



Theale Church of England Primary School

Life Skills Policy

It is not only for what we do that we are held responsible, but also for what we do not do.

John Baptiste Moliere

Intent

Our Life Skills Policy is grounded in the belief that it is not only our actions but also our inactions that define our responsibility, as echoed by John Baptiste Moliere. The Education Act 2002 mandates that schools must provide a broad and balanced curriculum, promoting the spiritual, moral, social, cultural, mental, and physical development of pupils. Our aim is to prepare students for the opportunities, responsibilities, and experiences of later life.

Through life skills education, we strive to nurture healthy, independent, and responsible members of society who can contribute positively to both the school and the wider community. Our curriculum empowers children with the knowledge and skills to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health, and relationships, and to develop resilience and self-efficacy.

Implementation

Informal Curriculum

We foster a supportive school environment where students feel secure, valued, and confident to express their feelings and concerns openly. This is achieved through positive relationships between staff and pupils, a consistent standard of behaviour, and an ethos of fairness and respect, aligned with our behaviour and equal opportunities policies. Pupils engage in democratic processes through our school council, reflecting our commitment to nurturing responsible citizens.

Cross-Curricular Teaching

Life skills are integrated across national curriculum subjects such as science, computing, and RE. This cross-curricular approach enriches and broadens the curriculum, ensuring that life skills are taught in context and are relevant to various aspects of students' lives.

Discrete Life Skills Programme

Our rigorous curriculum planning and specialist teaching ensure the effective delivery of life skills. Each year group receives two hours of dedicated life skills instruction every fortnight, following a two-year cycle due to mixed year groups. This structured programme covers essential topics such as individual liberty, mutual respect, careers and finance, environmental responsibility, healthy lifestyles, democracy, diversity, identity, and risk management. Planned as a spiral curriculum, each year the children build on their previous learning, which also offers the opportunity to address any misconceptions

Equal Opportunities and Special Needs

We ensure that all children, including those with special educational needs, have full access to the life skills curriculum. Lessons are scaffolded to accommodate various abilities and backgrounds, and we provide additional opportunities for able, gifted, and talented students through our gifted and talented politics and media group.

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)

Our life skills curriculum, alongside science, PE, and computing, covers the statutory guidance set out in the RSE framework. Further details are available in our Relationships, Sex, and Health Education Policy.

British Values

In line with the 2014 governmental advice, our life skills curriculum promotes British Values to support the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development of our students. We are committed to developing well-rounded individuals who understand and uphold these values. Every life skills lesson will link back to at least one of the fundamental British Values.

No Outsiders

At Theale Primary School, we are developing a 'No Outsiders' ethos. Here at Theale Primary school, it is vital to us that all children feel safe and that they belong. Through picture and story books we will deliver the key message that everyone is welcome, has a place in our school community and is accepted. The books also promote the message that we live in a world full of people who are different, that it is ok to be different, to have different views, make different choices and to disagree, as long as you are kind and respectful. Through the 'No Outsiders' resource (35 picture and story book), we will continue to promote inclusive education, community cohesion and prepare our young people for life as global citizens.

Parental Involvement

We recognise the importance of collaboration between school and home in supporting and educating children. We share teaching plans and information with parents, particularly on sensitive issues like

drugs and sex education. We strive to build active, positive relationships with parents and work together to address any problems that may arise.

Outside Agencies

While our teachers are best positioned to deliver the life skills curriculum due to their understanding of our students, we occasionally invite external experts to complement our teaching.

Assessment

Life skills are assessed through teacher observations and evaluations of students' work. We have clear expectations for what students should know and understand at the end of each year to ensure progression. This assessment ensures that our students are prepared for the next stage in their education.

Monitoring

The monitoring of life skills involves classroom observations, planning reviews, book scrutiny, student interviews, and learning walks. Students document their learning in their books at least once every half term. The subject leader, in collaboration with the Headteacher, oversees the monitoring process, and the Headteacher reports to governors through a termly report.

Impact

Through our life skills curriculum, children will:

- Understand their rights and responsibilities, including concepts of fairness, justice, and consent.
- Develop mutual respect in various relationships and learn conflict resolution strategies.
- Gain economic understanding and explore employment and enterprise.
- Recognise environmental responsibilities and the impact of their choices on the planet.
- Appreciate the importance of a healthy, balanced lifestyle encompassing physical, social, and emotional wellbeing.
- Comprehend democracy, including voting, representation, and the roles of the monarchy, government, and society.
- Embrace diversity and understand equality and tolerance for all races, ethnicities, religions, and personal beliefs.
- Identify personal qualities, attitudes, skills, and achievements, and understand their influences.
- Learn to manage risk and understand safety strategies, including basic first aid.
- Be prepared for the diverse and sometimes challenging world, equipped with the information and options to build successful lives.

Links to Other Policies

Refer to our Relationships, Sex, and Health Education Policy and British Values Policy for further details.