Ks3 Citizenship and PSHEE

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Aim

We aim to provide a relevant, engaging and challenging Citizenship curriculum which helps students to understand the society they live in and equips them with the knowledge, skills and confidence to participate in it.

Our curriculum encourages students to think critically about important political, legal and social issues and to understand that people can hold different, well-reasoned views. Students are encouraged to develop their own opinions while learning how to listen to, question and respectfully challenge the views of others.

Throughout Key Stage 3, students develop their knowledge of democracy, politics, law, rights and responsibilities, equality and social justice. They also develop important Citizenship skills including discussion, debate, evaluating evidence, recognising different perspectives, constructing arguments and taking informed action.

A central part of Citizenship is helping students recognise that they can make a difference. Students therefore have opportunities to investigate issues that matter to them, participate in democratic activities and undertake social action within the school and wider community.

Curriculum Overview

KS3 Citizenship	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Assessment	Knowledge checks and quizzes; written explanations; discussion and oracy activities; evaluation tasks; social action activities	Knowledge checks and quizzes; written explanations; debate and evaluation; presentations; social action project	Knowledge checks and quizzes; extended writing; debate and evaluation; presentations; GCSE-style questions

Home Learning

Home learning is designed either to reinforce knowledge and understanding developed in lessons or to prepare students for future learning.

- Current affairs activities
- Research tasks
- Knowledge retrieval and quizzes
- Preparation for debates and discussions
- Extended writing
- Citizenship case studies
- Preparation for presentations and social action
- GCSE-style questions as students progress towards the end of Key Stage 3

Where appropriate, resources and assignments will be made available through Microsoft Teams.

Remote and Independent Learning

If a student is unable to work in the classroom, resources can be adapted to support independent learning. Tasks are designed so that students can access the important knowledge and ideas from the lesson while receiving appropriate scaffolding, such as key vocabulary, sentence starters, structured reading and writing activities.

How to Support Your Daughter, Opportunities for Enrichment and Useful Resources

Citizenship is closely connected to events taking place in the world around us. One of the most useful ways to support your daughter is therefore to encourage her to take an interest in current affairs and discuss political, legal and social issues at home.

Students do not need to agree with one another – or with their families – to be successful Citizenship students. Learning to explain an opinion, support it with evidence and listen carefully to alternative perspectives is an important part of the subject.

Encourage her to:

- Watch, read or listen to age-appropriate news regularly.
- Discuss important local, national and international events.
- Ask questions about why governments make particular decisions.
- Consider different perspectives before reaching a conclusion.
- Explain the reasons behind her opinions rather than simply stating them.
- Take an interest in issues affecting her school and local community.
- Participate in opportunities for volunteering, campaigning and social action.
- Use lesson resources on Microsoft Teams to revisit areas of learning.

Useful Resources

Students can use a range of reliable news and educational sources to support their Citizenship learning. Resources provided through Microsoft Teams should be the first point of reference when revising specific topics.

Year 7

In Year 7, students are introduced to Citizenship through the themes of community, identity, human rights and democracy. They explore what it means to belong to different communities and begin to understand the rights and responsibilities that come with being a citizen. Students consider how discrimination can be challenged, how people have campaigned for their rights and how citizens can participate in democratic society. Alongside Citizenship, students study RSHE units focusing on puberty and safety, financial wellbeing, and mental and emotional wellbeing.

Term	Scheme of Learning	Brief description of content
Autumn 1	Citizenship: Communities & Identities	Students explore identity, belonging and community cohesion and consider what helps diverse communities live together successfully. Including: British Values; racism, sexism, ableism and homophobia; the Equality Act and protected characteristics; active citizenship; council simulation.
Autumn 2	RSHE: Puberty, Safety & Belonging	Students learn about puberty, menstrual health and self-care alongside important safeguarding issues. Including: correct anatomical vocabulary; trusted adults; online safety and digital boundaries; bullying and bystander behaviour; assertiveness and peer pressure; FGM and safeguarding.
Spring 1	Citizenship: Human Rights & Protest	Students investigate human rights and how citizens have challenged injustice and campaigned for change. Including: rights in the UK; LGBTQ+ rights; protest movements; the Civil Rights Movement; climate protests; evaluating different protest methods.
Spring 2	Citizenship: Democracy	Students explore how democracy works and how citizens are represented. Including: political systems; Parliament and democracy; the role of the monarchy; the history of Parliament; democracy worldwide; voting and representation; an introduction to media and democracy.
Summer 1	RSHE: Financial Wellbeing	Students develop their understanding of money and financial decision-making. Including: attitudes to money; budgeting; bank accounts; online spending; scams and fraud; supply and demand.

Term	Scheme of Learning	Brief description of content
Summer 2	RSHE: Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing	Students develop their understanding of mental health and strategies for maintaining emotional wellbeing. Including: emotional resilience; friendships and belonging; managing stress and worry; healthy coping strategies; bereavement and loss.

