

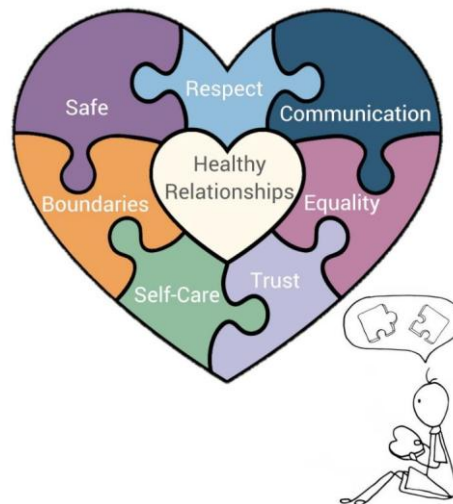
Safeguarding Curriculum Rationale

Mental health and wellbeing



This is a significant contextual concern within our school community, as many of our pupils face a range of social, emotional, and environmental challenges that impact their overall safety, engagement, and ability to thrive. In response, our safeguarding curriculum places a strong emphasis on promoting positive mental health, recognising the importance of early intervention and resilience-building. This is addressed explicitly through PSHE lessons and targeted workshops, and is also embedded implicitly across the wider curriculum and school culture to ensure a consistent and supportive approach. By taking this comprehensive and proactive stance, the academy is confident it is addressing contextual safeguarding concerns effectively, equipping pupils with the knowledge, language, and strategies needed to manage their wellbeing and seek help when needed

Relationships



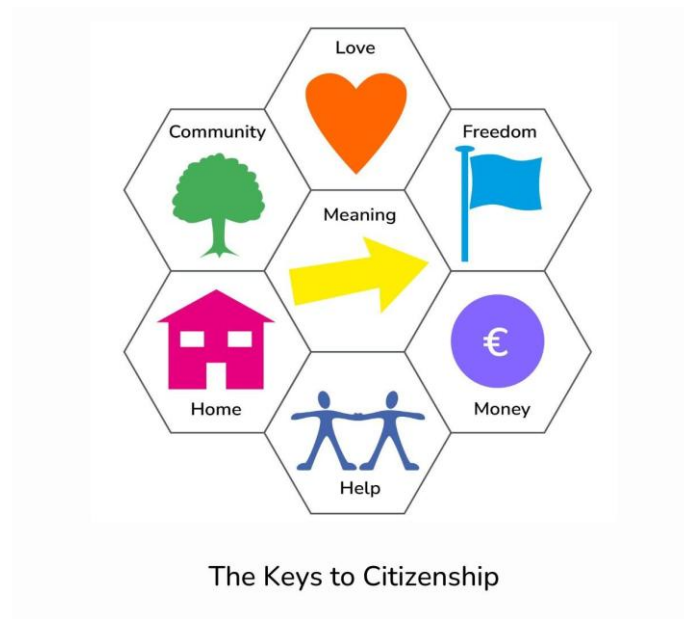
The rise in domestic abuse reporting within our school community highlights the urgent need to address healthy and respectful relationships as a safeguarding priority. Our curriculum responds to this by ensuring that pupils are equipped with the knowledge and understanding to recognise the signs of unhealthy relationships and to know where and how to seek support. Relationships education is carefully woven into PSHE and pastoral programmes, supported by external workshops where appropriate, to help pupils develop empathy, boundaries, and respectful communication. This proactive approach is essential in helping pupils navigate their personal relationships safely and supports our wider aim of building a school culture rooted in respect and care.

Online Safety



With children spending increasing amounts of unsupervised time online—particularly on social media, messaging platforms, and online games—online safety has become a pressing contextual concern. The academy recognises the complex risks associated with this, including exposure to inappropriate content, cyberbullying, and online grooming, and addresses these through a dedicated online safety strand in the curriculum. There is a clear focus on helping pupils develop digital resilience, understand appropriate online behaviour, and make informed choices. This is reinforced through parent workshops and communications to support families in monitoring and guiding their children’s online activity. Online safety education is closely linked to relationships and emotional wellbeing, recognising the significant overlap between these areas in the lives of our pupils.

Citizenship



In our school community, Citizenship education plays a vital role in fostering empowerment and social awareness among pupils. Historically, many pupils have felt disconnected from their community and uncertain about their ability to influence change. Our curriculum actively challenges this by promoting pupil voice, democratic engagement, and a strong sense of social responsibility. Through both taught lessons and active participation opportunities, pupils are encouraged to challenge inequality, recognise injustice, and understand their role in society. This directly supports our academy vision, helping pupils to grow in confidence, develop leadership skills, and understand how they can contribute meaningfully to their community and hold others—particularly those in positions of authority—to account.

Economic Wellbeing



With growing financial pressures affecting many of our families, economic wellbeing has become an essential component of our safeguarding curriculum. Pupils have expressed a strong interest in understanding more about money management, financial decision-making, and economic resilience. In response, the curriculum includes specific content on budgeting, saving, and understanding the value of money, helping to equip pupils with practical skills for life. This focus not only supports future independence but also helps to reduce anxiety around financial uncertainty. By fostering economic awareness and capability, the academy ensures that pupils are better prepared to navigate financial challenges now and in the future.