**The Safer Curriculum Statement**

**Intent**

PHSE (personal, social, health and economic) education is a crucial part of a child’s education. Since it became mandatory, The Meadows has endeavoured to develop a curriculum appropriate to suit the needs of all individual learners. At The Meadows, we have renamed our PHSE curriculum to ‘The Safer Curriculum’, as it encompasses important safeguarding learning and is above all, a curriculum designed to ensure the safety of our learners both during their time at The Meadows, and their time beyond. We give pupils access to critical information about themselves and the diverse world around them. The curriculum is broad and balanced, allowing opportunities to revisit and embed learning, and suiting the range of complex learning and medical needs of our entire student cohort. At the heart of our curriculum, we encourage respect, and the understanding of knowing where to go for support in all areas.

At The Meadows, we aim to promote children’s knowledge, self-confidence, self-care skills, emotional well-being and resilience, and the ability to form and maintain positive and worthwhile relationships with others. Children will be taught with the underpinning of the key Fundamental British Values in mind, therefore we highlight the exploration of and respect for values held by different faiths and beliefs within our local and wider community, mutual respect in all relationships, and the sensitivity for the feelings of others, an awareness of right and wrong within relationships and the community, the right to express their thoughts and opinions, and the development of key character skills, including decision making, good communication and self-regulation strategies.

We aim to enable learners to develop a deepening knowledge of and to make key decisions in their health and wellbeing, including their mental, emotional and physical health. Including equipping learners with the information and skills to understand how to cope with the physical and emotional changes and challenges they experience through life such as puberty and transitions. All will be taught and delivered through a cognitively appropriate way for each individual learner to suit their special educational needs, their emotional needs and their physical capabilities.

Additionally, we aim to prepare all our pupils for adult life after The Meadows as relatively as possible, including safety in all areas such as medical safety and basic first aid, online safety and digital literacy, exploitation and county lines, personal boundaries and abuse and travel safety. To prepare for adulthood, we ensure our learners are equipped with key skills to support them in making decisions, managing responsibilities, exploring opportunities and knowing where to seek additional support through their own communicative means. This will allow our pupils to develop fully, as emotionally mature human beings.

Our safer curriculum encompasses not only PHSE, but also RSHE (relationship, sex, health education), SMSC (Spiritual, moral, social, cultural), Fundamental British Values and work experience/life skills (which feature heavily within our Independence bubble area). Through the blended cross-curricular approach to this content, we intend to develop an awareness within our learners, that safety and wellbeing play an integral role in all that we do, so that they may always consider their safety and wellbeing in all relationships, decisions and future prospects they may face.

**Implementation**

The Safer curriculum content appears on timetables across all classes at The Meadows, and is taught on a minimum of one lesson per week in each class, labelled as PHSE by teachers and or HLTAs (high level teaching assistants). Some PHSE content can be delivered through other topics in a cross-curricular format, evident within our pre-formal and braided classes through activities such as music/music therapy or sensory stories. The delivery of all sessions come alongside the support of our LSPs (learning support practitioners) and LSAs (learning support assistants). Additionally, within our KS4 and KS5 cohorts, content can also be weaved through accreditive units.

The Meadows follows a rolling long term plan for PHSE, which outlines all topics covered in a differentiated format to suit all pathways across the three key stages for our subject specific learners. The plan and delivery is split into three key themes based upon the Department of Education based document ‘The PHSE programme of study’. The themes are, **Relationships,** **Health and Wellbeing,** and **Living in the Wider World.** The three themes have equal weighting and importance, being taught on a rolling basis to ensure learning is revisited and embedded throughout our learners’ time at The Meadows. Topics are revisited across year groups, to allow further deepening of the understanding, and an opportunity to revisit what may once not have been fully understood. This allows for progression, and retention of key skills and concepts, as well as the potential to introduce information at a more cognitively age appropriate point.

The RE curriculum lends itself well to PHSE while again underpinning our Fundamental British Values. Celebrations and theme days are held to explore diversity and different cultures to promote a further understanding of the world around us, our local and wider community.

Medium term plans have been written for each half termly topic for each of the three key pathways across their years at The Meadows. The plans have been written by the PHSE lead and supporting Lifestyle bubble team, explicitly referencing the content from the PHSE association Programme of study. The programme covers all content outlined in the DofE statutory relationships, sex and health education guidance, whilst also going beyond this to integrate statutory content within a complete comprehensive PHSE education programme. This programme has been well utilised for our medium term plans with our learners in mind. Through referencing direct points from the programme of study, assessment criteria and suggested activities, pupils are accessing the mandatory content at an appropriate level for their cognitive, learning and emotional needs.

Our PHSE lead and safeguarding professionals are available to deliver CPD to staff throughout the academic year to continuously highlight the importance of the safer curriculum, and any updates in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education.

The Meadows works closely with parents and carers, placing heavy emphasis on home-school communication. PHSE education is shared with parents, carers and families to ensure consent is granted, and parents are aware of how we approach certain topics with their young people to suit their needs. Parents have the right to withdraw their young person from sex education, but not health and relationship education, and therefore communication is key to satisfy any parental concerns. Any student withdrawn from sex education will be given an alternative internal provision subject to their class teacher’s discretion, and the parent will be contacted by the PHSE lead in the first instance to discuss their concerns, and then by the headteacher if they wish to escalate concerns further.

Our Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 cohorts work towards accredited units from WJEC and ASDAN LifeSkills. The units have been carefully selected with the safer curriculum in mind, to ensure that the accredited units relate to the curriculum content so not to drastically overload our learners or our staff. Evidence is recorded against these twice each half term, as well as being recorded against pupils personal learning goals, created with their EHCP (educational healthcare plan) targets in mind.

The Lifewise PHSE platform is available for staff alongside the medium-term plans to support the delivery of the safer curriculum content for some of our learners.

Alongside our British values and SMSC, PHSE and the safer curriculum feature within our school assemblies which take place every Friday for designated classes each week. Pupils are given the opportunity to deepen their understanding and recognise other peers efforts in certain areas. Additionally, circle time features across classes, whereby wellbeing and regulation zones are addressed to recognise the immediate needs of our learners.

**Impact**

PHSE forms preparation for adult life. It enables young people to understand how to face the challenges, complexities and questions that may arise in a diverse world.

At The Meadows, we believe that a meaningful PHSE curriculum is key to young people becoming confident, tolerant and respectful adults. We believe that our curriculum will allow our learners to have a good understanding of how to stay safe, keep healthy and develop strong worthwhile relationships. They will gain an appreciation of being a part of a multicultural and diverse society, rooted in mutual respect and understanding, as well as develop strong self-awareness and their role within an ever-changing society.