

*Holding hands with Jesus, as we love, learn and grow together.*

## Life Skills Policy

September 2021

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Nelson Mandela

"Every child deserves a champion - an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be."

Rita Pierson

"I'm not afraid of storms, for I'm learning to sail my ship."

Aeschylus

## **POLICY**

We as a school know our children best and have the motivation to prepare them for the next phase of their life and beyond. We have completed our own research and used reading from EEF (Education Endowment Foundation) to help us create our 'Life Skill Curriculum and Life Skill Lessons. We endeavour to help our children shape their own character.

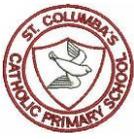
"By 'Character', we mean a set of attitudes, skills and behaviours - such as self-control, confidence, social skills, motivation, and resilience - that are thought to underpin success in school and beyond. These are also referred to as 'social and emotional skills', 'non-cognitive skills' or 'essential life skills'. They include the ability to respond to setbacks, work well with others, build relationships, manage emotions, and cope with difficult situations. There is growing evidence that these skills are important to children's later outcomes." (Education Endowment Foundation)

## **Aims:**

### **Our Life Skills Curriculum:**

- Has the needs of the children at the heart of everything we do
- Is based on a strong foundation of oracy
- Connects us with, supports and meets the needs of our local parish and community
- Is full of exciting, enriching and enjoyable learning experiences
- Provides opportunities for our children, staff and parents to all learn together.
- Positively improves academic outcomes
- Prepares our children to become positive role models in and effective contributors to Society
- Gives our pupils the chance to become the very best versions of themselves.

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## **Vision:**

Our vision is based on our knowledge of our children along with findings from The Sutton Trust report on 'Life-skills' - supported by numerous Education Endowment Foundation research projects; highlight a number of key findings.

Adult life requires a range of skills in order for people to flourish, both in the workplace and in their daily lives, from the confidence and motivation to seek challenges and complete tasks, to the interpersonal skills that aid teamwork and other social interactions. These essential life skills are crucial to people achieving their potential, and therefore it is natural that they should also lie at the heart of our education system.

Young people from disadvantaged backgrounds in particular don't have access to the benefits that enrichment activities outside the classroom can bring, such as debating, volunteering and the performing arts

The ability to show flexibility, creativity and teamwork are just as valuable as academic knowledge and technical skills. These life skills as well as others that will be covered will support our children through their school life and adulthood.

Every young person should have the opportunity to build their confidence, motivation and resilience in ways that will benefit them for life.

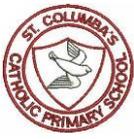
With this in mind and in line with our overall ethos of providing the very best education, opportunities and experiences, we will be delivering a life Skills curriculum to our children for a full week once each half term.

We feel this will prepare our children for life outside of School by:

- Finding new ways of thinking and problem solving
- Developing self-confidence, self-worth, self-awareness and resilience in all students.
- Developing employability skills and supporting challenging career aspirations
- Developing principles, values and integrity
- Developing knowledge of how to keep healthy both physically and emotionally
- Developing financial capability and other useful mathematical knowledge.
- Developing skills so that the children are well prepared for the next stage of their education.

Life Skills are taught as a discrete subject. Each half term, a key life skill is chosen for the whole school. These themes form part of a 2 year programme of study. Half termly planning meetings are held with all staff to ensure progression throughout the

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school. Themes can be changed or added to depending on current worldwide, national or local issues or events. The school uses a variety of teaching and learning approaches in Life Skills lessons, including:

- Providing opportunities for the children to discuss, exchange and share ideas, experiences, facts and opinion on given topics.
- Allowing the children to share their opinions and views through debates in order to develop effective communication skills.
- Using role play to explore real life situations and unfamiliar concepts and develop the skills of negotiation, assertiveness, communication and self-awareness.
- Using storytelling to tell narratives with specific themes such as assertiveness, negotiations, and decision making. Using them to help identify choices they make on a day to day basis and the consequences of making decisions.
- Asking probing questions and posing problems which allow the children to brainstorm as a way of expressing their ideas with others, teaching children to value, respect and accept others contributions.
- Playing games and planning activities to interest and excite the children and teach them how to clarify difficult issues, discuss sensitive issues, enhance communication skills and learn and practice new life skills
- Using professionals and inspirational visitors to motivate and inspire our children

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