

PDL and SMSC Statement

At Crestwood College our Personal Development Learning (PDL) programme includes all aspects of Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship education and underpins our school ethos of ASPIRE. It also ensures that we promote British Values through spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development and address our duty to Prevent.

The PSHE elements are an effective way of providing pupils with time to explore sensitive or controversial issues, and equipping them with the knowledge and skills to understand and manage difficult situations. The subject is taught through:

- Tutor time for Year 7 - 11
- Senior Leadership and Year Leader assemblies
- Discrete lessons in Year 11
- ASPIRE Days

Additionally, many themes are complemented in core Ethics and Philosophy lessons in Years 7 – 10 where students are required to discuss and debate topical issues, considering the moral implications of their actions and how consequences can affect society as a whole. Students understand that this is a safe space to ask questions and explore complex feelings and views on controversial topics.

Through the PDL programme pupils are taught to recognise and manage risk, make safer choices, and recognise when pressure from others threatens their personal safety and wellbeing. They also develop effective ways of resisting pressures, including knowing when, where and how to get help. We encourage our pupils to develop resilience, determination, self-esteem and confidence.

The Citizenship modules provide our pupils with the knowledge, skills and understanding to prepare them to play a full and active part in society. It equips them to explore political and social issues critically, to weigh evidence, to debate, and to make reasoned arguments. They learn about democracy, government and how laws are made and upheld. They are also taught about the diverse national, regional, religious and ethnic identities in the United Kingdom and the need for mutual respect and understanding. This helps them develop their critical thinking skills.

Furthermore, both the PSHE and Citizenship programmes prepare students for life beyond school, developing their target-setting skills and encouraging them to make informed choices about the next stage of their education, employment, self-employment or training. This is delivered through:

- Tutor time
- Assemblies from local colleges
- Assemblies and workshops with local businesses and employers
- An impartial and external Careers Guidance package
- Mock interviews
- Work Experience placements

The PDL programme underpins our whole-school commitment to developing students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development through a broad and balanced curriculum. Students understand how subjects, lessons, extra-curricular activities and special events are developing their ability to be reflective about and responsible for their actions as good citizens.