Thornhill Primary School PSHE Rationale

Intent

At Thornhill Primary School we believe that the children in our school are growing up in an increasingly complex world which presents many positive and exciting opportunities but also many challenges and risks. Therefore, it is our aim to deliver a PSHE curriculum which not only tackles a range of themes and issues, but also equips them with essential knowledge and skills needed for lifelong learning.

Our school values are embedded within our school culture and underpin everything we do, ultimately, our aim is to prepare children for a better future. We believe it is imperative for children to be given the tools and skills to be successful. Through carefully planned and resourced lessons which support social, moral, spiritual and cultural development we can provide children the essentials of safeguarding issues and emotional well-being.

Our PSHE programme of study aims to equip our pupils with the knowledge, understanding, skills and strategies required to become healthy, independent and responsible members of society. Our curriculum intends to develop the whole child through carefully planned and resourced lessons that foster pupils' knowledge and provide the skills necessary to grow. The children will learn how to:

- develop confidence and responsibility
- protect and enhance their wellbeing
- stay safe and healthy
- build and maintain successful relationships and respect differences
- become active citizens, who are able to responsibly contribute to society

Implementation

PSHE Lessons

At Thornhill Primary School we have a curriculum that is not only in line with the National Curriculum, but is adapted to meet the specific needs of our pupils. You, Me, PSHE provides a clear and progressive PSHE curriculum. The strands of learning reappear year on year, allowing the children to build on their prior learning. This continuity enables the children to make connections and deepen their understanding as they go through school. Our progression map shows the ongoing learning journey from Year 1 to Year 6. EYFS PSHE is delivered through the early learning goals and is holistically covered across the entire curriculum.

As educators, it is our duty to create a classroom environment where children feel safe, confident and valued. All our sequenced lessons provide children with a framework of support so that there is an opportunity to ask questions and allow their voices to be heard. Educators understand the importance of tackling issues which may arise (both classroom and global) and adapting teaching where necessary in order to support and educate.

The UN Convention of the Rights of the Child is woven through our PSHE teaching, with teachers explicitly drawing links between the children's rights and the lessons they are teaching. The children come to understand why their rights must be protected and how they can do this on a day-to-day basis.

The curriculum is carefully divided PSHE into seven different strands:

1. Relationships and health education (RHE)
2. Drug, alcohol and tobacco education (DATE)
3. Keeping safe and managing risk
4. Mental health and emotional wellbeing
5. Physical health and wellbeing
6. Careers, financial capability and economic wellbeing
7. Identity, society and equality

Our PSHE curriculum promotes a deep understanding of personal, social, health and economic education, developing appreciation of others and their value in society, as well as building positive views of themselves, to develop their self-worth, a strong sense of identity and become confident citizens by playing a positive role in contributing to school life and the wider community.

Wider Curriculum

- As a rights-respecting school, our children learn about their rights and link them to their learning. Staff use the language of rights to help children understand disputes and navigates challenges, and children are able to advocate for their rights and understand their importance.
- We believe that focusing on developing a 'Growth Mindset' in our children will help them to build resilience, independence and confidence; embrace challenge; foster a love of learning; and increase their level of happiness. We do this through praising children for their efforts and using language to encourage children to change their way of thinking. This supports both our school and PSHE aims and values, and we focus on Growth Mindsets in all aspects of school life.
- Every classroom contains a 'Back to Green' area, where children can move their name to represent how they are feeling. This allows children to develop the skill of checking in with their emotions, noticing how they are feeling, and then regulating themselves. The visual display enables teachers to check in with pupils who are struggling, and allows children to see how their feelings can change throughout the day.
- We encourage our pupils to develop their sense of self-worth by playing a positive role in contributing to school life and the wider community. All children have a leadership role, which allows them to play a part in the running of their classroom and school.
- Assemblies are linked to PSHE, British Values and SMSC and cover any additional sessions that would benefit the whole school.

Impact

By the time children leave Thornhill Primary School, we believe our PSHE curriculum will have allowed them to develop the vocabulary, confidence and self-reflection needed to clearly articulate their thoughts and feelings. Children shall understand what it is meant by 'resilience' and attain the ability to bounce back from life's everyday challenges. Thornhill Primary shall embed a culture that prioritises physical and mental health, providing children with skills to evaluate and understand their own wellbeing needs, keep themselves safe and maintain a healthy lifestyle. Children shall have the skills and understanding to become active citizens, contributing to society and respecting the diversity around them.