

Statement of Intent - Sociology

The intent of the Sociology curriculum is to enable pupils to participate in our interconnected world with understanding and humanity, and the higher-level skills needed for the knowledge-based economy. Through the study of Sociology, pupils will examine social *phenomena that affect people's lives in profound ways*. The course is designed and delivered to nurture thoughtful and motivated young people, who can act responsibly as active citizens, and who believe in their ability to change their community for the better. At both Key Stage 4 and 5 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 curriculum is sequenced logically from a broad Year 9 curriculum that enables pupils to build a sociological vocabulary, via an introduction to how sociologists study society and sociological theory, through to A Level where pupils are challenged to debate the relative values of different theoretical perspectives and how sociology can be applied to enable social change. Each topic makes synoptic links to previous content, allowing pupils knowledge to grow sequentially. For example, when studying crime and deviance, the impact of socialisation in the family on anti-social behaviour is analysed, this creates clear building blocks for effective learning.

Pupils will gain a holistic and critical appreciation of Sociology through use of a range of teaching strategies that promote independent, pupil-led learning and active learning, such as well-structured debates and discussions and practical activities to deepen pupils understanding and enjoyment, whilst building core skills. From year 9 to Year 13 a key focus of the curriculum is active engagement in Sociological research and pupils will complete independent research tasks, solidifying their research methods skills. Pupils will also have the opportunity to apply their understanding to current events and topics in the real world. Extra-curricular activities on offer to pupils, to enhance their personal development, include a criminology conference, where pupils can immerse themselves in the most recent sociological research, and a field trip to understand the social context of key studies. We hope pupils leave with deep Sociological knowledge and understanding, as well as strategic skills such as the ability to interpret different sources of data and weigh up the value of evidence, which are necessary for success in a broad range of careers and in Higher Education.