

Psychology Policy

Whitefriars School



Approved by: SLT
Effective from: September 2022
Review date: September 2022
Next Review Date: July 2023

Intent



Article 29: *Your right to become the best that you can be.*

Pupils will develop critical analysis, independent thinking and research skills in the field of Psychology.

Pupils will learn scientific ideas, processes, techniques and procedures. Pupils will then learn how to apply that knowledge and understanding and utilise it to analyse, interpret and evaluate psychological theories and explanations.

Pupils will learn and discuss the factors that influence human behaviour and analyse the causes as to why humans behave in certain ways. Pupils will develop an interest, enthusiasm and curiosity for the subject as it links the factors that affect their own lives.

Implementation



Article 28: *Your right to learn and go to school.*

A-level

Pupils have the option of studying Psychology for one of their A-Levels. A-Level exam boards provide a lot of choice for schools regarding the content to be covered. The modules chosen reflect the interests of our pupils.

The modules taught include approaches in psychology, debates in psychology, social psychology, cognitive psychology, developmental psychology, psychopathology, biopsychology and research methods. The optional modules taught include relationships, gender, cognition, schizophrenia, eating behaviour, stress, aggression and forensic psychology. The optional modules allow for pupils to study the topics of their interest.

In the curriculum the pupils will learn about a variety of relevant psychological theories and explanations. Whilst doing so they will consider current case studies that are appearing on the news and in current topical discussion.

Extra-Curricular

Pupils visit the Freud Museum to deepen learning and understanding about psychoanalysis. The pupils have a guided tour of Sigmund Freud's London house followed with a "Introducing Freud" workshop which includes information on his life and work.

Pupils visit Monkey World Ape Rescue Centre in Dorset. This trip explores and consolidates animal studies of attachment which is a component of Developmental Psychology Unit. The students have a Primate Behaviour lecture followed by the opportunity to explore the rescue centre and do some behaviour observation.

Implementation – Skills

	Research Methods and Research Skills	Analysing and Interpreting Data	Communication	Application of Scientific Ideas
Years 12 and 13	<p>Develop knowledge and understanding in many different scientific methods. Demonstrate understanding in relation to research – including how psychologists design, implement and analyse research using a variety of methods.</p> <p>Comprehend the research that is conducted to test theories using a variety of quantitative and qualitative methods.</p>	<p>Understand and use mathematical concepts in psychology.</p> <p>Develop competence and confidence in a variety of mathematical and problem-solving skills.</p>	<p>Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, processes, techniques and procedures.</p> <p>Communicate evidence of analysis, interpretation and evaluation of scientific information, ideas and evidence.</p>	<p>Apply knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, processes, techniques and procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in a theoretical context • in a practical context • when handling qualitative data • when handling quantitative data.

Implementation – Content



Article 13: *Your right to have information.*

	Half Terms 1, 2 and 3	Half Terms 4, 5 and 6
Year 12	Introductory Subjects in Psychology	Psychology in Context
Year 13	Issues and Options in Psychology	

Implementation – A-Level Psychology (AQA)

Component Title	Content Overview
Introductory topics in psychology 33.3% 2 hours written paper	Social influence Memory Attachment Psychopathology
Psychology in context 33.3% 2 hours written paper	Approaches in psychology Biopsychology Research methods
Issues and options in psychology 33.3% 2 hours written paper	You will choose one from each option below Option 1: relationships, gender, cognition and development Option 2: schizophrenia, eating behaviour, stress Option 3: aggression, forensic psychology, addiction

Impact

Teacher questioning about and after all explanations, using techniques to ensure that all pupils are included in the questioning, allows the teacher to assess the level of understanding of their teaching. This allows future explanations to be planned during lessons. This keeps pupils at the point of learning.

Teacher guiding of first practise supports pupils with new knowledge and skills when they first use it and ensures that misconceptions are immediately rectified. Pupils are targeted for guiding based on the assessment information gleaned from lesson questioning and distance feedback.

Learning tasks are differentiated so that pupils focus on their precise next steps and practise what they most need to practise. Distance feedback, questioning and guiding allows the teacher to glean the assessment information necessary to plan this.

Secondary section teachers complete class feedback logs in order to provide distance feedback. These identify individual, group and whole class misconceptions which are used to plan the next lesson's explanations, questioning, next steps and guided group.

Questioning, live tweaks to explanations, teacher guiding, a focus on next steps and class feedback logs all ensure that any knowledge or skill gaps are immediately closed so that pupils have the key information needed for subsequent learning, lessons and examinations.

Sixth form pupils complete an assessment or examination each half term. These assessments match final examination criteria and generate working at grades for the pupils for that particular content. This assessment, combined with ongoing teacher assessment and professional judgement is used to generate half termly predicted grades. Predicted grades are the Psychology department's judgement as to the grades pupils are most likely to achieve in the final A-level examinations.