The Link Academy Trust

**Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship Policy 2020**

The Link Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity, regulated by the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). All Members of the Board of Trustees of the exempt charity are also Directors of the company; the term ‘Trustee’ used in this Policy also means Director. This Policy applies to all schools within the Link Academy Trust.

**Statutory Requirements**

All schools must provide a curriculum that is broadly based, balanced and meets the needs of all pupils. Under section 78 of the Education Act 2002 and the Academies Act 2010, a PSHE curriculum:

• Promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, and

• Prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

The Government’s PSHE education review of PSHE Education (March 2013) stated that the subject would remain non-statutory and that no new programmes of study would be published.

However, the Right Honourable Justine Greening, Secretary of State for Education, announced, on March 1st 2017, that it was her intention to make Relationships Education statutory in Primary schools from September 2020 and that content guidance will be published prior to that.

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 placed a duty on the Secretary of State for Education to make the new subjects of Relationships Education at primary and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) at secondary compulsory through regulations. The Act also provides a power for the Secretary of State to make Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE), or elements of the subject, mandatory in all schools. The department engaged with a wide range of interested organisations and conducted a call for evidence on the content of the subjects, and the status of PSHE.

The findings gathered from the process have informed the drafting of the regulations, statutory guidance and regulatory impact assessment, on which the department is now consulting. This includes the department’s decision to make Health Education compulsory, not all of PSHE.

“PSHE remains an important and necessary part of all pupils’ education. We believe that all schools should teach PSHE, drawing on good practice, and have outlined this expectation in the introduction to the new National Curriculum” (Written Ministerial Statement: Review of Personal, Social, Health and Economic education, March 2013).

**Delegation**

The PSHE Curriculum Group and their representative lead in each academy will take on monitoring of the effective implementation of this Policy, and future reviews, and will report to the Academy Head and Governing Body annually.

**Rationale**

**The Teaching of PSHE**

PSHE offers a place within the curriculum where children and young people can learn the knowledge and skills they need to make the increasingly complex transition through childhood and adolescence, into adulthood. Children are protected from teaching materials that would be considered inappropriate when bearing in mind the age, religion and culture of the pupils.

At the Link Academy Trust, PSHE will be taught in a safe manner recognising that children’s individual circumstance and experiences may have an emotional impact. We will seek to provide every child with an equally supportive view of themselves and their choices and beliefs without prejudice or bias.

**Responsibilities:** The Board of Trustees will approve the PSHE policy and hold the Academy Head to account for its implementation.

The Local Board governors work with the Academy Head and Teachers to ‘Learn, Support and Challenge’ the teaching and learning set out in this curriculum area through visits, book scrutiny and personnel/ pupil interviews as a minimum.

The Academy Head is responsible for ensuring that PSHE is taught consistently across the school.

Staff are responsible for:

* Delivering PSHE in a sensitive manner
* Modelling positive attitudes to PSHE
* Responding to the needs of individual pupils
* Monitoring progress

We believe that the provision of PSHE should be seen as a partnership between parents and schools. This partnership approach would help ensure that: children receive accurate information; that they benefit from informed adult perspectives on the issues that they face; and so that they can understand and respect other people’s values. Therefore, parents will be informed as far in advance as possible and supported to understand how the syllabus will be delivered at their child’s school.

Pupils are expected to engage fully in PSHE and, when discussing issues related to PSHE, treat others with respect and sensitivity.

**Training**

Staff are trained on the delivery of PSHE as part of their induction and it is included in our continuing professional development calendar. The PSHE Lead Teacher will also invite visitors from outside the school, such as community nurses or fire officers, to provide support and training to staff teaching PSHE.

**Monitoring arrangements**

The delivery of PSHE is monitored by the lead PSHE Teacher and Academy Head through:

learning walks, talking to the children, book scrutiny’s etc. Pupils’ development in PSHE is monitored by class teachers as part of our internal assessment systems.

**Confidentiality and Child Protection**

Confidentiality cannot be guaranteed for children or their parents. Should any individual be in possession of information that staff feel may indicate a child is at risk of harm in any way they will always report this to the school Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) in confidence who will deal with it in line with the school’s policy. Other information, views or beliefs will be kept within the confines of the classroom where they are discussed or between the individuals who are discussing them.

PSHE may sometimes bring about disclosures of child protection issues and staff should always ask for advice or support if they are in any doubt of procedure or the importance of a disclosure from the safeguarding Lead.

**Delivery of PSHE**

**Aims:**

To provide pupils with the knowledge, understanding, attitudes, values and skills they need in order to reach their potential as individuals and within the community.

Pupils are encouraged to take part in a wide range of activities and experiences across and beyond the curriculum, contributing fully to the life of their school and communities. In doing so they learn to recognise their own worth, work well with others and become increasingly responsible for their own learning. They reflect on their experiences and understand how they are developing personally and socially, tackling many of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues that are part of growing up.

They learn to understand and respect our common humanity; diversity and differences so that they can go on to form the effective, fulfilling relationships that are an essential part of life and learning.

**Objectives of our PSHE syllabus are:**

PSHE will support the development of the skills, attitudes, values and behavior which enable pupils to:

• Have a sense of purpose

• Value self and others

• Form relationships

• Make and act on informed decisions

• Communicate effectively

• Work with others

• Respond to challenge

• Be an active partner in their own learning

• Be active citizens within the local community

• Explore issues related to living in a democratic society

• Become healthy and fulfilled individuals

**Dealing with Questions**

Clear parameters of what is appropriate & inappropriate will be established within the ground rules. Questions will be answered in a sensitive manner, using simple, accurate and straightforward language. The answers given will always be honest but may not be, on occasion, everything there is to know. The age of the child will always be taken into consideration as will their level of maturity.

Should a sensitive issue arise or a question that leads a staff member to suspect an inappropriate knowledge, curiosity or experience; this will be reported to the parent and / or Designated Safeguarding lead (DSL)

**PSHE Curriculum Map**

Each school within The Link Academy Trust will teach this using their own scheme. Please consult the school’s website for their Curriculum map and how this is delivered.

**Links with other policies**

Other policies that relate to PSHE include:-

Anti-Bullying Policy

Equal Opportunities Policy 2019

Online Safety Policy

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy 2019

Curriculum Policy

RSE policy