

RE, PSHE and Citizenship

Dean Trust Ardwick is dedicated to providing religious, PSHE (personal, social and health) and citizenship education across all year groups. The range of skills and knowledge within these subjects is designed to equip our pupils for life within our school community and enhance their options and outcomes in the future. Each term will focus on one of the three subjects.

Year 7

The first term will focus on Judaism, with aspects of Christianity also included. Pupils discuss and debate key beliefs and figures, using the whole school structured debate strategies.

These debate skills will also be used in PSHE as they explore the personal topic of self-esteem, the social topic of cyber-bullying, the health related topic of puberty and the important current issue of forced marriage. All of the content is developed from the IMATTER programme, created by the NHS and Manchester Council to ensure all information is up to date and relevant to our pupils.

During citizenship lessons, pupils will be introduced to political systems such as the liberty of democracy, the role of government and the process of voting and elections. Throughout, they will be encouraged to build an understanding of their role in different communities and develop a sense of being a citizen.

Year 8

The first term will focus on Hinduism and the spiritual, moral and cultural aspects of the religion. Through learning about the origins, belief systems and different gods, pupils will develop an understanding of character and consequence.

In PSHE, pupils will learn the skills of being assertive and the importance of applying these skills in their online relationships. The personal aspect of consent will be explored next; focusing on being able to be in control of different relationships and situations. Pupils will also be introduced to contraception. Finally, the important social issue of FGM (female genital mutilation) will be addressed through a professional external agency to ensure the content is sensitive, supportive and appropriate for our pupils.

Citizenship will cover the rules and laws of our justice system, including the role of the police and law enforcement. Alongside opportunities outside of the classroom, pupils will understand the importance of volunteering and community collaboration. At this stage, we expect pupils to understand how their behaviour and character affects the community around them. Extremism and radicalisation will also start to be part of the citizenship curriculum.

Year 9

Year 9 will start with exploring the existence of God, creation and the variety of ways religious and non-religious people apply this to their way of lives. Pupils will be encouraged to compare similar and contrasting beliefs and encouraged to articulate their personal opinions and awareness of religion in their own lives.

PSHE will start with emotional health: what it is and the importance of maintaining it. The social topic of 'sexting' will give pupils an understanding of the legal, emotional and social consequences and provide avenues for support and advice. Contraception will be explored further focussing on sexually transmitted diseases. Grooming and child sexual exploitation will be the final topic, again ensuring pupils are aware of the signs and know how to seek help and support.

In Year 9, pupils will start to look more in depth at their role as a citizen and essential skills for their future. Money management will be a focus, as will their future responsibilities to take part in local, national and international political processes. They will revisit the liberty of living in a democracy in order to compare it with realities of living in a non-democratic state and how that affects human rights. Extremism and radicalisation will be studied further ensuring our pupils are aware of signs, consequences and know who to go to for help.

Year 10

The primary religions of focus will be the two biggest religions in the world, Christianity and Islam. Throughout key stage 4 we will be exploring the history, traditions, beliefs and practices of these religions. This will ensure that we are preparing our young people to enter the world with the necessary skills and knowledge to interact with people of different religions and cultures.

PSHE will continue with the IMATTER programme. Topics on wellbeing will cover mental health including depression and anxiety. Online relationships will explore how gender and sexuality is portrayed in the media, and the consequences of pornography. Understanding relationships will make pupils aware of the signs of an abusive relationship, the laws around sexual consent and the need or readiness for sexual relationships. Online issues such as radicalisation and extremism will be looked at in more depth by looking at local and national case studies.

Citizenship will explore the UK's relationship with Europe, the Commonwealth, the UN and the wider world. This will include understanding the diverse religious and ethnic aspects of these communities and the need for mutual respect and understanding. Opportunities for active citizenship will be increased in and outside of school so pupils can demonstrate their character and role within the community. Careers advice will also be a focus to ensure all pupils are happy and driven for their life after leaving DTA.