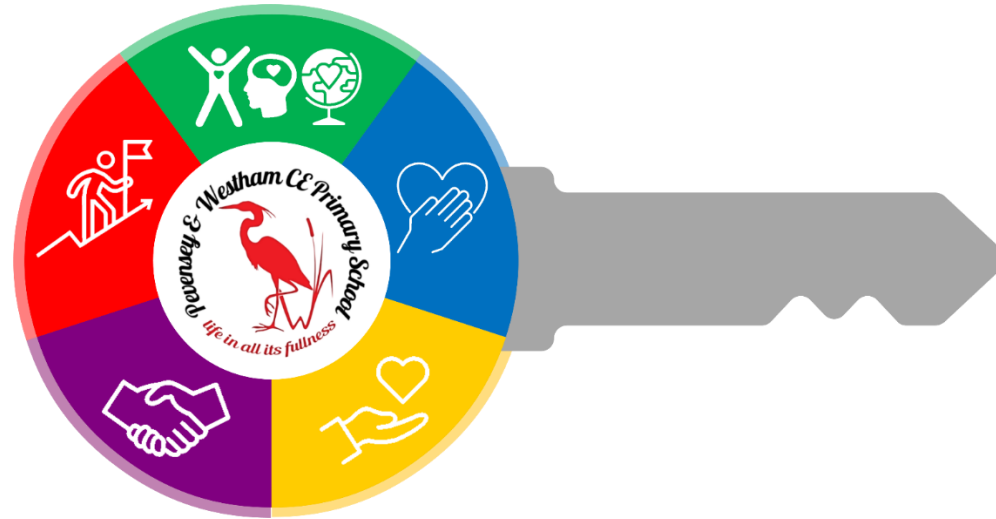


# **Pevensey and Westham Church of England Primary School**



## **Personal Development and Community Partnerships Strategy**

**2023/24**

## Personal Development and Community Partnership at Pevensey and Westham Church of England Primary School



We aim to ensure that, over their time at Pevensey and Westham Church of England Primary, children receive a Personal Development programme that gives them the knowledge and skills they need to *flourish, reach their potential and live life in all its fullness* (John 10:10). Alongside this programme, sits the school's commitment to actively engage, support and seek support from families and the wider school community.

Children at PaWS know and understand their role in society; they have a sound sense of self and contribute positively to their community. They are tolerant and understand that everyone's voice should be heard and everyone's views should be acknowledged and respected. They leave primary school armed with our core Christian values of **kindness, honesty, resilience, forgiveness** and have developed a **healthy body, a healthy mind** and understand their role as part of a **healthy world**.

They are aware of their responsibility as a citizen of the modern world and have secure and developed moral foundation on which to further build.

Our curriculum offer extends far beyond the academic to allow all pupils to develop in many diverse aspects of life. Children leave PaWS with the confidence to try new things and make mistakes, seeing the opportunity that lies within adversity.

**We recognise that effective personal development for children is achieved through a combination of input from school, families, the wider the community and other external factors. At PaWS we are proactive in engaging with and supporting these groups in a variety of ways which we know will have a longer-term impact on pupils developing positive personal traits and being able to effectively support and manage their own wellbeing.**

This document outlines how this is seen across the school as well as year group specific activities which build and progress as children move up through the school.

