Personal Development and Wellbeing Curriculum Statement

How is Personal Development and Wellbeing a Sacred Part of School Life?

At St Mary's Catholic Primary School, personal development and wellbeing are at the heart of our Catholic mission. We recognise the unique dignity and worth of every child and seek to nurture their spiritual, moral, social, cultural, physical and emotional development. Rooted in the Gospel and Catholic Social Teaching, our approach encourages children to live out their calling with compassion and love, care for others and our common home, and grow into confident, thoughtful and responsible members of society.

Intent

At St Mary's, we aim to provide an exceptional, inclusive Personal Development and Wellbeing offer which prepares every child for life beyond the classroom. We want pupils to know that they are loved and valued, to develop a secure sense of identity and belonging, to make healthy and safe choices, to form respectful relationships and to understand how they can make a positive difference in the world. Our ambition is that all pupils, including disadvantaged children and those with SEND, experience meaningful opportunities to discover their talents, have their voices heard and take on responsibility.

Personal development is not an isolated lesson or a collection of special events. It is a carefully considered whole-school entitlement, interwoven through the taught curriculum, Catholic life, assemblies, pastoral care, enrichment and everyday relationships. Our Personal Development and Wellbeing Overview organises this provision into twelve interconnected areas, including health and safety, relationships, financial literacy, citizenship, equality and diversity, community service, aspirations and wider opportunities. These are revisited progressively from Nursery to Year 6 so children can build upon prior knowledge and apply it with growing independence.

Our school's mission, "Learning to Live Out Our Calling with Compassion and Love", shapes this intent. Through Building the Kingdom, our pupils learn to apply faith, ethical thinking and Catholic Social Teaching to real-world issues. We want them to understand not only what is right, but why it matters and how to put their beliefs and values into action.

Implementation

Personal Development and Wellbeing is woven throughout school life and underpinned by a coherent, progressive approach. Leaders map planned learning and wider opportunities from EYFS to Year 6, identifying clear links between subjects, experiences and the knowledge, language and attitudes pupils develop over time. The Ten Ten Life to the Full Plus RSHE pathway provides structured teaching about physical and mental wellbeing, relationships, personal safety, online safety and living in the wider world. This is complemented by teaching in RE, Computing, PE, Science, History, Geography, English and other curriculum areas.

Our Catholic identity is visible through prayer, worship, service and active participation in our Mission Groups. Laudato Si' encourages environmental responsibility and care for creation; Guardian Angels promote kindness and care within our school community; and Mini Vinnies provide opportunities to put faith into action through service to others. These experiences help children understand that compassion, justice, dignity and stewardship are responsibilities to be lived, not simply values to be discussed.

Children are trusted with meaningful leadership roles. Through democratically elected School Council representatives, pupil voice and opportunities to contribute to decisions, pupils experience democracy in action. Games Leaders, Restorative Rangers, Green Guardians and the Clean-up Crew develop cooperation, responsibility, problem-solving and positive relationships. British Values Launch Day, assemblies and subsequent classroom learning make democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance explicit and relevant to children's everyday lives.

Wellbeing and safeguarding are woven through the curriculum and school culture. Ten Ten sessions, ZUMOS and pastoral provision support emotional literacy, positive self-esteem, healthy relationships and strategies for seeking help. Online safety is addressed through RSHE and Computing, while Anti-Bullying Week reinforces the importance of respect,

inclusion, reporting concerns and standing up for others. Children are supported to recognise risks and make informed, age-appropriate choices both online and offline.

Our wider programme gives purposeful opportunities to encounter difference, understand society and develop informed attitudes. Financial literacy teaching builds understanding of money safety and responsible choices; Black History Month develops appreciation of the contributions and experiences of others; Remembrance Day encourages reflection, compassion and historical understanding. Protected characteristics are addressed through carefully chosen literature, curriculum learning and discussion, helping pupils recognise prejudice, respect difference and uphold the dignity of every person.

We recognise the importance of experiences beyond the classroom. A broad range of clubs, educational visits, visitors, sport, music, art, performances and leadership opportunities allows children to try new activities, develop talents and build confidence. The school seeks to make these opportunities accessible, with particular attention to participation by disadvantaged pupils and children with SEND. Workshops and visits are planned for a clear purpose and followed up through pupil voice, allowing us to evaluate what children have learned and how the experience has enriched them.

Families are valued as partners in personal development. Staff share relevant learning and opportunities through Class Dojo and wider communication, while provision is reviewed and refined through curriculum monitoring, pupil voice, participation information, assessment and feedback. The aim is not simply to offer a busy calendar, but to ensure that experiences are coherent, purposeful and increasingly challenging as children move through school.

Oracy within Personal Development and Wellbeing

Oracy is an essential thread running through Personal Development and Wellbeing. Children are encouraged to express ideas clearly and respectfully, listen carefully to others, explain their reasoning and reflect on different perspectives. Opportunities include:

- Participating in structured classroom discussions, debates, circle times and assemblies.
- Sharing opinions through School Council, pupil voice and leadership groups.
- Explaining the significance of British Values, Catholic Social Teaching and protected characteristics.
- Reflecting on learning after visits, workshops and whole-school events.
- Using appropriate vocabulary to express feelings, seek support, resolve disagreements and advocate for others.

Impact

Our aspiration is for the impact of Personal Development and Wellbeing to be evident in the children themselves: pupils who feel valued and safe, articulate their views with confidence, demonstrate respect and empathy, make thoughtful choices and recognise their responsibility to the wider community. We want children to understand their physical and emotional wellbeing, know when and how to seek help, appreciate diversity and approach new experiences with curiosity and resilience.

We evaluate impact through more than attendance or the number of activities delivered. Leaders and staff use assessment in RSHE and related subjects, pupil voice, discussions, observation, participation data and reflection following enrichment and visitors to understand what children remember, understand and can apply. This informs improvements to progression, inclusion and the relevance of our offer. Particular attention is given to ensuring that disadvantaged pupils and children with SEND have equitable access to opportunities and are able to benefit fully from them.

Ultimately, our ambition is that every child leaves St Mary's prepared for the next stage of education and for life in modern Britain: spiritually grounded, socially responsible, emotionally aware and equipped with the knowledge, character and confidence to flourish. Personal Development at St Mary's is not simply taught; it is lived through our faith, curriculum, relationships, leadership, service and experiences.