



Eden Park Academy
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Psychology Subject Policy

Current Offering

We currently teach the AQA Psychology half GCSE due to time constraints. It is hoped that in the period 2016-17 we will be offering a full GCSE to students and the other half of the GCSE to those who completed Unit 1 in this academic year. Topics covered include memory, non-verbal communication, personality, stereotypes and research methods.

Why it is included in the curriculum.

Psychology is a popular subject which is attractive to students because it develops a range of valuable skills, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research. These skills are particularly relevant to young people and are transferable to further study and the workplace.

Our qualification offers students an engaging and stimulating introduction to the study of psychology, combined with the academic integrity and skills that Higher Education and employers value. Psychology is not taught anywhere else in the area at GCSE level so therefore gives our students a unique advantage over other students in the area.

The objectives of teaching Psychology in our school are:

- To provide a sound understanding of methods and approaches in Psychology at an introductory level.
- To illustrate these methods and approaches through various topic areas representing the core areas of social, cognitive, developmental, biological and individual differences.
- To develop investigation and report writing skills.
- To develop analytical and critical thinking skills.
- To encourage an appreciation of how science works.
- To provide a strong basis for progression to A-level Psychology.

Teaching and Learning Style

We use a variety of teaching and learning styles in our psychology lessons. We believe in tailored teaching methods, and we combine these with enquiry-based activities. We encourage young people to ask as well as answer questions related to Psychology. We offer students the opportunity to use ICT in Psychology lessons where this serves to enhance their learning.



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We recognise the fact that there are young people of widely different abilities in classes, and we provide suitable learning opportunities for all students by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the young person. We achieve this by:

- setting tasks which are open-ended and can have a variety of responses;
- setting tasks of increasing difficulty;
- providing resources of different complexity, according to the ability of the young person.

Psychology curriculum planning

The school uses the New National Curriculum as the basis of its curriculum planning. The scheme has been adapted to the local circumstances of the school in that we use local and relevant experiential examples within lessons. This is to underline our own humanity and to support young people to gain from their own personal experience and the teachers experiences. Our curriculum planning is in three phases (long-term, medium-term and short-term).

Assessment for learning

Young people demonstrate their ability in psychology in a variety of different ways. The teacher will assess their work by making informal judgements during lessons. On completion of a piece of work, the teacher assesses the work and uses this information to plan future learning. Written or verbal feedback is given to the young person to help guide his or her progress in line with the school marking policy. Students are also given exam type questions at the end of each new area of learning and sit an exam at the end of the course.

SMSC

European Dimension AQA has taken account of the 1988 Resolution of the Council of the European Community in preparing this specification and associated specimen units. Environmental Education AQA has taken account of the 1988 Resolution of the Council of the European Community and the Report “Environmental Responsibility: An Agenda for Further and Higher Education” 1993 in preparing this specification and associated specimen units. Avoidance of Bias AQA has taken great care in the preparation of this specification and specimen units to avoid bias of any kind.

- acquire knowledge and understanding of how psychology works and its essential role in society
- develop an understanding of the relationship between psychology and social, cultural, scientific and contemporary issues and its impact on everyday life
- develop an understanding of ethical issues in psychology



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- develop an understanding of the contribution of psychology to individual, social and cultural diversity
- develop a critical approach to scientific evidence and methods.

Development

The study of GCSE Psychology allows students the basis to progress into A Level Psychology.

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Next update Sept 2017.