

BOLDON SCHOOL

CITIZENSHIP

In Boldon School, education in citizenship is recognised as a necessary part of a young person's full educational entitlement.

- It gives students the knowledge, skills and understanding to play an effective role in society at local, national and international levels.
- It helps them to become informed, thoughtful and responsible citizens who are aware of their duties and rights.
- It promotes their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, making them more self-confident and responsible both in and beyond the classroom.
- It encourages students to pay a helpful part in the life of their schools, neighbourhoods, communities and the wider world.
- It also teaches them about our economy and democratic institutions and values; encourages respect for different national, religious and ethnic identities; and develops pupils' ability to reflect on issues and take part in discussions.

(Adapted from The National Curriculum Handbook for secondary teachers in England, 1999, QCA/99/458, page 183)

It should engage young people at the following three interrelated levels.

- Gaining knowledge and understanding about becoming informed citizens.
- Developing skills of enquiry and communication.
- Developing skills of participation and responsible action.

Aims

The aim of citizenship in Boldon school is to enable young people to

- gain knowledge and understanding about the basis of cultural heritage and the development of different communities through a cross-curricular input and community involvement
- develop their self confidence and their decision-making skills
- enquire about the difference, injustices, rights and responsibilities within their own and the wider community
- gain an appreciation of the necessary part they play within the community of our school and how this is reflected in the wider community
- learn about institutions, issues, problems and practices in our democracy.

The Delivery of Citizenship Education

Citizenship education will be delivered according to the requirements of the National Curriculum programmes of study at Key Stages 3 and 4. The main aim will be to ensure that students reach, according to their ability, the levels of understanding as stated in the National Curriculum descriptor for the end of Key Stage 3, which is as follows.

'By the end of Key Stage 3 most pupils will

- have a broad knowledge and understanding of the topical events that they study, the rights, responsibilities and duties of citizens, the role of the voluntary sector, forms of government, provision of public services and the criminal and legal systems
- show understanding of how the public gets information, how opinion is formed and expressed, including through the media and how and why changes take place in society
- take part in school and community based activities, demonstrating personal and group responsibility in their attitudes to themselves and others'.

Opportunities for students to experience active involvement in decision-making in school will be provided via the student council or year council.

The teaching of citizenship education will

- involve both active and interactive strategies within the classroom
- include a variety of media in order to present issues
- involve cross-agency working
- recognise the different ways in which students learn
- take into account these different learning styles
- include individual, group and whole-class teaching as and when appropriate.