

Curriculum intentions 2026-27

Year	Theme	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4	Unit 5
7	Embracing Change	Making changes - a short transition unit focussing on resilience and independence.	Changing Relationships - building on what students learnt at Key Stage 2, this unit explores healthy relationships, different types of families and relationships and the concept of consent.	Our Changing Bodies - – students will learn about puberty, how male and female bodies change as we age, menstruation and self-advocacy and FGM.	Online Safety - students will learn about how data is gathered, stored and used, how to be critical of what they view online and how to keep themselves safe online, including how to report issues and where to get support.	Religions and morality - developing on the Key Stage 2 Religious Studies curriculum, students will explore the key teachings, beliefs and customs of the main world religions, and consider the concept of morality.
8	Understanding the World We Live In	Diversity and Tolerance - students will acquire an understanding of the diverse community, country and world that we live in, the forms that prejudice and discrimination can take and the impact that it can have.	Influences - students will look at a range of positive and negative influences, both in real life and online, and how they can assess risk and keep themselves safe.	Drugs, alcohol and gangs - students will acquire and understanding of the different types of legal and illegal substances, the risks they pose, the law around possession and distribution and about habit, addiction and dependency. They will also explore issues around gangs, knife crime and group think, and how to keep themselves safe.	Online Safety - students will explore the benefits and dangers of social media and learn how to be critical consumers and keep themselves and their data safe.	Global perspectives and beliefs - students will explore a range of ethical issues, such as abortion, euthanasia and the death penalty, looking at what different groups believe as well as what the law says.

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9	Making Safe and Informed Choices	RSE - students will acquire an understanding how to make safe choices in intimate, romantic and sexual relationships, covering unplanned pregnancy, contraception, STIs and consent.	Healthy living - students will develop their understanding of what makes a healthy body and mind, learn about the importance of self-examination, screening and vaccinations and immunisations.	Choices at school and work - as a precursor to students selecting their GCSE options, this unit encourages students to identify their strengths and weaknesses, interests and introduces them to a range of careers and post-16 pathways. Students will also learn about budgeting and basic finances.	Online Safety - students will explore how their digital footprint can be used and how they can ensure that what they post/view online will not be detrimental in their futures.	Perceptions of the self - students will explore how individuals and groups can become targeted, exploited and radicalised and how to critically evaluate information to ensure they are making safe choices.
10	Developing Independence	Personal finance - students will develop on their understanding of budgeting and basic finance learnt in Year 9, and learn about income and tax, mortgages and loans, planning for their financial future and the risks of gambling.	Careers - students will explore a range of employment sectors and the skills and qualifications that different careers require. They will also evaluate their own skills and interests as they start to consider their next steps.	Relationships - students will recap core knowledge on consent and how to make safe choices in intimate, romantic and sexual relationships, and then deepen their understanding of how to assess the health of a relationship, exploring methods of communication, misogyny and incel culture and the impact of porn on relationships and body image.	Philosophy and Ethics - students will be introduced to the concept of philosophy, learn about some key philosophers and consider ethical debates such as medical ethics and animal rights.	Citizenship and politics - students will develop their understanding of how the country is run and their responsibilities and rights as a UK citizen.

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11	Moving forward	Next Steps - this unit prepares students to research, evaluate and apply for their next steps after their GCSEs.	Relationships and health - students will look at a range of healthy coping strategies, with particular focus on exam stress, as well as consolidate their understanding of healthy relationships and how to keep themselves safe.	Citizenship and online safety - students will develop their critical thinking skills and how to identify and protect themselves from misinformation, disinformation and media stereotyping and bias.	Intervention	Exams