

Citizenship and Personal Development Policy

Date approved:	19 March 2025
Review cycle/date:	Every 2 years: March 2027
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:

- Incorporate and encourage the use of The Swanage School Way and the 4 Pillars – Ambition, Character, Community & Productivity-, with specific emphasis on Character and Community, 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 fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law and individual liberty

- Understanding of different cultures, including ethnic and religious groups and urban, rural and coastal communities, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs
- Public services
- The media
- 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
- A student council with a strong voice in the school's public profile
- Student council representatives appointed on merit after applying for a position
- Parent, community and staff representation in the Governing Body
- Welcoming local politicians, lawyers, businesses, charities and voluntary groups into the school
- Economic enterprise, community work and public service experience

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

Arrangements for monitoring and evaluation

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

1. On-going monitoring:

- Informal feedback from students
- PSHE exercise books in Years 7, 8 and 9
- Formal feedback from students through the school council
- Learning walks
- Discussions between members of staff
- Informal feedback from parents.

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 Year meetings with the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher regarding behaviour and rewards/sanctions.

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