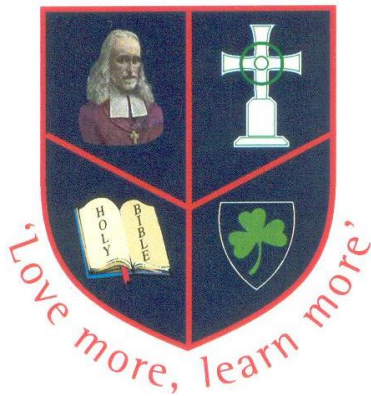


St. Oliver Plunkett Primary School & Nursery Unit

Personal Development & Mutual Understanding Policy



June 2022

Board of Governor (Chair):

Principal:

Date:

Mission Statement

"We, the community of St. Oliver Plunkett's PS, view our mission as the educational development of our children, staff and parents to their fullest potential through the creation and maintenance of a loving Catholic school environment, and the promotion of excellence. We do this to follow the call of Jesus, to grow in his knowledge, love and service of God, in each other, and to help make this world a new creation. Our motto sums up our aims and our vocation: 'Love more, learn more.'

We will reinforce our school ethos and work with parents and our Board of Governors to develop each child spiritually, morally, intellectually, socially, emotionally and physically. Therefore they can fulfil their potential, and appreciate self-worth and self-learning.

Policy Statement

At St. Oliver Plunkett's Primary School we believe that Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PD&MU) 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.

We believe that PDMU is at the core of the curriculum and that all curricular areas and classroom ethos evolve from this area. PD&MU concentrates on developing each child from foundation stage to year 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, making each child emotionally aware.

At St. Oliver Plunkett's Primary School we will develop our partnerships with parents and the local community to help develop and foster PD&MU in the teaching and learning, and through the Catholic ethos within the whole school community.

Why teach PDMU?

PD&MU is divided into 2 main strands:

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

Which allow the children to:

- Build self esteem
- Develop confidence
- Promote health awareness
- Work in a team and consider others' feelings.
- Examine the negative effects that bullying can have on others.
- Develop social skills including how to behave in different situations.
- Respect everyone irrespective of their background and ability.
- Make good choices in life.
- Know where to access help in various situations.

Impact on the children

Through our PD &MU programme all children will be given the opportunity to develop a greater ability to:

- Grow in self-confidence and self-esteem
- Interact with others
- Know who can help if they feel worried or frightened
- Promote thinking and decision-making with morals
- Be aware of how to live a healthy lifestyle
- Learn skills to keep safe and avoid danger
- Manage emotions and attitudes
- Respect other people's cultures and beliefs
- Realise that people are all diverse
- Work with others
- Realise how they can shape the future in society

Impact on the school:

- Staff and pupil relationships will have a closer, more understanding working relationship.
- The children will feel more valued which will encourage them to be more productive, which will in turn, produce a better learning environment for all.
- The children will become healthier as they learn more about the benefits of a healthier lifestyle.
- Pupils will become more confident and motivated, therefore raising standards.

Impact on the community:

Our pupils will grow into young people in the community who:

- Know how to be socially responsible
- Know how to display positive behaviour

- Know how they can improve and develop their community
- Show respect and understanding for others

Aims of PDMU

Through PDMU we intend to:

- Deliver PDMU to teach the statutory curriculum.
- Use various programmes to help support the teaching and learning of PDMU.
- Develop the children's morals and allow them to become responsible for their own actions.
- Equip the children with skills to learn about valuing and respecting themselves as individuals and within a group.
- Allow children to examine ways of managing their feelings and emotions.
- Develop Cross Curricular Skills, Personal Capabilities and Thinking Skills.
- Enable children to develop healthy relationships with family, friends and others.
- Motivate our children to succeed.
- Promote children's feelings of self-esteem, self-confidence and self-worth.
- Develop the skills needed to work alone and with others.
- Allow the children to express themselves in different ways.
- Promote the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.
- Examine how and why society has rules and how to act responsibly.
- Allow children to examine various ways of how to deal with conflict effectively.
- Increase understanding of how people are similar and different while showing respect for others in a diverse world.
- Equip our children to know how to respond to dangerous situations e.g. bullying, abuse, First Aid, saying no and how to stay safe.

Who should be involved?

All teaching and non-teaching staff in St. Oliver Plunkett's Primary School are encouraged to promote PD&MU throughout the school. The coordinator will evaluate planning so that changes can be made to future plans, the policy or schemes of work.

