PERSONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Emma Owen
Issued 2011
Reviewed 2014
Reviewed February 2015

<u>Rationale</u>
Personal and Social Development enables children to learn about themselves, their relationships with other children and adults both within and beyond the family. At Oakleigh House we support the cultural identity of all our children, helping them to recognise and gain a positive awareness of their own and other cultures. We encourage our pupils to develop their independence, self-esteem, their personal beliefs and moral values. We hope to equip them with the skills needed to become responsible members of society and we help them develop a growing interest in the world around them and an understanding of what makes a healthy lifestyle.

<u>Aims</u>
The aims of personal and social education are to enable the children to:
- know and understand what makes a healthy lifestyle
- be aware of safety issues
- understand what makes for good friendships with others
- have and show respect for others
- be independent and responsible members of the school community
- develop self-confidence and self-esteem
- make informed choices regarding personal and social issues
- develop good relationships with other members of the school and the wider community.

<u>Teaching and Learning</u>
Personal and Social Development is not taught as a discreet subject but arises and is taught in all areas across the curriculum. We use a range of teaching and learning styles. We encourage the children to take part in a range of practical activities that promote active citizenship, e.g. charity fundraising, or involvement in an activity to help other individuals or groups less fortunate than themselves. Pupils participate in discussions to resolve conflicts or set agreed classroom rules of behaviour. We offer children the opportunity to hear visiting speakers, such as health workers, police, and representatives from the local churches, whom we invite into the school. A school council has been set up where elected pupils are responsible for the welfare and interests of their peers.
Oakleigh House School recommends three approaches to the delivery of personal and social development;

1. **Whole school** – fosters personal and social development as part of the ethos of the school.
2. **Cross curricular** – recognises the contribution of learning in each area of the curriculum to developing pupils' personal and social skills.
3. **Special focus** – involves specific focus on the personal and social development outcomes, either occupying a regular slot in the school timetable or inserted at particular times for a particular purpose.

Our teaching and learning approaches in personal and social development are flexible and responsive to the needs of the pupil and take into account different learning styles and contexts. Account is taken of individual:

- religious and/or cultural beliefs;
- health and welfare needs;
- learning and support needs which will also involve consideration of pupils' current understanding of themselves, their relationships with others and their sense of belonging in the school and wider community.

Pupils are provided with regular opportunities to reflect on their self development and are actively involved in the evaluation of the school's personal and social development approaches and activities.

Pupil Participation

Oakleigh House School uses a variety of mechanisms for consulting with pupils and encourages their active participation in decision making, these include:

- Class/school questionnaires;
- Circle time;
- Pupil committees eg. School council, ECO club
- Self evaluation
- Class monitors

Assessment

Teachers assess the children's work in PSD by making informal judgements as they observe them during lessons and by measuring their progress against the specific learning objectives set out in the planning. We have clear expectations of what the pupils will know, understand and be able to do at the end of each key stage. Progress and achievements will be reported to parents throughout each year.

At Oakleigh House School the importance of the individual's response to their personal and social development is paramount. We encourage learners to recognise the processes of their own learning through:

- reviewing progress;
- setting their own targets;
- recording their own achievement.

We acknowledge that each child is an individual and their personal and social development should be developed accordingly.

Emma Owen
Issued 2011
Reviewed 2014
Reviewed February 2015

Encouraging pupils to have faith in their own judgement and to be responsible for their own learning enhances the genuine feeling of self-worth which comes from within.