

White Spire School



PSHCE Policy

Date: June 2026

Review Date: June 2028

This policy is informed and underpinned by the school's value of 'Through Learning to Independence'. This policy is a working document, which provides guidance and information on all aspects of Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Economic (PSHCE) learning, and aims to provide a secure framework within which staff can work.

Who is this policy for?

- Staff
- Parents/Carers
- Governors
- Visitors to the school

This curriculum fulfils our statutory responsibility to support pupils' spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development, and prepare children for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life as set out in Section 78 of the Education Act 2002.

This curriculum fulfils our responsibilities as set out in the Department of Education's statutory guidance for Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education 2025, which becomes statutory with effect from September 2026.

This PSHCE Policy works with, and alongside, our RSE, Anti-Bullying, Careers, DAT, Safeguarding, Inclusion and Equal Opportunities Policies.

Why do we teach PSHCE at White Spire School?

- PSHCE education prepares our pupils to live their 'best lives' - both now and in the future through the strands of 'My Body', 'My Relationships' and 'My World'
- PSHCE education is a planned, developmental programme of learning through which our pupils acquire the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to manage their lives
- As part of a whole-school approach, PSHCE education develops the qualities and attributes pupils need to thrive as individuals, family members and members of society
- PSHCE education helps in reducing, or removing, many of the barriers to learning experienced by our pupils, significantly improving their capacity to learn, achieve and raise aspirations
- Our PSHCE education programme makes a significant contribution to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development, their behaviour and safety and our statutory responsibility in promoting their wellbeing
- Our PSHCE programme contributes to pupils' careers education through exploration of further education options and career paths
- The learning provided through our PSHCE education provision is an essential contribution to the safeguarding of our pupils

What impact do we want from PSHCE for our pupils?

- Pupils are equipped with the knowledge, understanding, skills and strategies required to live healthy, safe, productive, capable, responsible and balanced lives

- Pupils are encouraged to be enterprising
- Pupils are supported in making effective transitions, positive learning and career choices, and in achieving economic wellbeing
- Opportunities are provided for pupils to reflect on and clarify their own values and attitudes, and explore those of others around them
- Pupils are supported in building their confidence, resilience and self-esteem
- Pupils are able to identify and manage risk, make informed choices and understand what influences their decisions
- Pupils are supported to recognise, accept and shape their identities, to understand and accommodate difference and change, to manage emotions and to communicate constructively in a variety of settings
- Pupils will develop an understanding of themselves, empathy and the ability to work with others
- Pupils will be supported to form and maintain good relationships, develop the essential skills for future employability and better enjoy and manage their lives
- Pupils will develop core 'life skills' to encourage and support independence

How is PSHCE delivered at White Spire?

As a school community, we offer learning experiences which:

- Are delivered in a safe and supportive learning environment
- Are predominantly led, where possible, by a pupil's class tutor due to their individual knowledge of the pupil and their needs
- Contain accurate and relevant knowledge
- Provide 'quality not quantity'
- Use pupil feedback (e.g. School Council and pupil questionnaires) and local data (e.g. Public Health) to prioritise the focus of our learning
- Provide links (e.g. the health risks of using drugs with the awareness of peer pressure)
- Respect pupils' prior learning, experience, needs and readiness
- Provide opportunities to turn knowledge into personal understanding
- Provide opportunities to explore, clarify and challenge their own and others' values, attitudes, beliefs, rights and responsibilities
- Provide the skills, language and strategies they need to live healthy, safe, fulfilling, responsible and balanced lives
- Is inclusive and acknowledges and accommodates the diversity within our school in terms of gender, religion, language, race, social background, culture, appearance, family set-up, special needs, ability or disability

PSHCE often draws upon pupils' real-life experiences. Staff delivering and supporting the programme of study will ensure any pupil demonstrating signs of being at risk is brought to the attention of the Safeguarding Team, adhering to the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policies.

What resources do we use to deliver PSHCE?