The Role of the Principal:

The principal will promote the development of PD&MU in our school. He will work with the staff to find ways to implement it into the daily life of the school. The principal will support and consult with the coordinator, liaise with the staff and the Board of Governors. He will monitor and review the subject's progression with the support of his Vice Principal /SMT.

The Role of the Coordinator:

The PD&MU coordinator will:

- Liaise with the principal and staff in drawing up and reviewing our PDMU policy.
- Coordinate and monitor planning across the curriculum to facilitate teaching PDMU.
- Signpost teachers to materials which may be used in class to support teaching.
- To ensure RSE is incorporated into the PDMU scheme.
- To support staff to use PDMU effectively in their classrooms.

How will it be delivered?

Personal Development and Mutual Understanding will sometimes be delivered as an individual subject area and at other times through other areas of the Revised Curriculum, particularly Religious Education and WAU as it supports our ethos within the school.

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, Safety
5. Relationships
6. Rules, Rights and Responsibilities
7. Managing Conflict
8. Similarities and Differences
9. Learning to live as members of the community

These areas will be visited in each key stage. The children's skills will develop and be built upon in each Key Stage through a variety of learning methods. These will include individual, paired and group activities, looking at effective ways to link PD&MU into the whole curriculum. All teachers will create a learning environment built on trust which will lead towards a positive learning climate.

Learning Approaches and Methodologies

PD&MU will be taught through various methods including:

- Active learning methods where the pupils will experience learning for themselves facilitated by the teachers who will guide and direct the learning of each child in their care.
- Exploring our attitudes and beliefs: pupils will examine their own values and actions, what is right and wrong and become more aware of Human Rights.
- Follow issue based approaches: pupils will explore a greater understanding of the complex nature of certain issues, which are relevant, local, global and current in the lives of the pupils.
- Managing Conflict: pupils will become more responsible for managing their own emotions and understanding the emotions of others, and learn to deal with controversial or sensitive issues.

Active learning Methodologies to support teaching and learning

The teachers will use a wide variety of methods to support PD&MU lessons throughout the course of each year:

- Circle time
- Visitors to the class
- Drama
- Art work
- Co-operative games
- Role play
- Photographs, pictures
- Media and television
- Open ended questioning and statements
- Debates

- Story telling
- Collage work
- Quizzes
- Freeze frames
- Hot seating

Links across the Curriculum

PD&MU has strong links with other areas of learning across the curriculum.

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.

Mathematics and Numeracy:

- For gathering of information they have gathered in graphs, surveys and questionnaires.

Physical Education:

- Help children to develop self-esteem, confidence, be aware of health and exercise.
- Develop working as a group or team, to develop their awareness of fairness and treating others with respect.

The World Around Us:

- Help children to understand other cultures and other places and times. Develop their awareness of their own talents, thoughts and feelings.

Staff Development in PDMU:

Where training situations arise, staff will develop their skills in delivering a high quality PD&MU curriculum. The coordinator will keep staff informed of new resources and will give support and training where necessary.

Monitoring of PDMU:

1. The coordinator will appraise the planners to assess how effective PD&MU has been incorporated in the whole curriculum.

A coordinator's report will be completed and an action plan put together to further improve the development of PDMU in our school.

2. On a yearly basis the coordinator will monitor PD&MU in each year group to ascertain if the subject is being developed through the whole curriculum, and to give support, advice and praise to the teachers.

Equal Opportunities:

All children have the right to learn and develop as individuals at school. At St. Oliver Plunkett's Primary School, where possible we give our children the opportunities to work with a wide range of people: boys and girls, those from other races, cultures and ability levels. This should develop the children's tolerance, respect and understanding of others.

Recommended Resources and Websites:

1. Living Learning Together: Pub: CCEA
2. Primary Values: Pub: CCEA
3. Ideas for Connecting Learning: Pub: CCEA
4. Something To Say: Pub: Save The Children
5. The Lift Off Initiative: Pub: Amnesty International/UTU/INTO
6. HeartStart (BHF)

7. Helping Hands: Pub Women's Aid
8. Grow In Love: Pub Veritas
9. The Wonder Of My Being: Pub Veritas
10. Kidscape

Websites:

www.schoolcouncils.org
www.circle-time.co.uk
www.unicef.org.uk
www.niccy.org
www.bhf.org.uk
www.careinthesun.org
www.ulstercancer.org
www.wiredforhealth.gov.uk
www.nicurriculum.org.uk
www.trocaire.org.uk
www.endbullying.org.uk (NIABF)