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PSHE at Dorothy Stringer

Dorothy Stringer is a vibrant and cheerful community of approximately 1640 pupils and 150 staff in East Sussex. We feel we are very fortunate to have discrete PSHE time, which reflects the ethos of the school which has a strong personal and social development dimension permeating across the whole school and curriculum. All pupils benefit from an hour a week from a dedicated team of PSHE teachers who specialize and have a keen interest in the more 'delicate' areas of the PSHE curriculum that are contained in the national curriculum. More importantly our teachers like teaching PSHE.

Programmes

We base our programme around themes of self and careers, environmental education, drug education, citizenship, first aid and sex & relationship education. These themes run through all the years and are revisited and built on each year, providing a progressive and balanced approach to PSHE.

Our programme is a cohesive one based on the needs of our pupils. We use many sources to aid planning including the SHEU Health Related Behaviour Survey, relevant local and national news items, current thought and opinion and the views and opinions of our pupils.

We endeavour to make all topics have a variety of teaching and learning styles to meet all the needs of pupils: many lessons

are highly active. We feel all this is vitally important to creating a programme that inspires young people to engage with PSHE, particularly at a time when health and wellbeing is at the forefront of the educational agenda.

PSHE and pupils

On the whole we feel that our pupils enjoy attending their PSHE lessons. Most pupils come prepared to work individually, in groups and as a class. Particular favourites of our pupils are the fluids/sexually transmitted infections transmission lesson and the 'speed dating' lesson.

Guest speakers are also very popular and we try to have at least one or two speakers per year group. Outside speakers often have the ability to really bring home a message about a particular topic that sometimes teachers can not without sounding like we're lecturing them. We have an extremely good Police Liaison Officer who makes the lessons informative but fun and relevant.

I really enjoy teaching PSHE at Dorothy Stringer as I feel that pupils are receptive and staff are willing. I feel able to adapt and change the programme as required without feeling worried about the consequences, as I know if it works we'll continue doing it and if it doesn't, well; we'll review it, identify the issues and try a different approach. It is always good if you feel you are doing something useful - and I do!

WRITE ABOUT YOUR PSHE TEACHING EXPERIENCES

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