

Pastoral Curriculum Ambition Statement

Our pastoral curriculum aims to empower and equip our young people at Downlands with the essential qualities and skills they need to thrive in the ever-changing world. We are dedicated to fostering our foundational principles of our ROCKS policy (Resilience, Optimism, Community Focus, Kindness, and Self-Awareness) and PACE framework (Pedagogy, Ambition, Coherence, Equity), which form the bedrock of our approach.

Through our pastoral curriculum, we provide diverse opportunities for students to develop and strengthen these core attributes, fostering kind relationships and meaningful connections. We believe that cultivating these skills is not only vital for their time at school but also for their future endeavours as responsible citizens. By engaging in cultural, creative, charitable, sporting, and leadership activities, our students actively contribute to the school and wider community, creating a positive impact and fostering stronger connections.

We understand that each student is unique and possesses unlimited potential. Therefore, we have developed a character passport to ensure that all students have the opportunity to experience as many activities as possible, encouraging kind interactions and fostering deeper relationships.

The ROCKS and PACE principles form the foundation of our pastoral curriculum, which evolves year after year. We have designed a clear roadmap for each year group, outlining the specific objectives and milestones they will work towards. By following this roadmap, students and parents/carers can track their progress and witness their personal development both academically and socially. This fosters a sense of value and appreciation for the curriculum among both students and staff, further strengthening the connections within our school community.

In Key Stage 3, our primary aim is to foster a strong sense of community within the year group and extend it to the entire school, emphasizing the importance of kind relationships and meaningful connections. We prioritize various aspects of student development, such as study skills, transition support, mental health awareness, and building empathetic connections with others. Through this comprehensive pastoral program, students are encouraged to explore and appreciate different aspects of character, fostering self-awareness, kindness, and empathy towards others.

In Key Stage 4, we expand our focus to encourage students to forge connections beyond the school, actively engaging with the wider community. Through reflection, they develop a deeper understanding of how they can positively contribute to society, reinforcing the importance of kind relationships and community connections. We provide opportunities for them to apply their knowledge of character by mentoring and guiding younger students within the school. Additionally, we emphasize the development of academic study skills, mindfulness, careers, and well-being, ensuring students are equipped to achieve their full potential when they leave Downlands and continue to foster kind relationships and meaningful connections throughout their lives.

Our pastoral curriculum serves as an invaluable platform for personal growth, promoting academic excellence, social development, and the cultivation of kind relationships and meaningful connections. By instilling these values and skills in our young people, we aim to foster resilient, optimistic, community-oriented, kind, self-aware, ambitious individuals with high moral values. We want our students to possess unwavering self-esteem and take pride in their achievements, prepared to positively impact society and unlock their full potential, irrespective of their past experiences or background, while fostering a strong sense of belonging and meaningful connections within our school community.