



PSHE at The Acorns School

At Acorns School we feel the importance of personal and social education is paramount to enabling learners to develop independence and address some of the barriers to learning experienced by the young people attending our school.

We do this by delivering PSHE in small mixed ability classes in both KS3 and KS4. There are two opportunities for PSHE to be delivered during the timetabled form time each day, during which learners explore relevant topics and issues within their teaching group supervised by pastoral support via their form tutor and keyworker. This teaching structure enables sensitive issues to be discussed and addressed within a nurturing environment. These topics are taught alongside weekly Lifeskills lessons. Lifeskills lessons have been designed to promote independence and include aspects of food hygiene, home & financial management and emotional wellbeing. PHSE also takes into account wider key issues and has focus sessions on eating disorders week, world mental health day, alcohol awareness, road safety week etc.

Key Stage Three

PSHE topics taught include drugs education, personal finance, personal action planning, emotional wellbeing, personal safety and sex and relationships. These topics are derived from the KS4 PSHE specification and enable scaffolding of learning opportunities for those learners that are at the school for a longer period of time.

Key Stage Four

Learners follow the AQA Level 1/2 QCF Award or Certificate in Personal and Social Education specification. Completion of 4 units of work enables the Award to be achieved whilst 7 completed units are required to achieve the Certificate. Individual units completed can also be recognised with credit certificates if the learner fails to complete the required number of units. There is no examination at the end of this course as assessment is purely through the completion of a portfolio of work.

Reviewed September 2019