

# Personal Development at St Joseph's, Blackhall

## Our Vision



*Valuing respect, friendship, excellence and care in all that we do and say.*

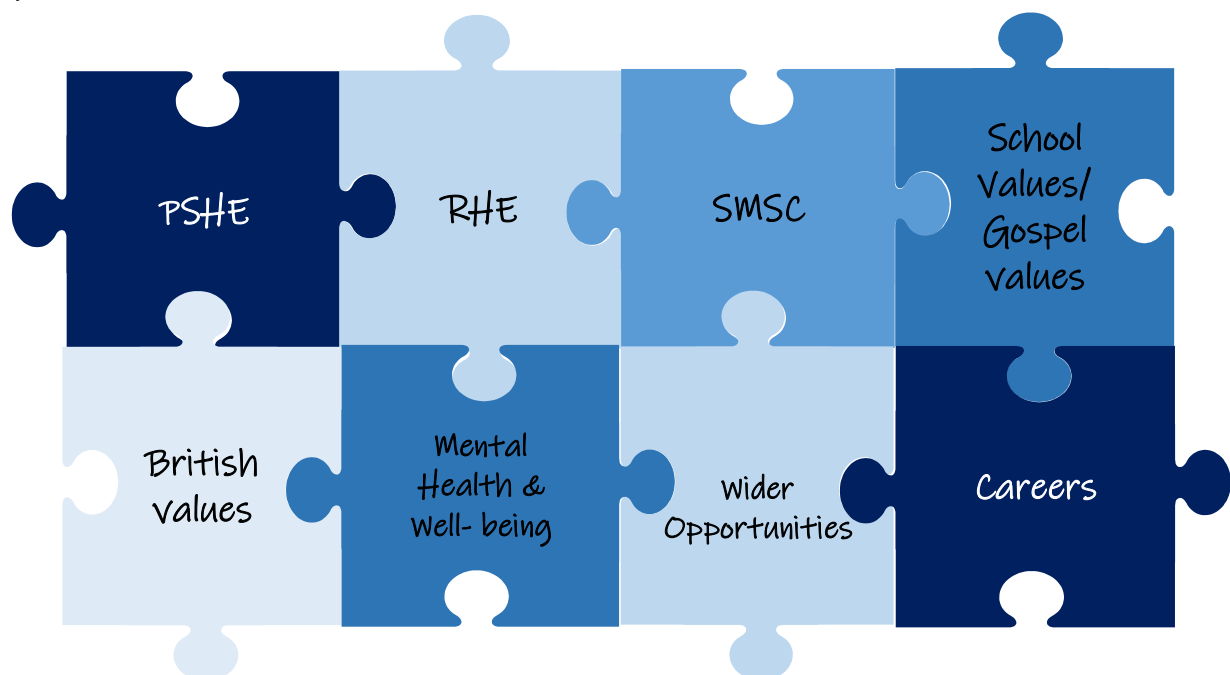
The personal development of pupils at St Joseph's is at the centre of our school ethos. By nurturing our children's personal development skills, we strive to prepare them for their adult lives, teaching them to understand how to engage with society and providing them with plentiful opportunities to do so.

Our curriculum extends beyond the academic and supports pupils to develop and grow within many aspects of life. We aim to provide the essential knowledge that pupils need to be educated citizens of the world.

We offer rich opportunities for pupils to explore and develop their own values and beliefs, spiritual awareness, high standards of personal behaviour, a positive caring attitude towards other people, an understanding of their social and cultural traditions and an appreciation of the diversity and richness of other cultures.

*We are committed to the personal development of all of our children. We strive to equip our pupils with the personal skills that will prepare them for their future lives in an increasingly complex world. We actively develop pupils' life skills so that they can be **critical thinkers, creative, tolerant and empathetic people**. All of which are necessary characteristics for citizens of our modern society.*

## Key Elements





PSHE and RHE are lifelong learning processes of acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs and attitudes including about understanding relationships, emotions and feelings.

At St Joseph's, the teaching of PSHE is not confined to a specific slot on the timetable. It is a combination of discrete curriculum time, specialised assemblies, through pastoral care and guidance, visiting speakers, cross-curricular coverage and delivery through whole school events (i.e. internet safety days).

Within PSHE we recognise the following:

- **Health and Wellbeing**  
Children engaging in activities to promote their physical and mental well-being.
- **Living in the Wider World**  
Encouraging children to take a responsible role in society, including the development of the children's awareness of their personal safety and the process by which they can seek help and information as well as learning the behaviour expected of them as responsible citizens.
- **Relationships**  
Information by which the child is able to become aware of themselves as a person and understanding that the process of development is a natural part of growing up.

