

Citizenship at The Cavendish School

'We should not, must not, dare not, be complacent about the health and future of British democracy. Unless we become a nation of engaged citizens, our democracy is not secure.'
Lord Irvine of Laird, Lord Chancellor, 1998

Citizenship education at The Cavendish School develops the knowledge, skills and understanding that pupils need to play a full part in society as active and responsible citizens. Citizenship develops awareness and understanding of democracy, government and how laws are made and upheld. It equips pupils with the skills and knowledge to explore political and social issues, weigh evidence, debate and make reasoned arguments. It also prepares pupils to take their place in society as responsible citizens, manage their money well and make sound financial decisions. Respect and British Values underpin teaching and these values are embedded in the ethos of the whole school. We expect positive outcomes for our pupils both academically and socially so they are equipped for a wider society. As a result of studying Citizenship, our pupils are prepared for adulthood and ready to be fully involved as active citizens in local, national and global communities.

Developing Key Skills and Knowledge through Participation in Citizenship

The Cavendish School recognises the importance of Citizenship Education. Citizenship is delivered through the following subjects: PSHE, PLG, Careers, EHCP outcomes and the IB curriculum. Our objective at Key Stages 3 and 4 is not only to adhere to the curriculum but also to meet the very specific needs of pupils in our care at The Cavendish School, and prepare them for their future as active members of our community. We feel that it is important to include all pupils in a democratic process through an active citizenship programme which includes mock elections, the School Council, leadership roles around the school, participation in designing and setting up clubs, pupil voice, and the Active Citizenship project at KS4.

During KS3, pupils study and discuss current political topics both at a local and national level and look at social and cultural issues. They are taught how to participate in a democratic process and to be assertive and respectful whilst voicing their opinions. They are encouraged to be active members of the school community, participating in assemblies and the Community Café. Through the IB curriculum, pupils are also becoming aware of issues at a global level, and learning to become responsible citizens within their local, national and global communities.

During KS4, pupils continue to study current political, social and cultural issues, deepening their knowledge, skills and understanding. GCSE Citizenship Studies has the power to motivate and enable young people to become thoughtful, active citizens. Students gain a deeper knowledge of democracy, government and law, and develop skills to create sustained and reasoned arguments, present various viewpoints and plan practical citizenship actions to benefit society. They also gain the ability to recognise bias, critically evaluate argument, weigh evidence and look for alternative interpretations and sources of evidence, all of which are essential skills valued by higher education and employers. In KS4 we aim to develop the skills of enquiry and communication through independent and group research and by analysing information and statistics. We expect KS4 pupils to continue to participate in our active citizenship programme and to develop their leadership skills acting as role models for younger students.

KS4 Units:

- Life in Modern Britain
- Rights and Responsibilities
- Politics and Participation
- Active Citizenship Project
- Citizenship Skills, Processes and Methods

School priorities and vision

As an International Baccalaureate School, our school has a variety of values that we feel are essential to our students' development and journey with us. These are:



The Citizenship curriculum is designed to incorporate all aspects of our IB learning statements in order to create well rounded students. At the end of their school journey, our students will be:

- **Knowledgeable** about themselves and the world around them. They will have the knowledge to support an informed view on local, national and global issues, and to participate in British democracy as adults.
- **Reflective** on their own place in the world and how their actions and beliefs influence it.
- **Moral** when considering their impact on the world, and how they promote or respond to the impact of others.
- Able to **celebrate difference** when learning about the diversity of communities, approaches, perspectives and cultures; able to make others feel safe and secure to discuss topics respectfully.
- **Thinking** hard about complex and controversial topics, and making connections between Citizenship and other subjects.
- **Caring** towards the world they live in and how their actions impact others, directly or indirectly; eager to take their place as Active Citizens with an essential role to play.
- Able to **communicate** their ideas using Citizenship terminology and essay conventions.
- Able to give a **balanced** view on a debate taking different types of evidence into account.
- Confident in **inquiring**, using an analytical method to investigate ideas, research and evaluate evidence, and synthesise a justified conclusion.
- **Courageous** in learning new skills, stretching their resilience and participating fully in Active Citizenship activities.