

Personal, Social and Health Education “PSHE” Policy

PURPOSE

The overarching aim for PSHE (Personal, Social & Health Education) is to provide all our students from Key Stage 2 onwards with accurate and relevant knowledge and opportunities to turn that knowledge into personal understanding. Additionally, it will generate opportunities to explore, clarify and if necessary challenge, their own and others' values, attitudes, beliefs, rights and responsibilities. Students will develop the skills and strategies they need in order to live healthy, safe, fulfilling, responsible and balanced lives.

School Responsibilities:

We promote the needs and interests of all students, irrespective of gender, culture, ability or aptitude. The PSHE Schemes of Work will take into account the ability, age, readiness and cultural backgrounds of our young people and those with English as a Second Language “EAL” to ensure that all students can fully access the PSHE provision.

We aim to create a safe and supportive learning environment by delivering PSHE, sometimes with emotive and sensitive topics at the heart of the lesson. In Senior School PSHE (or called Personal Development Plan “PDP” from Year 10 to Year 13) lessons will be delivered by Pastoral Tutors. However, for sensitive subjects, experts or more experienced colleagues may be used. In the Primary School, PSHE lessons are taught by the Class Teacher. The lessons follow a theme which changes termly.

When appropriate, or at the request of students, some PSHE topics may be taught to single sex groups to discuss issues that are more significant to their gender.

The Schemes of Work have been given careful consideration to six equality strands; race/ethnicity, gender, age, religion, disability and sexuality. This is to ensure that PSHE education is provided for in a sensitive and non-judgemental way that will enable all young people to feel valued and included in lessons.

Pastoral Tutors and PSHE Teachers will:

- Take all reasonable, practical steps to ensure that, where political or controversial issues are brought to students' attention, they are offered a balanced presentation or opposing views.
- Adopt strategies which seek to avoid bias on their part and teach students how to recognise bias and evaluate evidence
- Seek to establish a classroom climate in which all students are free from any fear of expressing reasonable points of view that contradict those held either by their class teachers or their peers.

Student Responsibilities:

For students to benefit fully from the PSHE programme in school, during these lessons we expect them to:

- Demonstrate a positive commitment to their own development and learning
- Make positive contributions to discussions and activities in class
- Take responsibility and accountability for their words and actions
- Show respect and courtesy to teachers, support staff and their peers, taking into account all diversity within the tutor group (as per the six equality strands above)

Relationships and Sex Education:

Relationships and Sex Education (SRE) is an important element of PSHE and is part of the UK National Curriculum. This element is designed to equip young people with the information, skills, values and responsibility to have safe, healthy and respectful relationships. Parents do have a right to withdraw their children from elements of the sex education. If parents feel strongly that their child should not take part in these elements, the School must be informed in writing prior to these units.

Careers Education & Guidance:

Students in Years 9 to 13 will have increasing amounts of time during their PSHE (or PDP) lessons focussing on their future pathways. The introduction of Unifrog© software package is integral for students to explore:

- Advice and guidance on Year 10 Options and subject choices if entering the Sixth Form
- Mentoring sessions with their tutors, teachers and Heads
- Researching particular career paths in discussion with their tutors and teachers
- Support and advice on University and College applications

Assemblies and presentations on possible career pathways will also take place with guest speakers.

Useful information

<https://www.unifrog.org/>

Mr M Howells
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