Specific Relationships and Health Education is taught through our scheme Ten: Ten - Life to the full.



Our Mini Vinnies working hard sharing their work with the community.

Collecting for the food bank



Our children learn about being healthy



Visiting the elderly in our community.





As a Catholic School, St Joseph's, delivers RHE in accordance with the teaching of the Church. This approach is compatible with the guidance issued in the DfE. RHE is part of the mission of Catholic schools to educate the whole person. It is carried out as part of the holistic education which seeks to inform young people and prepare them for adult life.

RHE is primarily delivered through the Catholic charity Ten:Ten Relationships curriculum, 'Life to the Full.' Biological aspects are also taught within the science curriculum and other aspects are included in Religious Education (RE).

RHE focuses on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships including:

- Families and people who care for me
- Caring friendships
- Respectful relationships
- Online relationships
- Being safe



These areas of learning are taught within the context of family life, taking care to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances (families can include single parent families, LGBT parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers amongst other structures) along with reflecting sensitively that some children may have a different structure of support around them (for example: looked after children or young carers).

	EYFS	KS1	LKS2	UKS2
Module 1	Created and Loved by God			
	Religious Understanding	Me, My Body, My Health	Emotional Well-Being	Life Cycles
Module 2	Created to Love Others			
	Religious Understanding	Personal Relationships	Keeping Safe	
Module 3	Created to Live in Community			
	Religious Understanding		Living in the Wider World	

## SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural Development)

*'Children must be taught how to think, not what to think.'*  
Margaret Mead

At St Joseph's, we are passionate about building a community of **caring, compassionate, respectful** and **highly motivated** children who will grow into strong members of society. Our school curriculum is planned to support this; enriched with a wealth of opportunities for pupils to learn and play together. Our pupils take part in a wide variety of cultural activities, and mix with people of other ages, cultures and faiths in order to develop an understanding and interest in the world.

SMSC can sometimes be taught discretely but is also threaded carefully through other subjects. It is interwoven with the drive to promote positive relationships. Each year we take part in a range of activities such as Diwali, Hanukkah and Chinese New Year to develop the children's appreciation of other peoples and faiths.

The personal development of pupils spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, plays a significant part in their ability to learn and achieve. We therefore aim to provide an education that provides pupils with opportunities to explore and develop their Catholic faith, their own values and beliefs, spiritual awareness, high standards of personal behaviour, a positive, caring attitude towards other people, an understanding of their social and cultural traditions and an appreciation of the diversity and richness of world cultures.



All of our curriculum areas have a contribution to make to a child's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and opportunities for this are evident across the curriculum from EYFS to Year 6

**We support the spiritual development** of pupils by developing their:

- ability to be reflective about their own beliefs (religious or otherwise) and perspective on life;
- knowledge of, and respect for, different people's faiths, feelings and values;
- sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them;
- use of imagination and creativity in their learning;
- willingness to reflect on their experiences.

**We support the moral development** of pupils by developing their:

- ability to recognise the difference between right and wrong and to readily apply this understanding in their own lives, and to recognise legal boundaries and, in doing so, respect the civil and criminal law of England;
- understanding of the consequences of their behaviour and actions;
- interest in investigating and offering reasoned views about moral and ethical issues and ability to understand and appreciate the viewpoints of others on these issues.

**We support the social development** of pupils by developing their:

- use of a range of social skills in different contexts, for example working and socialising with other pupils, including those from different religious, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds;
- willingness to participate in a variety of communities and social settings, including by volunteering, cooperating well with others and being able to resolve conflicts effectively;
- acceptance of and engagement with the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. They will develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.

**We support the cultural development** of pupils by developing their:

- understanding and appreciation of the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their own heritage and that of others;
- understanding and appreciation of the range of different cultures in the school and further afield as an essential element of their preparation for life in modern Britain;
- ability to recognise, and value, the things we share in common across cultural, religious, ethnic and socio-economic communities;
- knowledge of Britain's democratic parliamentary system and its central role in shaping our history and values, and in continuing to develop Britain;
- willingness to participate in and respond positively to artistic, musical, sporting and cultural opportunities;
- interest in exploring, improving understanding of and showing respect for different faiths and cultural diversity and the extent to which they understand, accept and respect diversity. This is shown by their respect and attitudes towards different religious, ethnic and socio-economic groups in the local, national and global communities.