## Personal Development

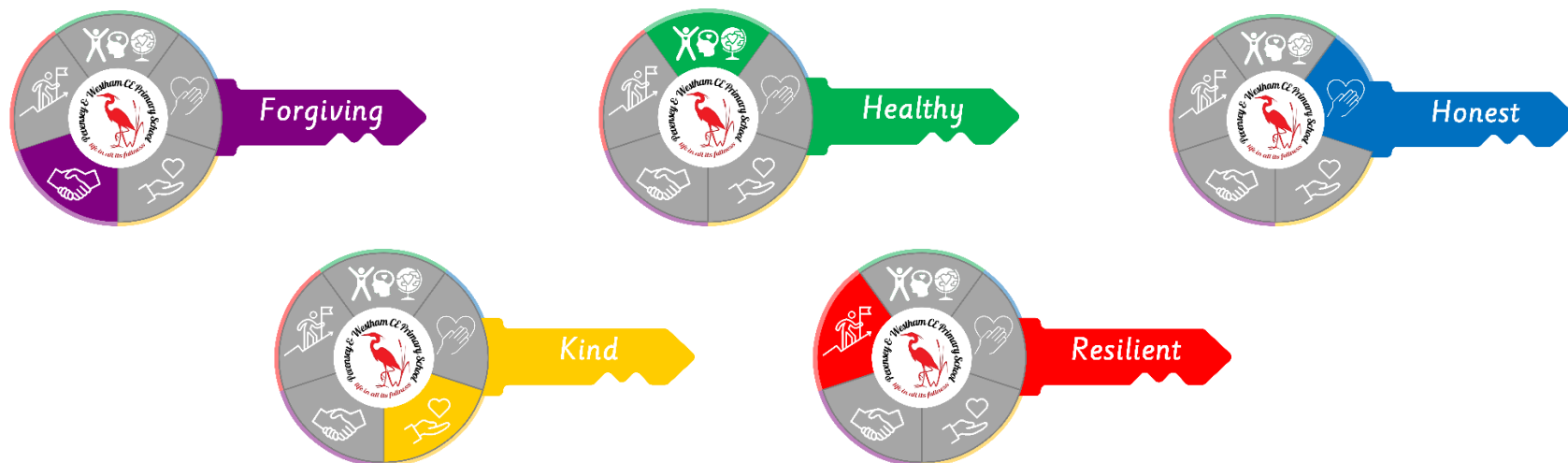
We believe it is our responsibility to show children that at there is a world of possibility awaiting them, outside of the school gates. We also strive to encourage a love of learning and an understanding of how we can best learn and self-regulate, that will continue into secondary school and beyond.

As part of our curriculum, we ensure that we teach the following key aspects of Personal Development:

**Healthy & Safe Behaviours** include our Relationships; Sex and Health Education (RSHE Life Skills); Physical Health; Mental Wellbeing; Zones of Regulation; Forest School provision and wider aspects of safety.

**Character Development** includes development of children's own character and personality; our programme of worships and reflections; our children's behaviour; their support for charities and our World Changers initiative and extra-curricular opportunities for children to engage with.

**PaWS Christian Values and British Values** of Democracy, Rule of Law, Respect & Tolerance and Individual Liberty.



## Church Distinctiveness

Christian beliefs and principles underpin our values and aims, and form part of everyday interactions and activities. As a Church of England school, we believe that our role is to educate the whole child and that the spiritual growth of our children is as important as their academic development. We have a well-planned curriculum that embraces spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. It is through the support we give each other that we establish respect, friendship, a sense of belonging and effective team work.

We cherish our special relationship with St Mary's Church and the level of commitment we have for this partnership is cemented through our covenant.

<https://pevenseschool.org.uk/our-school/church-ethos>

## Family Wellbeing



*Our families and staff joined members of St Mary's Church congregation for a weekend litter pick.*

We have positive relationships with our families and are always open to listening to concerns whether school related or not. Our leadership team is approachable and is always available to talk with parents and carers at drop off and collection times. We know our families well and are proactive in offering support in times of crisis such as bereavement, parental separation and financial hardship. We have built up contacts with external agencies who we can call on for additional support. We also have dedicated pages on the school website and within newsletters to guide families toward additional avenues of support. We organise parent only events to offer support families bereavement sessions as well as more general events such as the non for profits parent wreath making events. Our school community is also enhanced through our PFT where parents and staff work together running events for children and families.



*Every pupil had the opportunity to add a button to our school cross to signify our diversity and togetherness.*

## Charities and Causes - World Changes

The school has established annual events to support and promote local, national and international charities. This includes The Eastbourne Foodbank, the East Sussex Deaf Children's Society and Save the Children. In February 2023, in liaison with a family of the school, PaWS acted as a collection hub for families and the wider community to collect donations for the devastating Earthquakes in Turkey and Syria.



A key feature of our **Healthy** value is being part of a healthy world. We actively encourage our pupils to support, champion and challenge causes and issues that are important and meaningful to them. Our World Changers initiative has led children to being courageous advocates for a number of causes including children giving up chocolate during lent to support the British Heart Foundation; a child giving up their breaktime to raise money for St Ormond Street Hospital and children signing Carols at the weekend to raise money for the East Sussex Children with Cancer Fund. This year, a group of Year 5 boys organised a bake sale of gluten free items. They used the profits to buy gluten free food for the Eastbourne Foodbank and to raise awareness of coeliac disease. Such events are advertised and children's kindness celebrated with our whole school community but they are driven by our pupils.

Within the curriculum and wider provision, the school intentionally engages the children in a combination of real and orchestrated scenarios aimed at providing the children with a platform to challenge, debate and have an impact on school decisions. This has included changing the long-established house names at the school; considering the impact on the environment of sending Christmas cards to each other; changing the lunchtime organisation and Year 6 pupils having a dramatically reduced lunchtime to support their SATs preparations. Our children are confident to respectfully challenge decisions made and will listen to and accept outcomes of their protestations.

