross curricular links – enabling pupils to get a more holistic PSE learning experience. This helps pupils to understand that the skills and knowledge they gain through PSE are not just subject specific but are life skills relevant in a variety of disciplines and situations.

The management of PSE is overseen by the Assistant Head with line management responsibilities for the subject, Mr Gareth Cooksey.

The Content of PSE

The content of PSE lessons and also the over-view of PSE workshops and PSE themed days can be found in the PSE schemes of work and PSE lessons schedule. These can be found in the PSE handbook.

PSE and Cross-Curricular Links

Developing thinking

In PSE, pupils engage in a wide range of personal and social issues that require decision-making and action through planning personal responses, developing understanding, and reflecting upon outcomes for themselves and others.

Developing literacy

In PSE, pupils communicate through researching, listening to others and discussing in small and large groups, and sharing information and ideas with peers about a wide variety of personal, social and community issues.

Developing ICT

In PSE, pupils develop both their purposeful application of ICT skills and their understanding of the benefits and risks of using current and emerging technologies. They gain an understanding of the importance of adopting safe and legal practices which minimise risks to themselves and others when using digital communications, along with an appreciation of the need to show respect towards others.

Developing numeracy

In PSE, learners gather, select and analyse numerical information to develop evidence to support their understanding of issues.

Working with others

In PSE pupils have many opportunities to work in small, medium sized and whole class groups, often taking part in discussion work. Pupils also work with others (including other adults and professionals) in workshops provided by outside agencies, e.g. Police Schools Liaison, ASH Wales etc.

Problem solving

In PSE pupils have many opportunities for problem solving. These are often scenario based problems which encompass 'real-life' situations or scenarios and encourage pupils to problem solve in a constructive and considered way. Pupils also learn through that different people may problem-solve in different ways and with different priorities, helping them gain important life skills.

Cwricwlwm Cymreig

In PSE, pupils develop an understanding of the nature of communities in Wales and the roles, relationships and conflicts that affect life. Pupils acquire the skills, values and knowledge that equips them to participate in decision-making within their communities, locally, nationally and globally.

Improving own learning and performance

In PSE, pupils receive feedback from their teacher and their peers and also engage in self-assessment activities to enable them to improve their own learning and performance.

Careers and the world of work

In PSE, pupils develop an understanding of the opportunities available in education, training and employment. They develop the skills of self-analysis, identifying personal strengths and setting targets for improvement and recognising the importance of acquiring new skills needed for the world of work.

(Adapted in part from Welsh Government, 'Personal and social education framework for 7 to 19 year-olds in Wales', 2008)

Assessment, Recording and Reporting in PSE

There are no level descriptors issued by the Welsh Government for PSE, therefore, there is no formal assessment in terms of awarding levels that takes place. Pupils are assessed informally during lessons to monitor their progress and to influence future learning. Lessons often include self and peer assessment activities and formal assessment takes place when staff mark books, following the whole school marking document.

Reporting takes place in PSE, following the whole school guidance, with an annual report being issued and staff being available to speak to parents at Parents' Evenings.

Monitoring of PSE

PSE lessons are monitored by the PSE co-ordinator through lesson observations. These are recorded for whole school analysis on the 'Excellence in Teaching' system.

Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) provision

Although SEAL is distinct to PSE there are many over-lapping themes and in Key Stage 3 much of the whole school SEAL provision is delivered hand-in-hand with PSE provision.

All Key Stage 3 pupils have literacy sessions in registration, that are linked to PSE and SEAL based novels (Year 7 read and study the SEAL novel, 'Grange-Enders', Year 8 read and study the SEAL novel, 'Grange-Enders 2', Year 9 pupils read and study the novel 'Skellig') with accompanying PSE and SEAL based discussion questions and literacy based written work.

SEAL is then also delivered in small groups to Year 7 pupils who are highlighted by their Primary Schools as being vulnerable in the Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 3 transition period. They receive specific SEAL intervention in a small group setting which focuses on building social skills, making friends, establishing a trusted point of contact within school, getting to know the pupils involved and their family/home environment and safeguarding.

The Co-ordination and Management of SEAL

The Co-ordination of SEAL is undertaken by a SEAL co-ordinator, Mrs Ruth Frost. As mentioned above, the position of SEAL co-ordinator is also combined with the co-ordination of PSE to allow for co-ordinated working between the two areas.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for PSE and SEAL

In line with the holistic nature of PSE CPD is delivered, as needed, to various staff members across the school, including the PSE co-ordinator, Heads of Learning and Senior Leadership Team (SLT). This CPD provision includes:

- NSPCC Safeguarding Training
- Drugs and Substance Misuse Training
- LGBT Stonewall Training
- Torfaen Secondary SEAL network meetings
- Careers Wales network meetings