

Curriculum Intent

Curriculum Vision | Personal Development

The purpose of the NKS Personal Development curriculum is to develop students' character skills so they can make informed decisions and live fulfilled lives. Personal Development supports character development through learning about Health and Well-being, Relationships, Living in the Wider World, Economic Well-being and Careers. In addition, our curriculum is responsive to the needs of the students, school, local and wider communities.

Evidence shows that Personal Development can improve both the academic and non-academic outcomes for students, particularly the most vulnerable and disadvantaged. As such, our curriculum addresses social disadvantage as well as being a subject through which pupils develop the knowledge, skills and attributes they need to keep themselves healthy and safe and prepare for life in modern Britain and the wider world. Our curriculum is linked directly to the whole-school ethos at NKS and we incorporate the school's policies on anti-bullying, drugs, careers, inclusion and behaviour. We also facilitate the expertise we have in-house *i.e.* using the Careers Officer to deliver lessons or provide relevant resources thereby ensuring our students benefit from the most up to date information available.

The purpose of studying Personal Development at NKS is to educate our students how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way. As they seek to embrace the challenges of creating a happy and successful adult life, students need knowledge that will enable them to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships and to build their self-efficacy.

We aim to empower them with that knowledge helping them to prepare for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life and through doing so promote the spiritual, moral, social, cultural, mental and physical development of our students, at school and in society.

We teach the subject with respect for students' backgrounds and beliefs and we continually strive to adapt our content and delivery to ensure our students are well-equipped to deal with changing trends in society. In addition to the continuous risk areas of drugs, alcohol, intimate relationships and sex, we prioritise areas that emerge to have a significant impact on society *i.e.* knife crime and mental health.

We place high importance on issues that affect the students locally. Living in Kent raises the ongoing issues surrounding migrants and Ashford in particular has had to adapt to meet the needs of people, migrants and refugees arriving at Dover and along the south coast. With its close proximity to London, Ashford also has ongoing issues with county lines and a rapidly expanding housing programme to meet the needs of an expanding population, a large percentage of which is London overspill.

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