<https://pevenseschool.org.uk/our-school/charity>



*Kian and Reece' raised £156 selling gluten-free treats after to school. They wanted to raise awareness as well as buying gluten-free food for the Eastbourne Foodbank.*

## Link School – Tanzania

In 2024, Pevensey and Westham Primary School partnered with Mnaida Primary School in rural Tanzania. This link supports our work in improving our children’s knowledge and understanding of other cultures, the wider world and their own role as global citizens. At PaWs we encourage all our pupils to take an active part in creating a healthy world.

Children have the opportunity to send letters to the school children in Mnaida and ask questions about the lives of children in a different part of the world. As this partnership develops and becomes more established, Mnaida and the Mtwara region of Tanzania will be incorporated in the school curriculum where purposeful links can be made to enhance the children’s learning.

## Democracy

PaWS has an active School Council who help make decisions in the school and report back to their classes. These are elected roles enabling the school to review the importance of democracy with the children.

The school is involved in UK Parliament week every year, engaging the school in referendum on whole school decisions. Over the last two years, our children have made decisions about our School House names and the layout of the dining hall at lunchtime. We have welcomed our local MP into school for several years and our children are not afraid to ask challenging questions and share the impact of government decisions on their families and community.

In 2023/24, children and families have been encouraged to take part in The Big ambition survey launched by the Children’s Commissioner for England to give children an opportunity to share what they need to make their lives better.



*Huw Merriman MP is a regular visitor to the school talking to the whole school as well as meeting the PaWS School Council.*

## **Diversity and inclusion**

The school and local community has a relatively low percentage of families from different ethnic backgrounds. Due to this, we recognise that we have an additional responsibility to ensure our pupils learn about different cultures and celebrate people from a range of backgrounds in order to prepare them for life in modern Britain.

Through our curriculum we highlight key figures and icons in different subjects. We have selected figures to discuss with children who represent a range of backgrounds and differences. Whole school worships are also used to celebrate differences between us and to highlight role models from different and whole school worships.

Our Reading Spine, which details the key texts children will share as a class in each year group, has text which have been carefully selected to make sure that they are not only quality texts, but provide a rich range of themes and protagonists.

## **Parental engagement**

The school year starts with our annual 'Meet the Teacher' afternoon. Senior leaders and class teachers discuss developments and changes to the school, share the expectations for new year groups and provide parents the chance to ask question and find further information.

The school undertakes annual survey to garner parent views on a range of school related topics. These are then analysed and reviewed by senior leaders. The school uses this information when looking at school improvement and further develops we can make to support our parentship with families. This has led to practical changes such as our Walking bus which staff and parents run together from two locations to limit traffic on the high street in the mornings.

Parent workshops and forums run during the year to enable parents to learn about the approaches used in school, to feedback on their experience of their children's time at school and to provide an open forum for question related to a range of school topics.

## **[Parent feedback and response](#)**



*Parents learning how to cook some healthy, inexpensive recipes alongside their children at our family cooking classes.*

## Outdoor Learning and Forest School

PaWS Forest school is endorsed as a Recognised Forest School Provider by the national Forest School Association. This quality assurance scheme demonstrates that we have met certain standards and criteria in line with six nationally agreed principles of a Forest School. All pupils access our Forest School area during the year. Activities enable children to learn specific skills such as green woodworking, fire lighting, shelter building and cooking over a camp fire as well as transferable skills such as team work, resilience and independence.

Outdoor Learning at PaWs is incorporated into a range of subjects. Children experience immersive days in history linked to the Stone Age and Vikings. The children plant vegetables which they later use in Design and Technology cooking projects. We have installed orienteering markers across the school to support our progressive PE curriculum.

We use our locality to teach children about crossing roads safety, rail safety and water and beach safety.



