

Curriculum Statement: PSCS

Personal, Social and Cultural Studies (PSCS) includes the subject areas PSHE, Citizenship and RS at Key Stage 4. PSCS equips students with the knowledge, skills and attributes they need to keep themselves healthy and safe, and to prepare them for life and work in modern Britain. At Budmouth Academy, we aim to support students to become healthy, independent and responsible members of society through a Personal Development programme that includes, amongst other things, a comprehensive and age-appropriate PSCS curriculum. The role of PSCS lessons is to provide students with regular opportunities to develop the knowledge and practical skills required to build confidence, resilience and the ability to make sound decisions when facing risks, challenges and complex situations throughout their lives. Furthermore, throughout the curriculum, students are encouraged to engage with questions about their rights and responsibilities, understand their purpose as a responsible member of a multicultural society and develop their sense of self-worth by playing a positive role in contributing to school life and the wider community.

The PSCS curriculum has three elements:

1. **Intent:** What pupils must learn (including knowledge, the ability to apply this knowledge and the disciplinary skills needed to effectively engage with this knowledge)
2. **Implementation:** How it will be learnt
3. **Impact:** How we will know this learning is secure (by evaluating the progress of pupils' knowledge, understanding and disciplinary skills)

Intent

To equip students with the age-appropriate knowledge, understanding and key skills needed to help them stay healthy, safe, and prepared for life - and work - in modern Britain. Further, to support students to become healthy, independent and responsible members of their local community and wider society through a curriculum that gives regular opportunities for students to explore their own attitudes, values and beliefs and develop the skills, language and strategies to meaningfully engage with the complex and sometimes conflicting attitudes, values and beliefs they may encounter now and in the future.

Fundamental to our intent:

- To provide a solid foundation of key age-appropriate knowledge and practical skills throughout Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 which develops pupils' ability of how to support their own health, safety, wellbeing and relationships, understanding of their rights and responsibilities and appreciation of their role in their local community and wider society

- To encourage pupils to explore a variety of age-appropriate topics throughout Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 throughout a challenging, engaging and knowledge-rich curriculum which covers Citizenship, Economic Education, Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education
- To identify and capitalise on opportunities to apply the role of Citizenship, British Values and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) skills on current affairs during lessons
- To present pupils with the diversity of attitudes, values and beliefs present in British society, and foster engagement with and evaluation of each one, in order to support the development of pupils' own individual attitudes, values and beliefs
- To signpost sources of advice, help and support to equip students with the confidence to know how and when to ask for help, and know where to access support

Implementation

Students at Budmouth Academy follow an engaging curriculum which focuses on teaching age-appropriate key knowledge and practical skills during fortnightly dedicated PSCS lessons. The curriculum complies with the Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education, and Health Education statutory guidance, and the National Curriculum for Citizenship. Lessons utilise a variety of pedagogies and resources to develop students' understanding and skills to prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. The PSCS curriculum also contributes to the whole-school approach of promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students throughout the topics and tasks. PSCS is also an important part of school assemblies; weekly assemblies delivered to all pupils cover an SMSC theme and complement students' learning in PSCS lessons. Each term, age-appropriate Year group assemblies and presentations are delivered by the PSHE Lead and external speakers.

Core learning includes:

- Building a solid foundation of age-appropriate knowledge and practical skills from Year 7 which is progressively developed throughout Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 and prepares students for life and work in modern Britain
- Developing students' evaluative and critical thinking skills through regular debates on key issues and scenario-based discussions
- Encouraging students' to consider and interrogate their own attitudes, values and beliefs, and explore and evaluate the attitudes, values and beliefs of others, to develop an appreciation of the diversity of thoughts and opinions in British society
- Regularly signposting sources of information, advice and support, both in Budmouth Academy, in the local community and online to equip students with the confidence, knowledge and skills to know how, when and where to seek help

- Giving students regular opportunities to revisit prior learning through starter activities and plenary sessions, and drawing links between topics during explanations and class discussions

Impact

The PSCS curriculum aims to ensure that all students leave Key Stage 4 with the knowledge, skills and confidence to navigate the complex and challenging situations they may encounter throughout their lives, and support their personal development to become purposeful, engaged and responsible members of society. The curriculum also aims to give students the sense of self-worth to seek out and pursue opportunities for them to support their own relationships, wellbeing, success and happiness, and know how, when and where to look for advice and support.

Our impact will be measured by:

- Qualitative data gathered from Student Voice surveys to measure engagement, understanding and student opinions of PSCS topics and lessons
- Regular, informal, 'low-stakes' assessment with clear next steps driving pupil progress re: their knowledge, understanding and practical skills
- The development of practical skills developed by students including identifying risks, dangers and opportunities in a variety of situations and contexts