

Rivers



Education Support Centre

**KS3 Ethics
Curriculum
Overview**

2026

Curriculum Overview

Our Ethics curriculum is designed to help pupils explore important questions about people, society and the world around them. Through discussion, reflection and debate, pupils develop their understanding of right and wrong, fairness, responsibility and respect for others.

The curriculum is carefully planned to build knowledge and understanding over time. Pupils are encouraged to think critically, consider different viewpoints and develop confidence to express their own ideas respectfully.

Purpose of Study

- To encourage curiosity about ethical issues and the world around us.
- To help pupils develop respect for different beliefs, values, and opinions.
- To build confidence in discussing, questioning, and debating important topics.
- To develop critical thinking and decision-making skills.
- To support all pupils in making progress through appropriate challenges and support.

The Ethics curriculum aims to inspire discussion, reflection, and thoughtful enquiry. Pupils explore a range of moral, social, and philosophical questions that help them better understand themselves, others and the society they live in.

Where possible, learning is linked to other subjects including English, History, PSHE, Citizenship and Science. Pupils are encouraged to consider different perspectives, justify their opinions, and evaluate the impact of choices and actions.

Throughout the curriculum, links are made to the wider world and future careers. We also promote the skills and qualities that employers value, including:

Resilience and a positive attitude to learning.

Communication skills, including listening, speaking and presenting.

Teamwork and problem solving.

Creativity and critical thinking.

Self-management and leadership.

Respect for British Values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

Underpinning all learning is our commitment to supporting pupils' social, emotional, and behavioural development. Lessons provide opportunities for pupils to build confidence, self-awareness and positive relationships.

Why This Subject is Important

Ethics helps pupils make sense of the complex world around them. It encourages them to think carefully about moral issues, understand different viewpoints and make informed decisions.

By exploring real-life issues and ethical questions, pupils develop empathy, respect and an appreciation of diversity. They learn how their choices and actions can affect themselves, others and the wider community.

The subject helps pupils become thoughtful, responsible and respectful individuals who are prepared to contribute positively to modern society.

Term	Unit Title	Big Ideas
Autumn 1	An introduction to ethics: How can ethics influence our choices?	Exploring ethical dilemmas, The Trolley Problem Want or Need? Freedom and Happiness Keeping the Law Virtue Ethics
Autumn 2	Do we have a moral obligation to look after the environment?	What are the effects of deforestation and why does it happen? Why zoo's and how do they operate? Animal Testing and Animal Rights Selective breeding, what is it and how does it impact the environment Natural disasters
Spring 1	Exploring and discussing; Euthanasia and the 'right to die.'	Cultural and religious beliefs Organ donation Value of Life.

Spring 2	Moral responsibility we and the law have to society.	Excessive force, ICE -what it is and where the law stands. Whistleblowing, the history, significance and what the repercussions might involve. Impartiality, reporting and bias.
Summer 1	Contextual ethics around the following topics:	Misogyny Online radicalisation Toxic masculinity Online subcultures How these issues are seen by other
Summer 2	Social Justice & Equality	Human rights Poverty Wealth Discrimination