

John Ruskin Primary School and Language Classes

# Pupil Development Centre Policy

Coordinator: Snježana Metikoš

Last review: 2020

Next review: 2023



**“Be responsible, be fair, stay positive and care”**

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## **Pupil Development Centre Policy 2020**

**Coordinator: Snježana Metikoš**

### **Purpose**

The overall purpose of the PDC is to promote the emotional development of the whole school community. By dealing with issues such as raising self esteem, improving social skills, managing negative feelings, the hope is to give children strategies to manage a more positive approach to learning.

The PDC will offer group and individual sessions to pupils who are in need of support with the social and emotional aspects of learning, school life or their home life.

The PDC will operate according to the needs of individual pupils referred. The referral forms will be filled out by the SENDCO or class teacher for each child they are concerned about.

Focus of the work will be agreed by the Head teacher and the Leadership team. Pupils will be prioritized in line with the agreed foci. These foci will change from time to time depending on the needs of children.

### **Principles, Beliefs, Understandings**

- ❖ The centre is not a place of punishment. It is a welcoming place for all the children
- ❖ The sessions will be regarded as quality time with the child, not to be interrupted except in very exceptional circumstances
- ❖ We believe that the work of the Centre represents an essential element of school life that promotes learning, emotional and social capability and self-esteem
- ❖ We believe that everything the child does makes sense and we have to make sense of it, which means suspending judgment for certain periods
- ❖ We believe that the child is essentially good and wants to do the right thing
- ❖ We believe that emotional and social needs are significant barriers to learning

## **Ways of working**

The PDC will adopt a variety of approaches to support children. Amongst them will be:

- ❖ Creating an environment that represents a 'place' emotionally and physically safe. It must have no association in the child's mind with threat, punishment or anxiety
- ❖ Teaching social skills/friendship skills
- ❖ Addressing emotional awareness
- ❖ Building up self-esteem and confidence
- ❖ Approaching Growth mindset and Behaviour for learning
- ❖ Offering children other ways of expressing themselves besides talk (play, art and craft, games, songs, puppets, gardening, sport)
- ❖ Teaching self-soothing methods (breathing /relaxation exercises)
- ❖ Offering children lunchtime drop in / self-referral sessions ('Chatzone – your place to chill and chat') which are open to all pupils from yr1 – yr6. Sessions run for 15 minutes
- ❖ At the end of each term, teachers and the PDC coordinator will complete children's assessment sheets.

**Sessions in the PDC run for three days week as 1:1 sessions, paired work and group work.**

## **Resources**

Books  
Fabrics  
Music tapes  
Parachute  
Games/board games  
Plasticine  
Paint  
Masks  
Toys  
Puzzles  
Masks  
Figurines (human and animal)  
Dressing up objects

## **Equality of opportunities**

Access to and use of the PDC will be monitored to ensure that all children from all ethnic backgrounds, genders, abilities and disabilities are using the centre.  
Records will be kept and any inequalities addressed.