



Ballysillan P.S

PDMU POLICY

(2022-23)

Mission Statement

‘CSI – Caring. Supportive. Inclusive’

Ballysillan Primary School strives to promote primary education of the highest quality for all pupils, in a caring, secure and stimulating environment where every pupil is valued and supported to become confident, challenged and successful learners.

Rationale

In today’s increasingly challenging and changing society PDMU focuses attention on pupils’ emotional development, health and safety, relationships with others and the development of moral thinking, values and actions. Our Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU) programme makes a valuable contribution to the holistic development of pupils – personal, emotional, social and physical.

Aims

At Ballysillan P.S our PDMU programme is aimed at encouraging each child to:

- To foster a desire to learn and achieve to their highest potential.
- To think and work independently, collaboratively and creatively.
- To develop their self-esteem and self-worth and in so doing take responsibility for their own behaviour and actions.
- To become motivated, confident and inquisitive life-long learners in a fast changing world.
- To acquire and develop moral and religious values and a respect for the belief and values held by others in the society in which we live.

Learning Environment

A caring and positive classroom environment is an essential basis for supporting PDMU. A positive learning environment allows pupils to express their thoughts and views honestly and openly. In Ballysillan Primary School we use a range of strategies to create a safe and secure environment that encourages pupils to participate and contribute to their learning. These include:

- Circle Time Activities
- Individual Targets
- Role Play
- Visitors to class
- Media & Television
- Debates: - with agree and disagree continuums
- Freeze frames

- Hot Seating
- Assessment for Learning
- Group Work
- Think/Pair/Share activities
- A Worry Box / Worry Monster
- Opportunities for self-development/responsibilities
- A Positive Reward System

The Role of the Curriculum Leader

The PDMU Curriculum Co-ordinator at Ballysillan's role is to:-

- Promote PDMU throughout the school.
- Avail of opportunities to invite visitors or groups into school to complement the delivery of PDMU.
- Monitor and evaluate the delivery of PDMU and offer staff support and guidance.
- Keep up-to-date with any recent developments linked to PDMU and disseminate information to staff.

The Role of the Teacher

Teachers primarily follow the suggested learning activities and minimum contenting to the 'Living, Learning, Together' resource produced by CCEA. They adapt this to suit their own planning, teaching and learning styles, integrating them into their themes where possible. This resource will also be supplemented with appropriate texts, programmes and useful websites.

We are strongly committed in teaching pupils about their rights and responsibility to respect the rights of others. Values such as honesty, fairness and respect for self and others must always remain at the forefront of all teaching and learning.

PDMU is one of the six areas for learning in the Northern Ireland Curriculum. It is divided into two strands:

- Personal Understanding and Health
- Mutual Understanding in the Local and Wider Community

Pupils are expected to acquire skills and knowledge from nine themes within these two strands:

Strand one: Personal Understanding and Health

- Theme 1 – Self-awareness
- Theme 2 – Feelings and Emotions
- Theme 3 – Learning to Learn

- Theme 4 – Health, Growth and Change
- Theme 4a – Safety

Strand Two: Mutual Understanding in the Local and Wider Community

- Theme 5 – Relationships
- Theme 6 – Rules, Rights and Responsibilities
- Theme 7 – Managing Conflict
- Theme 8 – Similarities and Differences
- Theme 9 – Learning to live as members of the community.

These areas are developed in a cumulative, spiral manner as they are revisited in each key stage.

Inclusive

All pupils will be given access to PDMU regardless of gender, race, physical or sensory disability. For pupils with learning difficulties and/or physical or sensory disability appropriate use of PDMU can often enhance aspect of curriculum. Each area of the curriculum has a contribution to make to PDMU.

Cross Curricular Links

In Ballysillan P. S, staff link whichever curricular areas are appropriate to promote positive attitudes towards themselves and others, developing confidence, tolerance, respect and cooperation. These attitudes and values are also developed through our wide variety of after school activities available to pupils from Primary Four to Primary Seven, through Shared Education and via outside agencies who facilitate learning within or outside school.

Examples of how we link PDMU with other areas can be seen below: -

The Arts

- Help pupils to explore ways of expressing themselves through drama, music, art and design.

Language and Literacy

- Help pupils to develop vocabulary to discuss emotions and feelings through talking and listening, reading, independent writing, drama and role play situations.

Mathematics and Numeracy

- Use statistics to inform pupils and for gathering information in surveys and questionnaires.

Physical Education

- Help pupils to develop self-esteem, confidence, be aware of health and exercise.
- Develop working as a group or team, to develop their awareness of fairness and treating others with respect.

The World Around Us

- Help pupils understand other cultures and other places and times. Develop their awareness of their own talents, thoughts and feelings.

All staff in Ballysillan P.S actively support every child making a positive contribution and will use all areas of the curriculum and extended school activities to enhance their self-esteem and thinking skills and personal capabilities (TSPC).

Assessment

Assessment in PDMU will take account of each child's current strengths and development needs. It will be concerned with each child's:

- Knowledge and understanding.
- Ability to demonstrate skills which have been learned and practised.

Pupils will be provided with opportunities to take part in the following aspects of self-assessments including: -

- Reviews
- Be awarded for their achievement
- Negotiate their own learning
- Record their own achievement
- Reflect upon the lessons, activities and situations in which they were involved.

They need to learn to ask using the following to aid self-evaluation if learning is to develop:

- What have I done?
- What were the consequences?
- How did I feel about it?
- What might I do differently in the future?
- What did I find easy/difficult/ enjoyable etc.?
- How might I achieve changes the next time?

Policy Links

PDMU at Ballysillan Primary School is closely linked to the following policies:

Anti-Bullying

Child Protection/Safeguarding

Positive Behaviour

Drugs

Healthy School

Healthy Eating and Drinking

E-Safety

Pastoral Care

Road Safety

Teaching and Learning

Policy Updated: 2022