

CITIZENSHIP POLICY DOCUMENTS

Purpose

This policy defines the school's position with regards to citizenship. It is directed at the whole school, as school community will be involved in implementing it.

The schools' values and ethos also reinforce the principles underpinning citizenship, particularly in relation to the Every Child Matters outcomes.

Aims

- Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school.
- Clarify the school's approach to citizenship for all staff, pupils, governors, parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community.
- Ensure that the approach to citizenship education complements the values and ethos of the school.
- Make clear when, where and how citizenship will be assessed, recorded and reported

Context

North Axholme School is a popular 11-16 comprehensive school with 540 pupils. This figure has grown from 385 in 2 years. We are an inclusive school that caters for pupils of all abilities and ensures that a very high percentage leave us with 5 GCSE grades at A*-G. Our key stage 3 results in English in 2005 were outstanding. Our English, Maths and Science results placed us in the top 12% of schools in England. We have improved attendance so that it is above the national average and unauthorised absence is very low. We aim to continue to improve this.

Our pupil and parent voice surveys told us that the vast majority are happy with the school and the way we deal with issues that arise. Most pupils enjoy school, feel safe and get on well with their peers.

Citizenship is delivered by a team of teachers across both key stages. Students receive one timetabled lesson per week of citizenship, although many aspects of the subject are reinforced during the delivery of other subject areas. All students also receive one lesson of Religious Studies (RS) per week, where there are close links for the programme of study for citizenship.

Policy Statement

Citizenship at North Axholme School

At North Axholme School, we believe that by following the national curriculum for citizenship, we will help students to develop a fuller understanding of their roles and responsibilities as citizens. We aim for all our students to develop the knowledge, skills and understanding that they need to be able to live confident, healthy independent lives as individuals, parents, workers and members of society at local, national and international levels. We hope our students will become informed, thoughtful, responsible and active citizens who are aware of their duties and rights. We hope to promote their spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness, thereby making them more self confident and responsible. We hope that they will learn to play a helpful part in the life of the school, the local community and the wider world. We hope to teach them about the economy and democratic institutions and values. We hope that they will learn respect for different national, religious and ethnic identities. We also hope by the time they leave school, they will have developed an ability to reflect on issues and be able to take part in discussions, as well as having become politically literate. We will endeavour to follow the national curriculum in KS3 and KS4 to the best of our means for every student in the school community, ensuring that by the end of each key stage students have enhanced knowledge and understanding of a range of citizenship related issues.

Citizenship Programme of Study

The school continues to adapt the citizenship curriculum in order to follow national guidance, but also to make it relevant to our students, especially discussing topical, local issues as appropriate. Our school curriculum continues to evolve in line with national 14-19 developments, we are therefore continually exploring opportunities for accrediting student's learning in the field of citizenship.

Recently the school has invested in the Folens series for all year groups, which very clearly lays out aims and objectives and clearly fits in with QCA guidance for the subject. Parents will receive an annual report for citizenship in KS3 and KS4 as part of a PSHCE report according with our Assessment, Recording and Reporting schedule. As required by the Dfes, parents will get a national curriculum level for the subject at the end of KS3. This will be measured by teacher assessment in accordance with Dfes standards.

Teaching and learning

The delivery group will endeavour to do it's best to use a mixture of teaching and learning styles within the class room so that all students are engaged and kept on task as far as possible

Dealing with sensitive issues

By the nature of the subject, sensitive and controversial issues will and should be taught from time to time. Staff will be given guidance and advice where appropriate. Staff also need to be aware of possible individual student needs, possibly by referring to IEP's if appropriate. The delivery team will also try to keep up to date and use topical issues where possible as a part of the teaching material.

Beyond the classroom

In discrete citizenship lessons, the importance of active and responsible participation in school and the wider community is always stressed and there are certain taught lessons about this e.g. on the importance of school council.

Assessment and Reporting

All year groups will receive an end of year citizenship report, but only in KS3 in Year 9 do students get a direct NC level which is sent to parents via the end of year report. In both key stages, parents will only get one report a year for citizenship. Students will be measured differently from other national curriculum subjects and will be assessed as:

- Working towards the national curriculum level (LS and below)
- Working at the national curriculum level (LS/6). QCA say the majority of students will be at this level by the end of KS3
- Exceeding the national curriculum level (L6+)

Monitoring and Evaluation

Lessons will be monitored by the coordinator of citizenship and the Heads of Year (HoY's) supporting the programme. Lesson observations, work scrutiny and other monitoring procedures will be carried out in accordance with the school Quality Assurance policy.

Responsibilities

Citizenship coordinator

The PSHCE coordinator and HoY's supporting the programme will:

- Keep up to date with latest good practice and disseminate it as appropriate
- Send staff on courses if appropriate to their needs
- Provide clear and varied teaching resources of a high standard
- Keep the PSHCE handbook up to date
- Have ultimate responsibility for assessment and reporting
- Monitor delivery
- Attend middle leaders meetings

At School

Teachers delivering citizenship need to make sure that they ask for help well in advance of the lesson if required. Learning objectives and outcomes need to be made clear to students. Lessons will be delivered and outcomes assessed in accordance with the Teaching & Learning and Marking policies.

Students need to take the subject seriously, listen carefully each lesson and follow the class ground rules to make their learning successful. Students need to try to give as many reasons as they can for their opinions, both in writing and in oral work. Most importantly, students need to learn to apply what they have learned in the classroom to their life outside school. They also need to learn to be responsible and active citizens. Students will be expected to have all their equipment with them in line with school policy. Students may wish to look at some of the websites used in lessons.

At Home

It is hoped that parents will encourage their children to be responsible and caring citizens both in and outside school, thereby enhancing the curriculum delivered in citizenship lessons at school. Information may be sent out to parents via the head teacher's newsletters. If parents wish for further information about the citizenship curriculum they are welcome to call school and make an appointment with Mr B Creasy.

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