

Blackpool Skills Academy – PSHE & SMSC Policy

1. Policy Statement

At Blackpool Skills Academy, we are committed to developing well-rounded, confident, and responsible young people. Our **Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE)** and **Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC)** curriculum supports learners' personal development, wellbeing, and preparation for life beyond education.

Through a carefully structured and responsive approach, we empower our learners to make informed decisions, understand their rights and responsibilities, respect others, and develop the resilience and skills required for successful, independent adult life.

2. Aims

The PSHE and SMSC provision at Blackpool Skills Academy aims to:

- Equip learners with the knowledge, skills, and attributes they need to manage their lives now and in the future.
- Support learners in making safe and healthy choices regarding relationships, physical and mental health, online safety, and lifestyle.
- Develop learners' understanding of fundamental British values, equality, and diversity.
- Foster spiritual reflection, moral integrity, social confidence, and cultural awareness.
- Prepare learners for employment, further education, and adult responsibilities through practical life skills.

3. Key Areas of Delivery

PSHE Education includes:

- **Health and Wellbeing:** Mental health, healthy lifestyles, substance misuse, personal safety (including online), sexual health, and physical wellbeing.
- **Relationships and Sex Education (RSE):** Consent, respectful relationships, identity, family structures, and safeguarding.
- **Living in the Wider World:** Careers education, finance and budgeting, digital literacy, rights and responsibilities, and environmental sustainability.

SMSC Development includes:

- **Spiritual:** Exploring beliefs, faiths, identity, self-reflection, and creativity.
- **Moral:** Understanding right and wrong, decision-making, law, and consequences.
- **Social:** Participating in group work, respecting others, active citizenship, and teamwork.
- **Cultural:** Valuing diversity, exploring cultural heritage, global awareness, and engagement with different communities.

4. Delivery and Implementation

- PSHE is taught through **weekly sessions**, form time activities, workshops, and whole-school theme days.
- SMSC is embedded throughout the **wider curriculum**, school ethos, assemblies, enrichment activities, and through **learner voice opportunities**.
- Topics are delivered in a **safe and inclusive environment**, allowing learners to explore sensitive issues with support and guidance.
- The curriculum is adapted to meet the **needs of individual learners**, taking into account SEND, prior knowledge, and personal circumstances.

5. Careers and Life Skills Integration

As a vocationally focused provision, Blackpool Skills Academy places high importance on **careers education and preparation for adulthood**:

- Learners explore different careers and training pathways through external speakers, workplace visits, and college links.
- Life skills such as CV writing, interview preparation, travel training, and budgeting are built into PSHE lessons.
- The Gatsby Benchmarks guide our careers and employability provision.

6. Safeguarding and RSE

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is a statutory part of the PSHE curriculum and is taught in a way that is **age-appropriate, inclusive, and aligned with our safeguarding responsibilities**.

- Content is delivered in line with **DfE statutory guidance** and with regard to the needs and wishes of learners and their families.
- Staff delivering RSE receive appropriate training and support.
- Parents/carers are informed about the content of the curriculum and have the right to request withdrawal from elements of sex education, where appropriate.

7. Monitoring and Assessment

- Learner progress in PSHE is monitored through **engagement, discussion, reflective journals, and project work**.
- SMSC impact is evidenced through classroom observations, learner feedback, enrichment participation, and behaviour for learning.

- The curriculum is reviewed annually to ensure it remains relevant, inclusive, and responsive to current issues.

8. Roles and Responsibilities

Senior Leadership Team (SLT):

- Oversee the strategic direction and impact of the PSHE and SMSC provision.
- Ensure compliance with statutory responsibilities.

PSHE/SMSC Coordinator:

- Design, plan, and review the curriculum.
- Support staff with resources, training, and guidance.

All Staff:

- Model values of respect, tolerance, and professionalism.
- Create safe, inclusive spaces for open discussion.

9. Policy Review

This policy is reviewed annually or in response to changes in legislation, school context, or learner needs.

Policy Date: September 2024

Next Review Date: September 2025

Approved by: Senior Leadership Team