

A Guide to PSHE at QEGS

Supporting the personal, social and health education of our pupils

The PSHE curriculum is designed to promote the school's ethos and values to our boys, to develop understanding of the British constitution, and support a wider understanding of issues about individual health and relationships. PSHE in school contributes significantly to our second primary aim of encouraging the development of a moral compass within our students and the qualities of tolerance, altruism and understanding of others both in school and within the wider community.

Throughout the key stages, the PSHE curriculum and pastoral programme promote an ethos of tolerance, inclusion and acceptance of others regardless of faith, sex/gender and sexual orientation. The Heads of Section and Heads of Year contribute to the development of the programme of PSHE, along with the PSHE co-ordinators, to ensure that boys get a balanced, consistent and regularly refreshed experience and message.

The PSHE department at QEGS is aware of the significant role that the subject can play in the promotion of fundamental British values and, although the school already addresses these values through assemblies and the wider pastoral programme and in the daily academic curriculum (all when relevant), the PSHE curriculum directly covers many of the core themes outlined by the DfE.

KS3 PSHE

Strands: Political and Economic; Sociocultural; and Health and Relationships

Political and Economic

In Key Stage 3, all pupils are encouraged to understand the basic framework of democracy as it operates through our political systems; including an outline of other elements of the British constitution, such as the monarchy, the law and the independence the judiciary.

Students will examine the political system and the electoral processes. We endeavour to ensure that our programme is informative and as neutral as possible. Teachers are expected to show an awareness of and tolerance of different viewpoints, provided they accept and promote the democratic process.

For instance, in 2015, students explored electoral reform. This reinforced fundamental British values of liberty, freedom, tolerance and democracy. The boys learnt about UK's political system, including the voting system and the roles of the legislature and executive. It is envisaged this can be repeated in 2020 and can be developed further with the future EU referendum due in 2016/2017.

Sociocultural

In the Sociocultural strand of the curriculum, pupils are encouraged to develop empathy and understanding of their own culture and the culture of others. The topics covered within these units address a wide range of issues including the freedom of personal choice as to faith and belief, and the protection of these rights under law.

A large amount of work is done on looking at Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King as role models. The emphasis on freedom, respect for others, liberty and democracy in this strand fundamentally reinforces positive British values.

Health and Relationships

The Health & Relationships strand of the curriculum focuses on sexual health (including STIs), physical and mental well-being.

Within these lessons boys develop awareness of physical and mental health issues and discuss relationships with parents, siblings and peers. This strand also addresses issues such as sexting, internet safety, and the importance of respect for women, addressing stereotypes on gender roles, homophobia and encouraging respect and tolerance of others.

The Health and relationships strand of the curriculum reflects the values and ethos of the school at all times promoting respect of others. Teachers are expected to respect the rights of others with different beliefs; presenting views without balance on topics such as marriage for same sex couples would be considered intolerant and unprofessional.

KS4 PSHE

Strands: Political and Economic; Sociocultural; and Health and Relationships

Political and Economic

In Key Stage 4, pupils cover lessons on political systems and the electoral process including electoral reform. They address conflict and politics at global level as well as the human and economic cost of conflict.

Within this strand, pupils develop understanding of how citizens can influence the electoral process and have decision making influence at regional, local, national and international level. The Politics strand also addresses the structure of government in the UK, including the separation of power between the executive and the Judiciary.

The lessons on this strand (as well as many others) change on an annual basis to reflect the political climate and to ensure that current political issues are brought to the attention of the pupils.

Sociocultural

In the Sociocultural strand of the KS4 curriculum, pupils are encouraged to develop empathy and understanding of their own culture and the culture of others. The topics covered within these units address a wide range of issues including the freedom of personal choice as to faith and belief, and the protection of these rights under law.

Health and Relationships

The Health & Relationships strand of the curriculum focuses on sexual health (including HIV and AIDS), physical and mental well-being. Within these lessons boys develop awareness of physical and mental health issues and discuss relationships with parents, siblings and peers. This strand also addresses issues such as pornography and the exploitation of women and gender roles, encouraging respect and tolerance of others.

The Health and relationships strand addresses marriage and divorce in a balanced way and reflects the fact that marriage for same sex couples is part of the law in this country. The curriculum reflects

the values and ethos of the school at all times promoting respect of others. Teachers are expected to respect the rights of others with different beliefs; presenting views without balance on topics such as marriage for same sex couples would be considered intolerant and unprofessional.

KS5 PSHE

The Key Stage 5 curriculum builds on the same strands covered in KS3 and KS4 but the themes are more adult and challenging, to reflect the age of the pupils. It is delivered by the Head of Upper School, Head of Year 12 and KS5 PSHE Coordinator, across a range of assemblies and form tutor periods.

The programme addresses organisation and time management, as well as wider issues linked to the core strands, as indicated above, over two years. There is a greater emphasis placed on education about relationships, beginning with reference to the experience of mixed gender lessons, as a number of subjects are taught jointly with our sister school, Wakefield Girls' High School. Mental health and wellbeing is also covered. In addition, we have an extensive unit on driving and driver safety with a focus given to drink driving. This drink driving unit is tied into general alcohol and drugs education, with invited experts who specialise in health education. Students re-visit sex and relationships in more depth to incorporate more adult themes. A recent addition to the curriculum is HeartStart training during which all boys in year 12 are trained in CPR and lifesaving as well as basic first aid.