



PERSONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH, CITIZENSHIP AND ECONOMIC EDUCATION (PSHCE) POLICY (SECONDARY)

RATIONALE

At GES we aim to equip our students to face the challenges of an uncertain future and to thrive as individuals, family members and members of society. Our PSHCE programme is a key part of not only helping them to fulfil their academic potential, but also to stay safe, healthy and prepare for life and work beyond our walls. We aim to ensure that students have the knowledge, skills and attributes that will help them to respond when they face critical opportunities and challenges in their lives, both now and in the future. Our approach is grounded in the latest research and actively promotes positive mental health, in order to optimise wellbeing and help our students flourish.

PSHCE also plays a vital part in meeting schools' safeguarding obligations, promoting students' emotional wellbeing, and improving their ability to achieve in school, as well as enabling them to learn about safety and risks within relationships.

OUR PROGRAMME

Our programme of study for Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Economic Education follows the guidance of the British PSHE Association and is built around three core themes: Health and Wellbeing, Relationships and Living in the Wider World (see Appendix 1). This builds on content from Key Stage 3, not least of all in developing study skills in preparation for GCSEs. In Key Stage 4, we also begin to explore options for further study and careers in more detail, as well as engaging in work experience.

Our PSHCE programme has links with many other curriculum areas, especially Science and Computing, and when appropriate, teachers work together to ensure consistent messages are given across subject areas. It is also enriched through whole school assemblies, tutor time, external speakers and trips and visits.

We respect students' unique starting points by providing learning that is appropriate to their abilities, grounded in their prior learning and experiences, and respectful of any differences of faith, belief or culture. While promoting the school's values, we aim to ensure that our programme is balanced by providing opportunities to explore issues from a range of viewpoints.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AND RIGHTS

We are committed to working with our parents to provide the best education for their children. We will offer support by the school's PSHCE education programme at the beginning of every academic year, and inviting parents to ask questions and share concerns.

We fully respect and uphold the rights of parents to withdraw their children from aspects of the course. A more comprehensive break-down of the objectives and outcomes for each unit can be shared with parents in advance in order to help parents make an informed decision. Parents are welcome to discuss any questions or concerns with the Head of PSHCE and/or Assistant Head. Students withdrawn from the programme will be provided with the opportunity to pursue independent study on site.

The right to withdraw from lessons relates only to RSE within the PSHCE education curriculum. It does not apply to the biological aspects of human growth and reproduction included in the Science curriculum, nor to the aspects of online safety within the Computing curriculum. However, there may be elements of the programme that are sensitive issues for individual students (e.g.: bereavement, self-harm). In cases like these, we will work with parents to ensure that students can discuss these issues in an appropriate way (e.g.: with the support of the School Counsellor). Staff are not empowered to maintain pupil confidentiality concerning anything which is known to be against the law. (Refer also to our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy).

The above content has been agreed in consultation with governors, SLT and teaching staff.

Simmi Doyle
Head of PSHCE

Created: September 2018
Review: July 2019