**TOOT HILL SCHOOL**

**PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT CURRICULUM PURPOSE**

 ‘Personal development is the belief that you are worth the effort, time, and energy needed to develop yourself’

Denis Waitley

At Toot Hill School, we deliberately teach a Personal Development Curriculum to ensure that our students are well informed, thoughtful decision makers who feel secure and safe in their personal identities, and are able to positively and articulately connect with all members of our community, with respect and compassion. We challenge students to reflect upon, and think critically about, the world around them, whilst supporting them to develop the self-belief and bravery required to leave a legacy within our ever evolving world.

Our Personal Development Curriculum is purposefully designed and includes RSHE, Careers, Active Tutoring, Extra-Curricular Activities and Subject Based Personal Development. Through this, our students are encouraged to develop their unique personalities and perspectives, grounded in knowledge and confidence.

To be well informed, we believe our students are entitled to learn a broad and relevant Personal Development Curriculum, including current core knowledge of finance, online safety, mental health and well-being, citizenship, current affairs, character reflection and emerging trends. It is coherently planned to help students make sense of the world and ignite the passion and courage required to question the status quo, promote social justice and make a difference. Our pastoral team expertly lead an age appropriate, specific learning journey, continuously adapting to current research and understanding, emerging trends and threats; working closely with local and national agencies to ensure the highest quality, bespoke learning experience for our students.

This progressive curriculum is intricately woven into all aspects of school life so knowledge, values and decision making can be reinforced and refined many times to build confidence wholesomely and sustainably within our students. Each strand is taught through the diverse lenses of life in Modern Britain encompassing British Values and we deliberately teach our children the vocabulary to build confidence in their opinions and expressing their feelings.

Our taught Personal Development curriculum is complemented by a uniquely diverse and extensive character building, enrichment and extra-curricular programme of the highest quality. Students are provided with a multitude of opportunities to try new things, discover new interests, develop their talents and connect with others more deeply, thus developing their emotional resilience, personal identity and long-term goals.

The building of character is explicitly taught and reinforced through all aspects of school life. The strong foundation of our PRIDE ethos and clear Learning Routines means we are able to focus on developing our students’ sense of **purpose** as they take **responsibility** for their personal growth with a **determination** to develop their moral compass to do the right thing, to make a positive difference to others, acting with **integrity** and **empathy**. Students are able to track their character development through our Unifrog programme and are recognised for this over time.

By embracing our ethos and engaging with our Personal Development Curriculum experience, Toot Hill students develop into knowledgeable, responsible, determined, tolerant and kind young people. Our students can grow into happy, safe and successful young adults, taking pride in their ability to look after themselves, and others, as they contribute significantly to our local community and the wider global society.