*Forest School provides pupils with a wealth of opportunities to develop team work and resilience.*

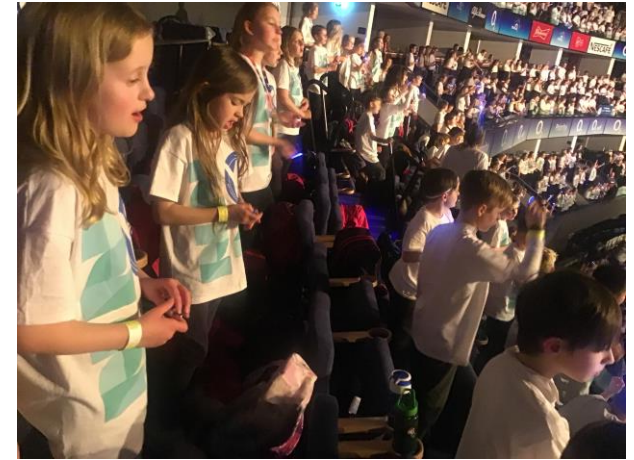
Our school curriculum is enriched and key learning reinforced through school trips linked to range of subjects. This includes Hurtsmonceaux Science Centre, Cuckmere Haven, Eastbourne Mosque, Battle Abbey as well as Pevensey Castle which is on our doorstep.

All children at PaWS have the opportunity to attend overnight experiences while at school. In Year 4, children stay at Mallydams Wood exploring conservation issues, in Year 5 children stay overnight at the school for star gazing and Year 6 pupils have a residential experience tackling outdoor and adventurous activities.



## Performance

Before leaving Pevensey and Westham, all our pupils have the opportunity to experience and as well as contribute to range of performances. Pupils have opportunities to learn, rehearse and entertain different audiences. This may be in the form of stories, poems, dances and songs. Opportunities take place in classes, in whole school workshops and in performances to parents. This includes a 50 strong choir of pupils performing at the Earthquake Appeal Concert at the Kings Centre in Eastbourne, pupils from across KS2 performing in the Let's Dance show at the Congress Theatre and our Signing and Singing group entertaining shoppers at Morrisons in aid of the East Sussex Deaf Children's Society. Every single pupil at PaWS has the opportunity in Year 5 to be part of the Young Voices' Concert performing at the O2 in London. This is an experience which we have built into our music curriculum and is a lifelong memory for our children and their families.



*Year 5 pupils joined the world's largest choir at the O2 as part of Young Voices 2024.*



*Our Year 6 class of 2024, went to watch 'Wicked' in the West End before staying behind after the show to quiz the cast.*

During our whole school workshops at PaWS children listen to or watch dance, music and poetry pieces as part of their daily diet. Across their time at PaWS, children experience visiting theatre groups, external presenters and visits to local secondary schools to see live performances. We are also committed to ensuring every pupil a Pevensey and Westham has the opportunity to see a show in London's West End before they leave us.

These experiences are carefully chosen and then drawn into our curriculum to give children's writing and learning greater purpose.

## Zones of Regulation

Zones of Regulation is an established approach used by pupils and staff to support children in building **resilience** and in regulating their emotions. Children are able to identify their emotions and recognise that all emotions are normal. When children find themselves in the red zone we use the consistent language that “It's OK to feel angry but it is not OK to hit...”. Children are encouraged to develop their own toolkits of strategies for how to manage their emotions and recognise expected behaviours.

<https://pevenseschool.org.uk/learning/ZOR/>



## Leadership

There are a range of leadership roles across ages in the school.

In addition to pupil representation at a school Council, we also have:

- Food Council – meeting and feeding back to catering provider and promoting healthy eating;
- Worship Leaders – take an active role in preparing and leading whole school worships;
- Eco Champions – work together to encourage and promote environmental issues;
- Online Safety Ambassador – share their experiences and tips for keeping each other safe online.

We also have an established ‘Buddy System’. Our Year 5 buddies write a letter and introduce themselves to an individual in Early Years alongside their parents. They support our new pupils transition into school with opportunities to eat with them at lunchtime, read with them and join them on the reception playground. This is built on the following year, where our Year 6 buddies naturally support and welcome their buddies now in Year 1 onto the large playground used by the whole school.

## Careers

Our RSHE Life Skills curriculum, whole school worships and other curriculum opportunities provides our pupils with exposure to a range of careers for their future. Within this, we are mindful to avoid stereotypes and provide all our pupils with role models they can aspire to. Throughout their time at PaWS, they are visited by adults from a range of careers and professions. Our annual visit by the BAE Roadshow further encourages pupils to understand the role of STEM subjects in school.

Our careers work culminates with two events in Year 6. Our Take Over Day enables all children to have the opportunity to apply for and write an application for a role in the school. These include administration role, leadership roles and joining the site team. Children then spend the day working alongside adults in fulfilling these roles. Our Careers Fair also provides our Year 6 children the chance to consider different career paths. They are able to ask questions to adults in different jobs and develop an appreciation of the skills, qualities and qualifications needed.

