

LJFS Citizenship and Politics curriculum intent

At LJFS, students undertake a dynamic programme of Citizenship and Political education to equip them with the knowledge and skills to succeed as an active citizen of the United Kingdom and the world. Citizenship is a subject which aims to develop rigorous and enquiring minds, supporting students' academic attainment across disciplines and benefitting their development of life skills. In the digital age, students are bombarded by more information than ever before, and have to navigate a media full of fake news, bias, prejudice and disinformation. Our curriculum is designed to develop confident and reflective learners who are capable of researching facts, weighing opinions and forming their own evidence-based judgements about current affairs. Whether or not students choose to take GCSE Citizenship, they will all leave LJFS to go onto be adult citizens of the UK with the right to and responsibility of voting. We believe it is vital that students are equipped with the knowledge to make responsible political decisions, whatever their personal preferences or beliefs, and this is why we teach Citizenship and Politics to all students at KS3. The Citizenship curriculum is based on a mastery of key concepts in British politics including sovereignty, constitutional monarchy, representative democracy, elections and participation. This is a very "living" and dynamic syllabus that encourages students to work with the teacher in responding to rapid changes in current affairs.

KS3 overview

Citizenship and Political education takes place as part of a rotating cycle of career-based and real-world skills teaching at KS3. In year 7, students take the module 'Understanding our Democracy' where they are introduced to key concepts such as identity, democracy, migration, British values and multiculturalism. In this year, they develop critical thinking skills through the study of statistics, their meaning and manipulation. Building on this context, in year 8, students learn about 'Contributing to Society' across lessons which will guide them in building digital research skills. Key topics include the rule of law, universal human rights and justice. Finally, at year 9, students learn about the institutions of British politics by studying 'Participating in Politics'. Developing debating skills through small-group and full-class debates, they will encounter the monarchy, Parliament, political parties, elections and petitions.

KS4 overview

There are four main themes taught throughout the GCSE course: Life in Modern Britain, Rights and Responsibilities, Politics and Participation and Active Citizenship. The first theme, 'Life in Modern Britain', looks at the make-up and dynamics of contemporary society, what it means to be British, as well as the role of the media and the UK's responsibilities on the world stage. The second theme, 'Rights and Responsibilities', looks at the nature of laws, rights and responsibilities within the UK. Building on the global thinking developed during the first theme, in 'Rights and Responsibilities', students continue to build a global outlook through studying international laws, treaties and agreements by which the UK abides. The third theme, 'Politics and Participation',

aims to give the student, through an understanding of the political process, the knowledge and skills necessary to understand how to resolve issues, bring about change, and become an empowered citizen ready to engage with democracy. Finally, 'Active Citizenship' allows students to take an informed action to address a citizenship issue or question of concern, aimed at delivering a benefit or change for a particular community or wider society. This theme develops learning of key concepts from across the other units, such as the role of pressure groups in promoting active citizenship, and gives students the opportunity to implement their learning in a more practical environment and demonstrate their Citizenship skills as an empowered and responsible citizen. Previous year groups have developed real-world projects linked to Leeds local politics, the school community and international humanitarian aid.