

# PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING POLICY

## Rationale

Ballymacward Primary School recognises that young people live 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 automatically become more emotionally intelligent and witness the importance of having the right values and practices in the employment of life skills. However, in the absence of this, a taught curriculum is required in which teachers will act as facilitators providing young people with the knowledge and opportunity to practice vital life skills.

## Aims

In line with our Christian ethos and values it is our view that the personal development of our pupils is as important as their academic development. 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 programmes, we focus on the development of skills and values centred firmly on the person.

## Objectives

Through the delivery of the Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU) programme our young people should be able to:

1. develop skills, attitudes, values and abilities which will enable them to be effective in a variety of adult situations and occupations
2. develop knowledge and understanding of themselves and others as individuals their strengths and limitations, abilities, skills, personal qualities, potential, needs, attitudes and values
3. develop independence of mind and take responsibility for their own decisions and actions
4. develop self-reliance, self-discipline, self-respect and self-esteem
5. adopt an enterprising and persistent approach to tasks and challenges
6. develop a respect for ways of life, opinions and ideas different from their own, provided these are based on consideration and respect for others
7. develop a concern for, and a readiness to act on behalf of, the legitimate interests of others who cannot effectively so act themselves
8. develop knowledge and understanding of the world in which they live and of employment and other opportunities that are available
9. gain a concern for conservation of the natural world and for the physical, including the built environment
10. become effective independent learners

## Methodology

In recognition of the fact that we all learn in different ways a range of learning styles and teaching strategies will be employed related to active/experiential learning These approaches will emphasise group and collaborative strategies, maximising opportunities for pupil input, decision-making and problem-solving.

Lessons will be conducted in a non-judgemental atmosphere with the teacher in the role of the facilitator, creating and maintaining a safe and secure environment. 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.

The delivery of lessons will be concerned with the systematic and purposeful development of the whole person with emphasis on the active involvement of pupils in the learning process.

### Managing External Agencies

We acknowledge the importance of ensuring that any external agencies used to support our delivery of PDMU must adhere to the values and ethos particular to Ballymacward P.S.. We are also aware of the importance of a contract being agreed upon by all contributory parties.

### Monitoring and Evaluation (Ref Appendix 1 and 2)

This school recognises and accepts the importance of monitoring and evaluating all aspects of the delivery of the PDMU curriculum. To this end we follow the procedures for self evaluation as outlined in the DENI document, 'Together Towards improvement'.

### Related school policies

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

- Pastoral Care Policy
- Relationships and Sexuality Policy
- Policy on Child Protection and Safeguarding
- Misuse of Drugs Policy
- Discipline Policy
- Religious Education Policy