



Citizenship Policy

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| Date approved: | 11 October 2017 |
| Review cycle/date: | Every 2 years: Oct 2019 |
| Party responsible: | Student Committee |
| Linked policies: | Curriculum Policy, Behaviour Policy |

Introduction

Citizenship is about our role in society and how we work together. Citizenship education is about enabling people to make their own decisions and to take responsibility for their own lives and their communities. It gives us the knowledge and skills to understand, challenge and engage with the main pillars of democracy: politics, media, the economy and the law.

Founded by a community group after a long campaign, the school demonstrates at first hand the opportunities and responsibilities that challenging and engaging with democracy can bring. The school is run by a community cooperative trust and each member of the school community will have a voice and an active role in its operation.

Citizenship is a cornerstone of the school's ethos and working practice.

Aims

The school will:

- To incorporate and encourage the use of The Swanage School way in daily life, in and outside of school
- Engage students in learning the knowledge, skills and understanding to become informed and thoughtful citizens, who can be effective in society at local, national and global levels
- Stimulate students' sense of responsibility and awareness of their duties and rights
- Foster and develop students' understanding of different national, ethnic and religious identities
- Encourage students to play an effective role in society, by ensuring that they can participate in active citizenship, and become involved in the life of the school, neighbourhood, other communities, the digital community and the wider world

Knowledge

Through the citizenship (PSHE) curriculum, other subjects and wider school activities, the school will teach:

- The rights and responsibilities of citizenship
- The role of local and national government
- Understanding of different cultures, including ethnic and religious groups and urban, rural and coastal communities
- The justice system

- Public services
- The media
- Volunteering and philanthropy
- Economics
- The environment and sustainability
- National and global issues

Engagement

All members of the school community will be encouraged to take an active part in citizenship.

Active citizenship will include:

- Engaging the whole school (students, staff, parents and governors) in the development and review of 'The Swanage School Way' – a set of behaviours that we agree to adhere to
- Election in tutor time and house assembly – allowing the student body to elect a student council representative.
- A student council with a strong voice in the running of the school
- The school cooperative trust being open to all who sign up to the shared values and the election of members and its committees and processes used as an example
- Parent, community and staff representation in the Governing Body
- Welcoming local politicians, lawyers, businesses, charities and voluntary groups into the school and visiting them at work
- Economic enterprise, community work and public service experience as part of the school's Local Curriculum and School Challenge
- Participation in the Swanage School Challenge

Citizenship is embedded within the culture of the school. In addition, specific concepts are introduced during Challenge days and through tutor time/PHSE.

Arrangements for monitoring and evaluation

The effectiveness of the Citizenship Policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed both day to day and more strategically:

1. On-going monitoring:
 - Informal feedback from students
 - PHSE logbooks (monitored by tutors)
 - House day (Challenge day) creating a vision and goals for the house
 - Formal feedback from students through the school council
 - Lesson observations
 - Discussions between members of staff
 - Informal feedback from parents.
 - Feedback from parents at parents' evenings.
2. Strategic monitoring and evaluation:
 - Student questionnaire, annually
 - Parent questionnaire, annually
 - Analysis of records of behaviour records – both rewards and sanctions (effective citizenship will result in people treating each other with respect). Fortnightly Head of House meetings with the Headteacher regarding behaviour and rewards/sanctions.

The Governing Body will review the Citizenship Policy every two years and assess its implementation and effectiveness.