

Sociology – Curriculum Intent Statement

Our curriculum in Sociology strives for all pupils to have the opportunity to study and broaden their knowledge about our increasingly interconnected world with understanding and humility, and to develop the higher-level skills needed to thrive in the knowledge-based world, that we live in. Through the study of Sociology our aim is to allow pupils to gain knowledge and to develop analytical and evaluative skills, when examining social phenomena and that affect people's lives in profound ways.

The purpose of the Sociology curriculum challenges pupils to look beyond appearances and set aside their own personal beliefs to enable them to grow in compassion and kindness. It empowers pupils with intellectually challenging ideas and concepts and essential skills of critical thinking. We encourage pupils to make mistakes, and learn from them, so they succeed in being resilient and courageous.

The aim for Sociology, is for pupils to gain knowledge on the structures and processes that exist in society through the study of a range of perspectives such as Functionalism, Marxism and Feminism. Students examine families, education, beliefs in society and crime and how different groups in society both affect and are affected by these institutions. They will also learn about the Research Methods used by sociologists in their work and how to evaluate research findings. Therefore, these units allow exploration of a range of social issues, both historical and contemporary examples – within the key topics, in a safe and non-judgmental way.

The curriculum, as Sociology is taught at both key stage 4 and Key Stage 5. GCSE Sociology students are taught the course over a three year period. Throughout year 9, students will unpick the fundamentals of the subject – allowing them to build on this base knowledge into year 10 too. The more complex and nature of the subject will then be focused on during year 11, with additional emphasis on key cognitive skills, needed to synoptically link back to a arrange of areas.

Key stage 5 then pushes students to use more heavy evaluative and analytical skills, however this subject can be chosen at A Level, without sitting a GCSE in it. The way that the curriculum is created allows for all ability to stretch and reach their full capability whilst developing on their levels of independence and resilience throughout the two year course. This will allow students to have a common purpose to nurture compassion and awareness, of the society that we are living within.