

DRUMAHOE PRIMARY SCHOOL



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P.D.M.U.

P.D.M.U. Policy

P.D.M.U. is an area of learning focusing on children's emotional development, health and safety, relationships with others and development of moral thinking, values and actions.

Rationale

In Drumahoe P.S. we recognise we are living in a period of rapid and often dramatic social, economic and technological change. In this climate our young people should ideally develop intra-personally and inter-personally through the role models of significant adults in their lives. As a result, they will become more emotionally intelligent and recognise the importance of having the right values and practices in the employment of life skills.

We recognise the role teachers play as facilitators providing young people with the knowledge and opportunity to practice vital life skills, "encouraging each child to become personally, emotionally, socially and physically effective to lead healthy, safe and fulfilled lives and to become confident independent and responsible citizens, making informed and responsible choices and decisions throughout their lives." (P.D.M.U. CCEA CPD Unit 1)

Aims

As a school, the pastoral dimension is central to Drumahoe Primary School and permeates every aspect of school life. We believe that the holistic approach to development on all levels produces well rounded "whole" people equipped with the skills to deal with life. In recognition of this, when delivering the personal development and mutual understanding programmes, we focus on the development of skills and values centred firmly on the person.

Through P.D.M.U. we aim to:

- Create a more open relationship between staff and children;
- Raise standards of achievement by children who feel more secure, motivated and confident and who are independent learners;
- Improve the health and well being of children in our care;
- Provide a more inclusive environment where all are valued and have a voice;
- Contribute to our local community responsible citizens who have a sense of personal and social responsibility;
- Have positive and healthy behaviours including a concern for others and the environment; are open to new ideas, have integrity and moral courage.

Objectives:

Through the delivery of the PD & MU learning area, our children will be able to develop knowledge and understanding of themselves and others as individuals – their strengths and limitations, abilities, skills, personal qualities, potential, needs, attitudes and values. This includes developing:

1. self confidence and self esteem;
2. insights into their emotions and attitudes;
3. moral thinking, values and actions;

4. an understanding of the benefits and importance of a healthy lifestyle;
5. skills for keeping safe;
6. an ability to cope with difficult situations;
7. an understanding of learning characteristics;
8. an ability to work effectively with others and to take responsibility for themselves;
9. insights into society and other cultures, our interdependence and the need for mutual understanding and respect;
10. an ability to contribute to relationships, family life, the local and global community and the environment;
11. an awareness of the value of personal and interpersonal skills in future life and in employment;
12. knowledge and understanding of the challenges and opportunities they may encounter in an increasingly diverse society;
13. skills, attitudes, values and abilities necessary for independent living, informed decision making and responsible action throughout their lives.
14. understanding of their role in working for a more inclusive, just and democratic society.

Methodology

As Personal Development & Mutual Understanding is about the development of values and attitudes, it is important children have an opportunity to develop these naturally as a consequence of their investigations and reflection on issues. As we all learn in different ways a range of learning styles and teaching strategies will be employed related to active learning. These approaches will emphasise group and collaborative strategies, maximising opportunities for pupil input, decision-making and problem-solving.

At Drumahoe P.S. PD & MU lessons will be conducted in a non-judgemental atmosphere. The teacher, as facilitator, will create and maintain a safe and secure environment for children to express their thoughts and ideas. Empathetic relationships based on mutual respect will be developed to create a place where fears and concerns can be expressed openly without risk of ridicule or reproach.

Children are encouraged to talk about and reflect upon activities and situations which they have been involved in.

Teaching and learning approaches are focused on the systematic and purposeful development of the whole person with emphasis on the active and participatory involvement of pupils in the learning process. Lessons presented will follow an issue based approach and will explore pupils' and society's attitudes and beliefs.

Links developed with schools from different cultures through the EMU or CRED projects will continue to be fostered and developed.

In line with our commitment to this learning area, each year group will have a timetabled period of Personal Development & Mutual Understanding each week.

Assessment

When assessing children's Personal Development and Mutual Understanding we recognise personal rates of development cannot be standardised therefore when assessing and reporting we take account of and reflect each child's current strengths and developmental needs.

Assessment of Personal Development and Mutual Understanding is concerned with:

- knowledge and understanding;
- a child's ability to demonstrate the skills that are being learned and practised.

Managing External Agencies

We acknowledge the importance of ensuring that any external agencies used to support our delivery of Personal Development and Mutual Understanding must adhere to the values and ethos of our school.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Drumahoe P.S. recognises and accepts the importance of monitoring and evaluating all aspects of the delivery of the Personal Development curriculum. To this end we follow the procedures for self evaluation as outlined in the DE document 'Together Towards Improvement'

Related school policies

This policy is set within the broader school context of the Curriculum and Pastoral Care therefore should be read in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Pastoral Care Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Misuse of Drugs/Substances Policy
- Positive Behaviour Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy