

PSHCE education at the Thomas Hardy School

Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Economic (PSHCE) Education is a whole school responsibility and forms a critical part of our broad and well-balanced curriculum. We believe that high quality PSHCE Education provision equips students to become thoughtful, caring and active citizens in school and in the wider society. We want our students to be able to explain accurately and confidently how to keep themselves physically, mentally and emotionally healthy and well, as well as being able to act on this knowledge. Current provision places emphasis on making informed choices about healthy living in all its forms including relationships, diet, fitness, the dangers of drug and alcohol consumption, as well as their emotional and mental well-being. It is important that our students gain an age appropriate understanding of healthy relationships and are confident in staying safe from abuse and exploitation and the risks associated with sexual relationships.

Citizenship education develops knowledge, skills and understanding that pupils need to play a full part in society as active and responsible citizens. Pupils learn about politics, parliament and voting as well as human rights, justice, the law and the economy. They also learn the skills of active citizenship. Teaching is brought to life using real issues and events in local to global contexts.

The PSHCE Education curriculum promotes and explores British values. Students have the opportunity to explore what their world would be like without these values, in order to gain understanding of their worth and they can then celebrate them as a part of students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC). The SMSC agenda is central and permeates all areas of the curriculum.

PSHCE Education is taught as part of the regular timetable for Year 9 and 10 with students receiving one lesson a fortnight which is delivered by a dedicated teacher. Initially students study a citizenship unit focusing on: democracy, laws, their liberties, and students explore the historical develop of Britain as a multicultural country and what the benefits of this have been. Students will then begin their health education, during which they will discuss and develop ideas about how to make informed decisions, how to keep themselves physically and mentally healthy, techniques for stress management, how to identify healthy and unhealthy relationships and what to do if relationships go wrong, and the importance of being ready for sex and using contraception. Students' also benefit from off-timetable days where outside agencies deliver sessions on drugs, relationships, homophobia, first aid and human rights.

PSHCE Education and Theology and Ethics (T&E) Departments have worked together to develop a curriculum wherein students consider contraception, relationships and human rights, tolerance and respect within their regular T&E lessons in a complimentary support to their PSHCE Education.

In Year 11, Citizenship education is largely delivered throughout the curriculum. Health education is delivered in drop-down sessions with a wide variety of outside agencies and specialists as well as experienced teachers. PSHCE Education and Theology and Ethics (T&E) Departments have worked together to develop a curriculum wherein students consider human rights, tolerance and respect within their regular T&E lessons as a continuation of what they have done in year 9 and 10.

When outside speakers/contributors are used to complement the work of the school, the sessions are jointly planned beforehand with the PSHCE Co-Ordinator and/or the teacher(s) co-facilitating the sessions(s). This will include agreement on the content, learning outcomes, methods of evaluation, and any possible follow up work. The visitor's contribution will be incorporated into the programme for PSHCE.

Other aspects of PSHCE Education and the SMSC agenda are addressed and delivered across the whole school curriculum including Citizenship related issues of information reliability being covered in English lessons, online safety, security and protection covered in ICT lessons, the science of health and wellbeing covered in Science lessons and Economic and Financial Education being covered in Maths lessons. In addition to the various wider curriculum links PSHCE Education subjects are also covered in a variety of assemblies, events and extra-curricular opportunities offered across the school.