

## **Departmental Curriculum Statement 2023**

### **Curriculum Intent Statement**

During their time at Cowley, all pupils are equipped with the tools and skills essential for personal, moral and social development and growth: providing opportunities that will see this growth and development extend beyond their years at school. The PSHE curriculum ensures that all pupils explore topics which allow them to enter into the wider world able to make the right decisions to keep themselves safe. Our pupils are encouraged to develop their sense of self-worth by playing a positive role in contributing to school life and the wider community. Students are given every opportunity to share their thoughts and voice their opinions in class discussions. They are also encouraged to listen considerately and be supportive of one another, fostering a strong spirit of community and a network of support across the school. PSHE is integral to the development of children's values in order for them to become a positive citizen in a forever changing community.

Our school is committed to ensuring the curriculum remains relevant to its students, keeping up to date with the latest developments in this fast-moving curriculum area. We were an 'early adopter' of statutory Relationships and Sex Education and are proactive in working with the Department for Education to ensure our curriculum is of the highest possible standard for our students.

### **Curriculum Implementation Statement**

At Cowley International College, we structure the PSHE curriculum in a way which allows pupils to re-visit topics, learning more and remembering more. This allows pupils to progress at an age-appropriate level, building upon knowledge year on year to making lasting and meaningful links in their understanding. For example, in year 7, pupils will study what healthy relationships look like, with a particular reference to relationships with families and friends. In year 8, pupils will apply this learning to form positive relationships. Year 9 pupils will examine the link between relationships and consent. In year 10, pupils will look at beginning, taking part in and ending intimate relationships as well as sexual harassment; and in year 11 pupils will understand how to handle violent relationships. The KS5 programme has a focus on academic support, life skills and health and wellbeing, including RSE. This cyclical approach to learning allows pupils to review issues they may come across in their own lives on a regular basis, giving them the support they need to navigate life. Homework is set every four weeks and encourages pupils to implement the knowledge they have learnt in lessons. Pupil work is marked regularly, and teachers pay particular focus to marking for literacy. Pupils are taught PSHE in ability groupings, and this allows teachers to ensure that pupils access the content at a level appropriate for them: accounting for the needs of all pupils, ensuring progression for all pupils as they move through the school.

### **Curriculum Beyond the Classroom**

We are keenly aware of the importance of visits from outside agencies within PSHE, allowing students to meet with experts and gain a greater understanding of the topic. We work closely with the health services in St Helens to identify key professionals whom students will benefit from meeting, including the Sexual Health service and the Stop Smoking team. We also make use of offers from charity organisations including The Danny Fox Foundation, Respect me project and Merseyside police. Our curriculum is regularly revised to ensure that it meets emerging needs and current issues.

**Subject Expertise**

Members of the department are active users of social media networks, including Facebook and Twitter, and we share good practice through this. All staff within the department have taken part in whole school CPD on mental health awareness. Two staff have a qualification in understanding children and adolescent mental health, with a third being a qualified Mental Health First Aider. We are also members of the PSHE association, accessing CPD opportunities and up to date resources to enhance our curriculum.

Teachers from outside the department are supported with CPD, detail lesson plans and mentoring from within the department.

**Destinations**

The entirety of the PSHE curriculum seeks to ensure that all students leave Cowley with the skills they need to be successful in their own lives. Each year, pupils will study topics which support them with their future choices. The careers programme is delivered during PSHE lessons, focusing on future choices, employability and enterprise and post 16 choices.