



Paternoster School

'Small school. Big opportunities'

Personal Development Rationale

We believe that Personal Development (P.D.) is at the heart of our school learning journey. It encourages, promotes, adopts and embeds a range of skills that allow pupils to be life-long learners.

We support our children and young people to acquire the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to manage their lives, now and in the future. As part of a whole-school approach, PD education develops the qualities and attributes children need to thrive as individuals, family members and members of their community. Personal Development prepares pupils to manage the most critical opportunities, challenges and responsibilities they will face growing up in such rapidly changing and challenging times. It also helps them to connect and apply the knowledge and understanding they learn in all subjects to practical, real-life situations while helping them to feel safe and secure enough to fulfil their full potential and realise their aspirations.

The promotion of pupils' personal and social development underpins all learning. PD education assists children and young people to build their personal identities, confidence and self-esteem and understand what influences their decisions. Developing self-awareness, empathy and the ability to work with others helps our pupils to enjoy healthy and productive relationships in all aspects of their lives.

How is Personal Development taught?

Personal Development forms an integral part of our whole school approach and is delivered through RSHE, PSHE, Careers, Life skills and social communication sessions. It is closely aligned to our vision and values. PD is evident throughout the school day, from the carefully planned and taught social interactions during breakfast club and break and play times, to the assemblies and whole school events. We teach and engage with all aspects of PD including Citizenship, development of character, wider opportunities, British Values, inclusion and equalities, CEIAG and SMSC. It is formally delivered through our curriculum specifically.

PSHE, RSHE and RE are taught as part of the spiral sequential curriculum with planned repetition of key concepts. This supports pupils to know and remember and build on vital knowledge and skills. Explicit links to the other aspects of PD are made within the taught curriculum.

We have carefully identified key skills within the PD curriculum that are specifically important to OUR young people. Due to the students' SEND needs, we teach explicitly the skills required to enable them to function in all aspects of life including social interactions and preparation for adulthood. So, for example, we explicitly model empathy and support them with scripts for social communication.

Likewise, our key skills are also focussed on helping our young people to keep safe. Our students often fail to understand danger and, therefore, we teach them the skills of assertiveness to help them say 'no'.

Our key skills are:

- The development of self-awareness and a positive self-image
- Resilience
- Negotiation
- Assertiveness – Vulnerability and consent.
- How to establish and maintain positive, healthy relationships
- How to keep themselves healthy, physically and mentally
- How to keep themselves safe – both online and offline
- Permission seeking and giving
- How to manage risk
- Social Communication
- Empathy
- Tolerance
- Responsibility
- Self-regulation
- Respect
- How to recognise and challenge abuse

In addition, our PD curriculum is enhanced by our 'Moving on Moving up' curriculum which is taught at KS4. The curriculum is closely linked to the Preparation for Adulthood outcomes and the CDI Career Development Framework (2021).

Impact

Ultimately, the impact of our PD curriculum is seen in improvements in readiness to learn, attitudes to learning, attendance and uptake in wider opportunities. Our Personal Development curriculum enables our pupils to grow throughout their time at school, experiencing feelings of success and self-worth. They develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to become effective members of their community, able to make and maintain positive relationships, recognise and take responsibility for their feelings, and show resilience in life and learning. We want them to embrace all opportunities offered to them in the future with curiosity, optimism and the belief that they can and will succeed.