

What is character education?

Character Education refers to explicit and implicit efforts to develop virtues and ethical values in our students. The underlying principle in character education is to develop a set of positive personal traits, dispositions and virtues that informs students' motivation and guides their conduct so that they reflect wisely, learn eagerly, behave with integrity and cooperate consistently well with others. This gives pupils the qualities they need to flourish in our society. At Nether Stowe, character education is embedded across our curriculum, through '**A PROUDER way**' culture and co-curricular activities.

Why is character education important?

The choices an individual makes determines their future, and the purpose of developing good character is the ability to make good choices. Character allows us to flourish as individuals, and as a wider society.

We ARE Nether Stowe Curriculum'

At Nether Stowe we are very proud of our personal development curriculum. We believe that it gives our students a solid grounding in all areas of their lives and supports their development into successful members of our wider community.

An integral part of this education is the **personal, social, cultural, health** and **careers** curriculum. This also includes RSE (**relationships and sex education**) as defined by the Government to be delivered from September 2020. We call this curriculum '**We ARE Nether Stowe**'.

At Nether Stowe we follow a recommended program developed by the PSHE association. This is reviewed constantly and adapted to the needs of our students. We ask that parents support the curriculum by having conversations with their children regularly regarding topics such as online safety, healthy lifestyles and the importance of healthy and safe relationships that ensure that all young people feel valued and happy.

PSHE at all key stages aims to support our students' personal development by:

- Raising awareness
- Promoting discussion
- Signposting advice & Guidance

Students follow a spiral curriculum as outlined [here](#).

Within this program students have fortnightly exposure to quality careers based content and wider opportunities to explore potential careers and aspirations. Students have access to a comprehensively planned program of activities in both lessons and form time, which help to develop their character and build their resilience. Within this carefully planned programme students explore *British Values* as well as developing their **spiritual** and **moral** awareness and understanding.

The purpose of this spiral curriculum is to provide knowledge and understanding of safe and healthy relationships based on respect. The subject is designed to help young people from all backgrounds build positive and safe relationships, and to thrive in modern Britain.

Students will participate in activities led both by both their tutors and external professionals. They will be signposted to additional services and sources of information and are supported within school at any time should they need further guidance. Parents are informed of support and guidance via our safeguarding items in our half termly parents' newsletter and through our social media.

Relationship, Sex and Health

Leaders in the Arthur Terry Learning Partnership (ATLP) Secondary Schools understand the importance of educating pupils about sex, relationships and their health, for them to make responsible and well-informed decisions in their lives.

The teaching of RSE and health education can help to prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. It allows us to promote the spiritual, moral, social, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at school and in the wider society.

The ATLP has an obligation to provide pupils with high-quality, evidence and age-appropriate teaching of these subjects. This policy outlines how the school's RSE and health education curriculum will be organised and delivered, to ensure it meets the needs of all pupils.

Our programme is taught as part of the PSHCE and science curriculum, which should help develop personal moral values and mutual respect, thereby preparing children for family life in the community.

Click on the link here to access the [ATLP Relationship, Sex and Health Education Policy](#)

Click here to access government guidance on [Understanding Relationships, Sex and Health Education at your child's secondary school: a guide for parents](#)

There is no right to withdraw from relationships education at secondary level and we believe the content of this curriculum – such as family, friendship, safety (including online safety) – are important for all children to be taught.

**You do have a right to withdraw your child from sex education delivered as part of RSE in secondary schools which, unless there are exceptional circumstances, will be granted up to three terms before your child turns 16. At this point, if the child themselves wishes to receive sex education rather than be withdrawn, the school should make arrangements for this to happen in one of the three terms before the child turns 16 – the legal age of sexual consent*

The 'We Are Nether Stowe' sessions are delivered by the Tutor which is a significant strength of the programme. The tutor knows their students well, developing positive and supportive relationships and enabling students to feel secure and confident when discussing their opinions and seeking further support.