Curriculum Overview

Curriculum Area: Learning for Life Year: 9

Year 9 Curriculum:

Autumn Term: This half term, pupils will explore equality, respectful relationships, and sexual health. They will learn how to recognise and challenge discrimination, understand the importance of safe sex and contraception, and develop the knowledge needed to make informed decisions about their health and wellbeing. Pupils will also learn about menstrual health and self-advocacy, as well as examine the impact of pornography on attitudes, expectations, and perceptions of healthy relationships.

Autumn Term: Pupils will explore careers. Please see the careers curriculum.

Spring: pupils will develop strategies to support their mental health and wellbeing, building resilience and learning how to cope with challenges in a healthy way. They will explore the risks associated with legal and illegal drugs, understand the impact of substance addiction, and learn how and where to seek help and support.
Pupils will also learn how to take responsibility for their health by understanding the role of health services, vaccinations, and self-examination in preventing illness and promoting wellbeing. Through these topics, they will develop the knowledge and confidence to make informed decisions about their physical and mental health.

Spring - skills needed to make informed financial decisions, including budgeting, saving money, and managing debt responsibly.
Pupils will also explore the influence of peers and wider social pressures, including the risks associated with gang involvement. Through these topics, they will build confidence in making safe, informed choices that support their health, wellbeing, and future financial security.

Summer Term: pupils will explore the impact of social influences and develop strategies for recognising and resisting peer pressure. They will learn about managing conflict within relationships, building positive relationship skills, and understanding the responsibilities involved in parenting and caring for others.
Pupils will also examine the importance of challenging misogyny and promoting respect and equality. In addition, they will learn to recognise stalking and sexual harassment, understand their rights and responsibilities, and know how to report concerns and access support. Through these topics, pupils will develop the knowledge and confidence to build healthy relationships and make safe, respectful choices.

Summer -
Pupils will develop the knowledge and skills needed to stay safe and responsible online. They will explore the importance of consent in online interactions, protecting personal data, and understanding the opportunities and risks associated with artificial intelligence. Pupils will also develop critical thinking skills to help them evaluate online information, recognise misinformation and extremist content, and make informed decisions in the digital world.

Links to National Curriculum

- Mental wellbeing and emotional resilience
- Physical health and healthy lifestyles
- Drugs, alcohol and substance misuse
- Accessing health services and preventative healthcare
- Respectful relationships and healthy communication
- Families, parenting and caring responsibilities
- Equality, diversity and inclusion
- Challenging discrimination and misogyny
- Consent and healthy boundaries
- Sexual health, safe sex and contraception
- Menstrual and reproductive health
- Recognising abuse, harassment and exploitation
- Personal safety and safeguarding
- Financial education, budgeting and debt management
- Managing risk and social influences
- Online safety and digital literacy
- Privacy, personal data and digital footprints
- Misinformation, extremism and critical thinking online
- Harmful online content, scams and emerging technologies (including AI)
- Preparation for adult life, careers and future aspirations

Knowledge and understanding of this curriculum will be assessed by:

Pupils will be assessed via formative assessment during the lesson through discussions and question and answering.

Pupils will also take part in summative assessment each half term via knowledge quizzes to check their understanding.

Powerful Knowledge/Cultural Capital Opportunities

The content delivered through learning for life is specifically relevant to their age and environment and reflects the lives they will be living in the real world