Year 8

In Year 8, students develop a deeper understanding of law, justice, government and international relations. They consider how authority is exercised, how laws are made and enforced and how citizens can influence political decisions. Students then broaden their perspective to consider international issues before applying their Citizenship knowledge through the First Give social action programme, where they investigate social issues and take action to support their communities.

Term	Scheme of Learning	Brief description of content
Autumn 1	Citizenship: Authority & Justice	Students investigate why societies need laws and how the justice system operates. Including: criminal and civil law; mock trial; the justice system; prisons and rehabilitation; policing and community trust; youth justice; rights and responsibilities.
Autumn 2	Citizenship: Government & Elections	Students explore how citizens are represented and how political decisions are made. Including: elections and voting systems; political parties; the role of MPs; law making; the House of Lords; democracy and participation; political extremism and tolerance.
Spring 1	Citizenship: International Relations	Students examine the UK's place in an interconnected world and consider why countries need to cooperate. Including: globalisation; international organisations; humanitarian crises; human rights globally; migration and conflict; international cooperation; global inequality.
Spring 2	Citizenship: First Give Social Action	Students investigate a social issue and work collaboratively with charities through the First Give programme. Including: social issue research; charity partnerships; campaign planning; a social action project; presentation and fundraising; reflection and evaluation.
Summer 1	RSHE: Identity & Healthy Relationships	Students explore identity, values and the characteristics of healthy and respectful relationships. Including: family relationships; healthy and unhealthy relationships; consent and communication; pressure and coercion; body image and self-esteem; respectful relationships; online relationships and image sharing; misogyny and gender stereotypes.

Term	Scheme of Learning	Brief description of content
Summer 2	RSHE: Managing Risk & Safety	Students develop knowledge and skills to identify and manage risks. Including: substance misuse; alcohol and decision-making; drugs and the law; vaping and smoking; gambling harms; knife crime awareness; online exploitation; AI, deepfakes and misinformation.

Year 9

In Year 9, students tackle increasingly complex questions about rights, justice, democracy, extremism, equality and the media. They are expected to consider competing rights and perspectives, distinguish reliable information from misinformation and justify their conclusions using evidence. Students also explore feminism and contemporary gender equality before completing more advanced RSHE study. Across the year, increasing emphasis is placed on analytical and evaluative skills in preparation for Key Stage 4.

Term	Scheme of Learning	Brief description of content
Autumn 1	Citizenship: Law, Justice & Rights	Students investigate the relationship between individual rights, law and state authority. Including: human rights and the law; protest and freedom of speech; surveillance and privacy; rights in conflict; reproductive rights; police powers; equality before the law; ethics and justice.
Autumn 2	Citizenship: Media & Democracy	Students examine the importance of a free and reliable media within a democracy and develop their media literacy. Including: the role of the media; freedom of the press; fake news and democracy; conspiracy theories; AI-generated misinformation; online influence and algorithms; democracy and social media; debate and media literacy.
Spring 1	Citizenship: Terrorism & Community Cohesion	Students examine extremism and radicalisation and consider how democratic societies respond while protecting rights and building cohesive communities. Including: what is extremism?; radicalisation; building tolerant communities; responding to terrorism; hate crime; community cohesion project.
Spring 2	Citizenship: Feminism Today	Students explore the historical development of feminism and examine contemporary debates about gender equality. Including: the history of feminism; gender stereotypes; toxic masculinity; sexual harassment; gender and advertising; the gender pay gap; menopause and reproductive awareness; respectful masculinity.
Summer 1	RSHE: Relationships & Sex Education	Students develop their understanding of healthy intimate relationships and informed decision-making. Including: consent and the law; contraception; STIs and sexual health; pregnancy choices and

Term	Scheme of Learning	Brief description of content
		parenting; fertility and reproductive health; online sexual pressures and pornography harms; healthy breakups and warning signs of abuse.
Summer 2	RSHE: Health, Safety & Preparing for KS4	Students consolidate and extend their learning about health, safety and wellbeing while developing the knowledge and skills needed to manage increasing independence and prepare for Key Stage 4.

Skills Developed Across Key Stage 3

- Develop and justify informed opinions.
- Use evidence to support an argument.
- Distinguish between fact, opinion and misinformation.
- Consider issues from different perspectives.
- Listen to and respectfully challenge the views of others.
- Participate effectively in discussion and debate.
- Communicate ideas clearly through speaking and writing.
- Work collaboratively.
- Investigate political, legal and social issues.
- Evaluate different ways of bringing about change.
- Understand how citizens can participate in democratic society.
- Plan and undertake informed social action.

By the end of Year 9, students should have developed both a secure foundation of Citizenship knowledge and the confidence to engage thoughtfully with political, legal and social issues. They should understand that Citizenship is not simply about learning how society works, but about developing the knowledge and skills needed to participate within it.