

Woodbridge School CITIZENSHIP

Policy

Citizenship education at Woodbridge aims to equip pupils with the knowledge, skills and understanding to play an effective role in public life, as well as to encourage them to take an interest in topical and controversial issues and to engage in discussion and debate. Pupils learn about their rights, responsibilities, duties and freedoms and about laws, justice and democracy.

We also place great stress on recognising different countries' national days, including our own, with the correct national or regional flag up the school mast, to draw students' attention to the observance.

Citizenship at Woodbridge encourages respect for different national, religious and ethnic identities. It equips pupils to engage critically with and explore diverse ideas, beliefs, cultures and identities and the values we share as citizens in the UK. Pupils begin to understand how society has changed and is changing in the UK, Europe and the wider world.

Citizenship also addresses issues relating to social justice, human rights, community cohesion and global interdependence, and encourages pupils to challenge injustice, inequalities and discrimination. The Schools' Debating Society performs a crucial role here. Debating helps young people to develop their critical skills, consider a wide range of political, social, ethical and moral problems, and explore opinions and ideas other than their own. They evaluate information, make informed judgements and reflect on the consequences of their actions now and in the future. They learn to argue a case on behalf of others as well as themselves and speak out on issues of concern.

Citizenship aims to provide pupils with the knowledge and skills needed for effective and democratic participation. It helps pupils to become informed, critical, active citizens who have the confidence and conviction to work collaboratively, take action and try to make a difference in their communities and the wider world.

Procedures

Citizenship tuition is delivered in tutorial time via tutors. The Head of Citizenship alerts tutors to the issues to be covered the following week with an email the week before. This enables tutors to plan their sessions and discuss the issues and countries in question during that week's tutorials.

Disciplinary issues arising during Citizenship education will be dealt with by tutors in conjunction with their Housemaster or Housemistress. Any problems are sorted out by the pastoral staff in a fair manner and this enables Citizenship tuition to proceed smoothly.

The Debating Society holds internal debates open to all pupils in the school on a fortnightly basis in the Michaelmas and Lent Terms, though in the summer term this stops as pupils have exams to focus on. The Head of Citizenship runs the Debating Society, and the Debating Committee, which chooses the motions and topics for debate, is Sixth Form only. Debates, though, are open to the whole school.

Mr B T Greatorrex, Head of Citizenship.

Checked by M R Streat 10/10/09