

Personal, Social & Health Education (PSHE)

Introduction

The Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) programme prepares pupils to participate positively in the Jewish community and in modern British society. It aims to develop open-minded and well-informed pupils, who are prepared for adult life beyond Immanuel College and who will be able to combine a strong and mature Jewish commitment with full participation in a multicultural society.

PSHE is taught as a separate subject in Years 7 to 9. In Years 10 and 11, PSHE is taught through the Religious Studies GCSE curriculum.

Speakers and visits support the teaching of a number of topics, including drugs education, alcohol awareness, emotional and social issues, puberty and health issues, and careers' guidance.

PSHE also contributes to the College's provision of sex education. Links are forged between PSHE and the work of the pastoral team and other curriculum areas such as science.

Throughout the course, pupils are encouraged to listen to each other's views, to respect each other's beliefs, to value the differences between people and to work productively within a group.

Who studies what and when?

Year 7

PSHE begins with an induction into the ethos and life of the College, promoting an understanding of the school rules and their links with Jewish laws and mitzvot. Other topics studied include relationships within the family and with friends, bullying, stereotyping, racial prejudice and discrimination, health and hygiene and puberty. Pupils look at voluntary organisations and are encouraged to become involved in one such organisation in the local community. They learn about homelessness, ethical buying and look at issues concerning their place in society. A start is made to the drugs-awareness programme by a study of the health risks associated with smoking.

Year 8

The Year 8 PSHE programme begins by encouraging pupils to set themselves academic and personal targets, with particular emphasis on respect towards others. The programme continues work on relationships and the pupils are introduced to Jewish teachings about the relationship between the sexes. Alcohol is studied as part of the drugs-awareness programme. Pupils are required to probe the place of alcohol in society and to produce their own health-education materials relating to the misuse of alcohol. Year 8 pupils complete an independent learning project, which encourages them to research, study and analyse an area that they have themselves chosen. Pupils look at issues of identity, diversity and shared citizenship. They also take part in 'Take your Child to Work Day'.

Year 9

The pupils are provided with opportunities to reflect on and assess their strengths and to think about themselves positively. They consider how decisions are made and the factors that influence decision-making. The programme prepares pupils for the selection of GCSE options and makes a start on the process of career planning. Other topics studied include drugs awareness and the recognition and practice of behaviour that is assertive, rather than passive or aggressive. Year 9 pupils are encouraged to look at their place in the wider community: they study political parties and the voting systems in the United Kingdom. They also look at the law and are encouraged to question their place in the global community. The final term is focused on preparing pupils emotionally and practically for the end-of-year Israel trip.

Years 10-11

Through the GCSE Religious Studies course, pupils encounter a wide range of PSHE topics, including Jewish family life, racism, rites of passage and citizenship. Additional PSHE topics are also addressed during tutor time.