**Examples in practice:**

Parish community links  
Faith in action  
Mini Vinnies  
Other faiths – respect  
Prayer Leaders  
Live Simply

**Examples in practice:**

School rules  
Core values – celebration  
assemblies  
Restorative approach

**Examples in practice:**

Wide range of clubs  
Play leaders  
Peer mentors  
Restorative approach  
Mini police  
Outdoor education  
Stay and Play

**Examples in practice:**

Coals for Goals  
Different faiths studied in RE  
Celebrating diversity in  
school – Iranian new year  
Show racism the red card  
Piece of Mind involvement.  
European day of languages  
School council (voting)  
Pupil leadership team  
Anti-bullying  
Mini Police  
External agencies

## School Values and Mission

The children at our school have four clear values set out in the school mission statement:

Respect, friendship, excellence and care

Children understand that our school values are reflected through:

- *The way we behave*
- *The actions we take*
- *The decisions we make*

Work is currently underway to link these values into our character development work.

*Valuing respect, friendship, excellence and care in all that we do and say.*



## British Values

At St Joseph's, we celebrate and value the diverse backgrounds of our pupils and their families. In addition to this, our school's values work in harmony with Fundamental British Values, and, through our work on developing both aspects, we encourage pupils to consider them together. We nurture our pupils on their journey through life so they grow into caring, responsible and respectful adults who make a positive difference to British society and the wider world. We encourage them to be creative, open-minded and responsible individuals who care for others in our school, local community and beyond. We are committed to serving our community and local area; in so doing we reinforce Fundamental British Values regularly.

### Democracy

Our school is a democracy for all its stakeholders. Therefore, staff and pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard. Staff drive self-improvement across the school and pupils (through the School Council, Mini Vinnies, Playground Leaders, Digital Leaders, Prayer Leaders, Peer mentors and via pupil questionnaires) offer ideas and ways in which we can further develop all aspects of school life. Many of the decisions in class are made in consultation with the pupils; they are encouraged to have their say and their opinions matter.

Pupils also learn about political and social institutions that affect their lives, including general elections. Furthermore, they learn about their responsibilities, rights and duties as individuals and members of different communities.

### The Rule of Law

At St Joseph's, we work to develop pupils' self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence so that they can distinguish right from wrong and respect the civil and criminal law of England. Rules are important in our school and we all have a shared responsibility for them. The importance of laws, whether they are those that govern a class, school or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout the school day by adults and pupils alike. Pupils are taught to value the reasons behind the laws and the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from authorities such as the police, fire service etc. are regular items in the school calendar and help to reinforce this message.

### Individual Liberty

Staff at St Joseph's aim to educate and provide boundaries, within a safe environment, where pupils can make choices as well as take risks and know that making mistakes is part of the learning process and a valuable life skill. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their personal rights and freedoms whilst showing respect for the rights and responsibilities of others within our community. PSHE, on-line safety lessons and extra-curricular opportunities help to educate the pupils in how to use their rights to have a positive influence on their own and others' lives.

## Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

We celebrate and value our pupils and families of all faiths and cultures, we believe that all pupils should have a clear understanding of their place in society and should be given opportunities to experience this first hand.

Respect is important and we pay explicit attention to this as part of our teaching in RE, PSHE, SMSC and the wider curriculum. Our RE curriculum teaches all pupils about the Catholic faith and encourages them to have a deep understanding of their own faith as well as respecting and valuing the traditions and faiths of other world religions, including: Judaism, Islam and Hinduism. Whilst actively promoting Fundamental British Values, we ensure that we challenge pupils, parents or staff views if they express opinions contrary to this.

Through celebrating and prioritising Fundamental British Values, we believe that throughout our pupils' time at St Joseph's we aim to develop their ability to show initiative and understand how they can contribute to the wider community. We hope that our pupils will have the confidence to take risks and face the challenges of the future.



Class 3 had fun celebrating European Day of Languages today, and they completed our fun run! Well done class 3!



## Careers

Children begin to form aspirations at the age of 3-4. That is why, at Our Lady of Lourdes, we see it as our role to nurture any aspirations they may have and expose them to the vast career options that are out there.

We are firm believers that our children can do anything they put their minds to and that each and every child in our school has the potential to flourish. We want to do all we can to help them to become whatever they aspire to be in life. We aim to provide our children with a breadth of experiences in the world of work, routes into work and employability skills that will help them to go on to succeed.

As part of our careers education, we:

- Invite people from many different places of work into our school to deliver talks and workshops.
- Deliver assemblies, campaigns and displays around school so that children can see that everything we do in school can lead to a job in the future;
- Provide a range of opportunities and experiences for our children to explore a vast range of career options;
- Deliver teaching around communication, critical thinking and collaboration to enable children to be successful in the world of work in the future.