## Online Safety

Online safety forms a key element of our preventative curriculum in Computing and RSHE Life Skills taught through a progressive and age- appropriate curriculum. Children also explore issues related to being **kind** online and keeping themselves and other safe through whole school worships and during Internet Safety Day.

Families are provided with guidance through a variety of means and encouraged to share concerns with one of the school's safeguarding leads. These are always addressed with pupil, used as a learning opportunity and outcomes shared with specific parents and the parent body as a whole.

The whole community have engaged with our [social media commitment](#) aimed at all adults role modelling the kind online behaviours we wish the pupils to follow now and in the future.

<https://pevenseschool.org.uk/safeguarding/ambassadors>  
<https://pevenseschool.org.uk/safeguarding/online-safety/>

## Summary of opportunities to enhance children’s personal development, including building community partnerships

### Whole School

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fireworks event</li> <li>• Bonfire Safety Worship</li> <li>• Harvest Festival - Eastbourne Foodbank</li> <li>• UK Parliament Week – MP Visit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Christmas cards</li> <li>• Road Safety Worship</li> <li>• Children in Need</li> <li>• Christmas Jumper Day – Save the Children charity</li> <li>• Community Carol Services</li> <li>• Christmas Fayre</li> <li>• Parent/wreath</li> <li>• Acts of Kindness Advent Challenge</li> <li>• Remembrance Worship</li> <li>• Anti-bullying week</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dog Safety Worship</li> <li>• Author Visit/Workshop</li> <li>• RE/Art Drop Down Day</li> <li>• NSPCC – Speak Out, Stay Safe</li> <li>• Safer Internet Week</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World Book Day</li> <li>• Rail Safety Worship</li> <li>• Let’s Dance – Congress Theatre performance (Year 2-6)</li> <li>• Cricket Development Day – Sussex Cricket</li> <li>• Comic Relief</li> <li>• Easter Prayer Labyrinth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sun Safety Worship</li> <li>• STEM Roadshow</li> <li>• PaWS Swimming Gala</li> <li>• Family Cookery Workshop – supported by PS Catering</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beach Safety Worship</li> <li>• Mnaida Charity Event (link school in Tanzania) Sponsored Event</li> <li>• Sports Week</li> <li>• Community Summer Fayre</li> <li>• World Environment Week</li> </ul>

## Further opportunities to enhance children’s personal development, including building community partnerships

### Year Groups

EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Road safety with Di Lollypop</li> <li>• Visit from the Health Visitor</li> <li>• EYFS Nativity</li> <li>• Fire Station Trip</li> <li>• Upcycling &amp; Recycling focus</li> <li>• Police Visit</li> <li>• Deforestation - planting new life.</li> <li>• Lifeguard visit</li> <li>• Hatching ducks</li> <li>• Church visit</li> <li>• Healthy eating cafe project</li> <li>• Farm trip</li> <li>• Bushey Wood Visit - Forest School to larger setting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local area walk</li> <li>• Science Centre trip</li> <li>• Fire Service Visit</li> <li>• NSPCC – stay safe, speak out</li> <li>• Nurse visit – history link</li> <li>• Healthy eating – making smoothies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outdoor learning - Bug hotels</li> <li>• D&amp;T - Decorations for the church</li> <li>• Rain water project</li> <li>• Drusillas trip</li> <li>• Dental hygienist visit</li> <li>• Castle visit</li> <li>• Gardening project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-history day</li> <li>• Church visit</li> <li>• Eastbourne Mosque visit</li> <li>• Art gallery visit</li> <li>• Beach trip</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baptism work with Reverend David</li> <li>• Swimming</li> <li>• Planting wild flower plants</li> <li>• Overnight stay – Mallydams RCPCA Centre</li> <li>• Geography field trip to Seven Sisters (South Downs National Park)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome letters to EY buddies</li> <li>• Church visit</li> <li>• Young Voices</li> <li>• Theatre performance at secondary school</li> <li>• Pevensey Castle trip</li> <li>• Battle Abbey trip</li> <li>• Overnight camp</li> <li>• East Sussex Fire safety talk</li> <li>• Wash Day Challenge</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tours to perspective parents</li> <li>• WW2 Tea Party for grandparents</li> <li>• Judaism visiting speaker</li> <li>• First Aider visit</li> <li>• Police officer visit – Prevent and online safety focus</li> <li>• Safety in Action</li> <li>• London Theatre trip including Q&amp;A with cast</li> <li>• Y6 Production</li> <li>• Y6 camp</li> <li>• Careers Fair</li> <li>• Takeover day</li> <li>• Diocese leavers service</li> </ul>