

Intent

At Dorothy Stringer we aim to equip our students with a toolkit to take with them into adult life.

We believe for our students to be successful they require a range of skills in order for them to be safe and happy, active individuals. PSHE offers children opportunities to develop knowledge, understanding and the skills they need to be resilient and lead a safe, confident, healthy and responsible life.

We provide students with a safe learning environment to practise and develop the skills necessary to manage the moral, social and cultural challenges and responsibilities that are a part of growing up and living in today's society.

We work hard to deliver a PSHE curriculum within the guidance outlined in both National and local guidelines, whilst making the curriculum relevant to our students. We focus on developing the knowledge, skills and attributes to keep children and young people healthy and safe and to prepare them for life and work.

Within our programme of study we include topics such as: Cultural diversity, Drug and alcohol education, relationship and sex education, careers education, financial capability, Health education, Bullying and citizenship.

We want our students to build a positive sense of identity and belonging, which in turn will enable them to challenge stereotypes and increase aspirations.

Implementation

PSHE is a compulsory subject taught weekly throughout Key stage 3 and in Year 11 and in Year 10 every other week. We are very fortunate at Dorothy Stringer to have an experienced team of PSHE staff who also have other key responsibilities within the school. They are confident and skilled in discussing sensitive issues and pupils are encouraged to express opinions and listen to others.

- The needs of all students are met through highly effective and responsive teaching. Teachers communicate high expectations and a passion for PSHE education.
- A wide variety of teaching and learning styles are used and resources are produced and shared within the department to ensure consistency in the delivery of topics.
- Students are encouraged to reflect on their learning and progress made and to transfer what they have learnt to other subjects in school and in the wider community.
- Assessment recognises and celebrates progress made and happens within lessons and more formally on home learning assignments. Most lessons will include debate and Q&A sessions. Alongside this we follow the school's Dedicated Improvement and Reflection Time strategy and provide feedback both written and verbal on individual and group tasks in school as well as home learning.
- Outside speakers are used to enrich the delivery of various topics which makes a valuable contribution to teaching providing role models and supporting students in raising their aspirations.

In PSHE there are 3 main themes which identify key subjects and provide guidance into what needs to be taught and at what age in a unit of work. These are 'Living in the wider world', 'Relationship and Sex Education' and 'Health and Wellbeing'.

During Key Stages 1 and 2, learners gradually build on skills, attitudes, values, knowledge and understanding in preparation for further development in these areas at Key Stage 3. The overarching aim for PSHE is to provide pupils with accurate and relevant knowledge, opportunities to turn that knowledge into personal understanding. It should allow students to explore, clarify and challenge attitudes, rights and responsibilities and allow them to learn and practice skills in order to live safe, fulfilling lives.

Key stage 3

At key stage 3 the content is gradually built on over the 3 years of study, all students cover a variety of topics:

- Careers
- Drugs
- Puberty
- Health and wellbeing including Mental health
- E Safety
- First aid
- Citizenship
- Relationships and Sex education

We have a range of guests from specialist areas to assist and deliver content within the curriculum such as: Allsorts, NHS trust and Alumni. Lessons are predominantly discussion and project based, allowing students the opportunity to explore and ask questions and gain understanding and insight in a safe environment. Dorothy Stringer is a part of the Brighton and Hove PSHE consortium where new materials and resources are shared amongst all schools in the area. Lessons are developed and incorporate drama, debate, music, media and news articles.

When planning our curriculum, we aim to ensure that all students have been given the opportunity to fulfil all suggested reference points identified in the Programme of Study set out by the PSHE Association, to ensure we meet the requirements suggested by the DFE by the end of KS3. We use these tools to create an engaging curriculum and encourage feedback from both pupils and parents to inform our planning for the following year. This ensures students then transition with ease into the KS4 PSHE education plan.

Key stage 4

At Key Stage 4 all students continue to build upon their Key Stage 3 knowledge and understanding. We also incorporate preparation for work experience and applying for colleges into lessons.

Key visitors include speakers from:

- Local colleges
- Samaritans
- Brighton and Hove sexual health service
- Elev8 careers service
- Higgins trust

Teachers support students ensuring no student is left behind. All students gain advice and support around careers and post-16 routes, ensuring they are prepared for interviews and guided when producing CVs and personal statements.

We ensure that all students have been given the opportunity to fulfil all suggested reference points identified in the Programme of Study set out by the PSHE Association alongside the DFE requirements and the SWASS evaluation to ensure we meet the needs of all students and enable with ease, transition to PSHE education at KS5.

Impact

As a result of our varied but measured programme we have confident independent learners who can think critically and articulate their learning with confidence.

We are confident our students have an excellent understanding appropriate to their age and capability of relationships, sexual development, sexual consent and human rights.

Students at Dorothy Stringer understand the impact of bullying others and know how to resist peer pressure and how to seek advice and support if they need it.

Students develop understanding of skills in relation to work, employability and money management.

Students know how to recognise and deal with mental health problems and show understanding and commitment to their own and others health and wellbeing.

Twice a year Dorothy Stringer students in all year groups take part in the Safe and Well at School survey (SAWSS). The (SAWSS) data supplies the school with evidence that the provision we provide is successful and effective.

For example, the 2018 data showed us that students at Dorothy Stringer;

- Feel safe and happy at school
- Enjoy learning at the school
- Feel like they belong to the school
- We have a continued decline in bullying at the school
- If students need support and help, they can identify where to go to get it

Our PSHE programme reflects the needs of our students equipping them with a sound understanding of risk and the knowledge and skills to make safe and informed choices in the future.