Our PSHCE resources are chosen and checked for:

- inclusivity
- positive, healthy and unbiased messages
- appropriateness (in terms of age and developmental stage)
- promoting positive values
- accuracy
- being up-to-date

Our PSHCE programme of study is delivered through:

- Weekly timetabled lessons following a spiral programme of learning
- Assemblies
- Class discussions / circle time
- Curriculum days

How do we use outside-agencies?

Occasionally, appropriate and suitably-experienced and knowledgeable visitors from outside school may be invited to contribute to the delivery of PSHCE at White Spire. Our 'Code of Practice' for visitors will ensure:

- Visitors are invited into school because of the particular expertise or contribution they are able to make
- All visitors are familiar with and understand the school's PSHCE policy and work within it
- All input is part of a planned programme and negotiated and agreed with staff in advance
- All visitors are supervised/supported by a member of staff at all times
- The input of visitors is monitored and evaluated by staff and pupils, which will be used to inform future planning

How do we assess and monitor PSHCE?

- Opportunities for Assessment for Learning (AfL) and Assessment of Learning (AoL) are built into provision
- Baseline assessment is used to ensure new learning is relevant
- Baseline assessment is used to ensure progress can be assessed
- Pupils are provided with opportunities to reflect on and assess their learning and recognise its relevance to their day to day lives
- Progress in PSHCE education is recorded and reported to parents in line with all other non-core curriculum subjects.
- Teacher assessments
- Pupils' self-assessment and evaluations
- Teacher 'next step' marking in line with the whole school Marking Policy

- The PSHCE Head of Department is responsible for monitoring the standards of pupils' work and their progress
- The PSHCE Head of Department will monitor planning and the delivery of the programme of study
- The programme of study will be evaluated on a yearly basis to ensure that the needs of the pupils are being met and that there is progression and continuity of learning through the school

How do we support the professional development in the teaching of PSHCE?

The PSHCE Head of Department ensures they are kept informed of relevant changes to aspects of PSHCE by attending any local network meetings and through membership of the PSHCE Association. The Head of Department will support colleagues in the teaching of PSHCE through termly curriculum meetings and by providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in school.

What PSHCE Programme of Study do we deliver?

Our programme of study runs through three core themes:

My Body

Pupils learn about their bodies through a structured developmentally-appropriate programme that teaches physical health, mental wellbeing, personal safety, and the changes that occur as they grow. Teaching includes understanding body parts, healthy routines (physical and mental), puberty, and how to keep themselves safe. This ensures all pupils receive accurate, inclusive, and developmentally appropriate information that supports their wellbeing and helps them make informed, healthy choices as they mature.

My Relationships

Pupils learn about relationships through a structured, developmentally-appropriate programme that teaches them how to build and maintain healthy, respectful and safe connections with others. This includes understanding families, friendships, intimate relationships, personal boundaries, consent, and how to recognise both positive and harmful relationship behaviours. This learning ensures all pupils gain the knowledge and skills required to form healthy relationships and contribute positively within the communities they are or may become members of.

My Everyday World

Pupils learn practical life skills through a planned, developmentally-appropriate programme that equips them to manage everyday situations confidently and safely. This includes developing skills in personal care, home care, travel, money management, risk awareness, digital safety and preparing for future education and employment. Through this learning, pupils build the knowledge, resilience and degrees of independence needed to navigate modern life and take increasing responsibility for their wellbeing and actions.

Our programme of study:

- Is taught in accordance with pupils' readiness
- Reflects the universal needs shared by all children and young people as well as the specific needs of White Spire pupils
- Is taught through a spiral programme whereby we revisit themes, increase challenge, broaden scope, and deepen pupils' thinking and understanding
- Links are made with relevant subjects to provide consistency and consolidation (e.g. Science / Computing / P.E. / Vocational Studies)
- Through involvement in the life of the school and wider community
- Through pastoral care and guidance
- As a school we promote a shared set of values that support our pupils in being prepared for life in modern Britain. We promote the values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. Through aspects of school life such as voting for school council members, assemblies and discrete PSHCE lessons, these values are embedded within our curriculum.