# Careers Week

25th June 2024



**Do you have a career that you could talk about with our children during careers week?**

**Do you know any companies, businesses or individuals that you could recommend to come into our school in order to inspire our children?**

**Could you help us to open up a world of possibilities and aspirations for our young people?**

**If you can help, please email Mrs Hoggarth ASAP**  
[ahoggarth@stjosephsblackhall.net](mailto:ahoggarth@stjosephsblackhall.net)





## Mental Health and Well-being



At St Joseph's, we know that good mental health and wellbeing is essential for our pupils. It helps them to learn effectively, cope with day-to-day challenges, and develop into resilient young adults. As such, we support the mental health and wellbeing of our children in a multitude of ways:

- Emotional needs are identified quickly and appropriate early interventions are put in place such as counselling, Early Help and mentoring.
- Personalised timetables or appropriate adaptations made for some children.
- Piece of Mind team sessions and support, which focus on managing worries, supporting positive mental health and peer support. Sessions are planned to suit the needs of each cohort through regular discussion and reflection.
- Parent cafes are held to offer support, share information and highlight needs.
- PSHE sessions focus on identifying, understanding and describing the range of emotions we may experience.
- Regular questionnaires are given to children to ensure they feel safe in school. Any issues arising including bullying are dealt with immediately through discussion, friendship groups, the buddy system and regular contact with a key adult.
- Whole school participation in activities to acknowledge Mental Health Week.
- Displays throughout the school promote healthy and appropriate behaviours:
  - science display/counselling/mental health/school values/British values/HMT display.
- We have a team of Peer Mentors who provide support to their peers and the younger children in our school.

As is now well known, there has been an increased focus on raising the awareness of mental health and making it more 'acceptable' for individuals to seek help and gain access to support earlier. We have worked hard to create safe and supportive environment where our children feel comfortable discussing their mental health, this is evident from pupil voice.



We host coffee mornings to support the wellbeing of our community





## Wider Opportunities

Our school is committed to developing the whole child; therefore, high-quality activities and experiences are an essential part of school life. Through providing rich and plentiful experiences outside of the classroom we aim to develop respectful, resilient and aspirational learners, who enjoy each day and make the most out of every enrichment opportunity.

St Joseph's provides children with a rounded, culturally rich education through activities that are created to enhance their learning. Our wider curriculum gives pupils excellent opportunities to try new and varied activities that develop character, resilience and motivation and encourage them to pursue wider goals. Our aim is that the enrichment opportunities we provide, linked with the school values will benefit the children beyond the classroom to help them develop an appreciation and understanding of cultural and community issues, teamwork and social responsibility.



Some examples of the opportunities we provide:

- *School Council*
- *Mini Vinnies*
- *Peer Mentors*
- *Play leaders*
- *Mental Health Ambassadors*
- *Outdoor Education*
- *Mini Police*
- *Piece of Mind*
- *Red Cross First Aid*
- *Music performances*
- *Educational visits*
- *Residential trips*
- *Sports events-Boccia, festivals*
- *Music Festival*
- *Lingo Tots*
- *Health Week*
- *Keep Active*
- *Faith in Action*
- *Live Simply*
- *Extra curricular school clubs, such as:*
  - *Boogie Buddy Club*
  - *Football (boys and girls)*
  - *Netball*
  - *Art Club*
  - *Spanish Club*
  - *Tennis*
  - *Draw and Doodle*
  - *Tennis*
  - *Little Dribblers*



LOTS OF CHILDREN ARE LEARNING LANGUAGES WITH LINGOTOT DURHAM IN SCHOOLS, HOLIDAY CAMPS AND CLUBS.

**lingo** Durham

**SUMMER HOLIDAY SPANISH CAMP**

MONDAY 22ND - THURSDAY 25TH JULY  
AT FRAMWELLGATE MOOR SCOUT HUT

MONDAY 19TH - THURSDAY 22ND AUGUST  
AT EAST RAINTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

SUITABLE FROM AGES 5-11  
BOOK 8.30AM-4.30PM, 9AM-3PM OR 10AM-2PM

Songs  
Games  
Stories  
Crafts  
Challenges  
Fun

PRICES START FROM £12.50 PER CHILD PER DAY

Book individual days or all 4.  
Booking available at [www.lingotot.com](http://www.lingotot.com)  
Any questions email [durham@lingotot.com](mailto:durham@lingotot.com)

