

Curriculum Intent Statement

Sociology

“The function of sociology, as of every science, is to reveal that which is hidden” – Pierre Bourdieu

Aims

The intent of our Sociology curriculum is to transmit that Sociology is exciting, interesting, and relevant to all pupils' lives. At Stocksbridge we have pupils from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences, however one commonality is that our pupils show a curiosity about the world and an openness to debate and opinion. We aim to give our pupils a greater understanding of the world, exploring questions on how and why society is structured the way it is, and could it be better? Pupils have opportunities to explore the statistics, theories, and solutions of social problems on both a global and local scale. For example, analysis of crime figures for Stocksbridge and Sheffield compared to the UK and other countries. Studying Sociology at Stocksbridge will foster an awareness of social, political, and economic changes in society and their impact. The course is designed and delivered to nurture thoughtful and motivated young people, who can act responsibly as active citizens, and who believe in their ability to change their community for the better.

Content

The curriculum is mapped from the Eduqas GCSE specification that enables pupils to build a sociological vocabulary, via an introduction to how sociologists study society and sociological theory, through to challenging debates about culture, socialisation, families, education, crime and inequality. Each topic makes links to previous content, allowing pupils knowledge to grow sequentially. For example, when studying crime and deviance, the impact of socialisation in the family on antisocial behaviour is analysed, thus creating clear building blocks for effective learning. Theoretical sociology and key thinkers present pupils with intellectually challenging ideas and concepts to develop essential skills of critical thinking.

Pupils will gain a holistic and critical appreciation of Sociology through use of a range of teaching strategies that promote independent, pupil-led learning and active learning, such as well-structured debates and discussions and practical activities to deepen pupils understanding and enjoyment, whilst building core skills. A key focus of the curriculum is active engagement in Sociological research and pupils will complete independent research tasks, solidifying their research skills. Pupils also can apply their learning to current events and topics in the real-world cementing engagement in the subject.

We hope pupils leave with deep Sociological knowledge and understanding, as well as strategic skills such as the ability to interpret and analyse different sources of data and weigh up evidence, which are necessary for success in all social science A 'levels and a broad range of careers. Overall, we hope that studying Sociology at Stockbridge will lead students to become critically thinking, tolerant, all-rounded, active members of society.