



PSHE Policy

Policy number	BS078
Applies to	Whole School
Endorsed by	Vice Master
Responsibility	Assistant Head (Pastoral)
Date reviewed	January 2024
Next review	January 2025

At Bedford School we teach a spiralled curriculum from years 3 to 13, delivered within the two parts of the school; Prep and Upper. This policy outlines the details of this in the following sections:

1. Approaches and Aims
2. Structure of Delivery
3. Curriculum

This policy must be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- RSE Policy
- Curriculum Policies (Prep and Upper)
- Careers Policy

1. Approach and Aims

The school's approach to PSHE reflects its aims and ethos. Our core values of Endeavour, Curiosity, Integrity, Responsibility and Kindness are ones that we aim to instil in our pupils, both in our PSHE programme and in the wider curriculum. We teach a spiral curriculum though from years 3 to 13 to explicitly teach these values and PSHE content.

We believe that each pupil's development relies not only on traditional academic learning, but also on wider education about making personal choices, their contribution to society, forming healthy and happy relationships and learning ways to maintain their physical and mental health. We aim to prepare our pupils to manage the responsibilities and experiences of adult life. We believe in and deliver PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) to all pupils. The school teaches relationship and sex education as part of its PSHE programme with regard to Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education Statutory Guidance (2020). We maintain a separate RSE Policy which sets out our responsibilities and approach to teaching RSE. The Upper School and Prep School both have significant programmes for the teaching of PSHE. Within these programmes, the school is aware of its obligations under the Equality Act (2010), Keeping Children Safe in Education (2023), and the 'Prevent' duty.

2. Structure of Delivery

In the Prep School, our pastoral care structures are integral to pupil development and horizontal, so we teach PSHE in year group-based form groups. This programme is called Personal Development or 'PD' and is taught as a timetabled lesson. In the Upper School, our pastoral care structures are vertical and so we aim to keep pupils in house-based groups within their year group. This is done most effectively by utilising off-timetable drop-down days called the Citizenship programme. These days are followed up by two further timetabled follow up sessions where misconceptions identified through assessment and common pupil questions can be addressed and retrieval of topics happens to deepen understanding. Collapsing the timetable for the whole school demonstrates the importance we place on PSHE teaching and allows best use of staffing resources and external experts for effective teaching.

PD is taught to every boy in the Prep School, Years 3-8, taking the form of a timetabled lesson once a week. Where possible the Head of Year, Tutor, Head of PD Department or an experienced PSHE teacher will teach these lessons. The Head of Department teaches at least one form from each year group, to allow for effective curriculum review and development.

In the Upper School collapsed curriculum mornings are taught in three one-hour lessons. Teaching and learning resources are developed for these by the Citizenship department and teaching staff are given suitable training. Some sessions are taught by external speakers and the rest by staff who are selected based on connection with pupils through the house system and/or expertise and experience that makes them best placed to facilitate excellent learning. There are subsequent lessons to consolidate learning, respond to pupil questions arising from curriculum mornings, and facilitate further assessment and feedback.

There is also a pupil Citizenship team who review the programme and inform its delivery. This team also partners with pupils from Bedford Girls School to teach joint lessons and to teach pupils in both schools about sexual harassment. The Citizenship program is overseen by the Head of General Education.

3. Curriculum

The curriculum follows the guidelines laid out by the PSHE association and regards the School values (Endeavour, Responsibility, Integrity, Curiosity and Kindness).

Within the PD programme, knowledge, skills and understanding are taught in three interrelated sections:

1. Developing good relationships and respecting the differences between people (Relationships)
2. Developing a healthy, safer lifestyle (Health and Wellbeing)
3. Preparing to play an active role as citizens (Living in the Wider World)

In the Citizenship Programme the curriculum continues to spiral and develop these themes and content recommended by PSHE and RSE guidance in an age-appropriate way. Our whole school curriculum encourages pupils to respect all other people, with particular regard to the protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010. To do this we teach them about the protected characteristics and make specific reference to them in ways that are age appropriate. The protected characteristics as listed in section 4 of the Equality Act 2010 are as follows: Age, Disability, Gender reassignment, Marriage and civil partnership, Pregnancy and maternity, Race, Religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

Our PSHE programme teaches that no one is inferior in any way based on any of the protected characteristics, nor should they ever be treated as such. We teach pupils that women or girls should be treated with equal respect to men and that a woman's role is never to be treated as subservient to that of a man, or vice versa. We teach pupils that the parties to same-sex marriage or civil partnership merit the full protection which the law affords them in all cases. We teach that disabled people are entitled to equal treatment. We teach that women who are pregnant without being

married should never be disrespected. The school has a Christian foundation, but the principles taught here are not delivered from a point of view that is made to conform with any Church or Christian teaching. Likewise, there is no intention to discriminate against Christianity or undermine religious freedoms. Rather, we aim to build a culture of tolerance, acceptance and diversity. Pupils are taught to respect all other people, even if they choose to follow a lifestyle that one would not choose to follow oneself.

Throughout all that we do, we also look to develop the child within (according to a key strand of our strategic focus), encouraging each student to show confidence and responsibility, as well as being able to identify and celebrate their own abilities and individual talents.

Up-to-date resources and curriculum topics can be made available on request and pupils, parents and staff are regularly informed of the content being taught.

