

# Psychology

## Vision and Intent



Co-op Academy  
Grange

## Our Vision for Psychology at Co-op Academy Grange

Psychology is one of the beacons of developing the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) experiences at Co-op Academy Grange. It is the scientific study of the human mind and behaviour. The very nature of studying psychology is to inspire and engage our students by providing a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study which develops an understanding of ideas and values that characterise “self” and others. The course has a specific focus on mental health, which encourages greater awareness in young people and therefore reducing stigma and discrimination.

Our students demonstrate psychological literacy that enables them to apply knowledge skills in their everyday lives, including making informed decisions about further study and career choices. Psychology students are able to use a range of social skills in different contexts, for example working and socialising with other pupils, including those from different religious, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds. At the end of the course students are equipped with a psychological understanding that can be applied to the real world outside of the classroom.

## Our Intent for Psychology at Co-op Academy Grange

Our Curriculum – What do we want our Psychology curriculum to be?

GCSE Psychology encourages students to:

- use specialist vocabulary, psychological concepts, terminology and conventions to engage in the process of psychological enquiry
- acquire knowledge and understanding of psychology, developing an understanding of self and others, and how psychological understanding can help to explain everyday social phenomena
- understand how psychological research is conducted, including the role of scientific method and data analysis
- present information, develop arguments and draw conclusions through a critical approach to psychological evidence, developing as reflective thinkers
- develop an understanding of the relationship between psychology and personal, moral, social and cultural issues, and develop an understanding of ethical issues in psychology
- develop an understanding of psychological issues, the contribution of psychology to individual, social and cultural diversity, and how psychology contributes to society

Students will be required to study psychological ideas, processes, techniques and procedures, through the following topics:

- Development
- Memory
- Psychological problems
- Social Influence
- Criminal Psychology
- Sleep and Dreaming
- Research Methods.

For each of the topics, content will relate to:

- Key Concepts
- Theories/Explanations
- Research Studies
- Applications.

For each topic, students will be required to study two core studies to support the content of related theories. For each core study, students should 'tell the story' of the study by considering the following:

- Background
- Method
- Design
- Sample
- Materials/Apparatus
- Procedure
- Results
- Conclusions
- Criticisms.

As part of their study, students will be required to develop knowledge and understanding of the five core areas of psychology identified as:

- Biological – an understanding of biological concepts within psychology, including neuroscience and genetics as contributors to behaviour

- Cognitive – an understanding of thought, information and mental processing as contributors to behaviour
- Social – an understanding of the social area of psychology, the impact of social and environmental factors on behaviour and the influence of groups
- Developmental – an understanding of how individuals change throughout their lives, with a particular focus on childhood and how both nature and nurture can affect individuals
- Individual Differences – an understanding of the complex nature of human behaviour and experiences and why and how people are different.

Students will also be required to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of:

- Debates within psychology, including 'reductionism/holism', 'nature/nurture' and 'freewill/determinism'
- How psychological knowledge and ideas change over time and how these inform our understanding of behaviour
  - The contribution of psychology to an understanding of individual, social and cultural diversity
  - The interrelationships between the core areas of psychology
  - How the studies for topics relate to the associated theory

In each component, students study two core studies, through which they develop knowledge and understanding of the five core areas of psychology:

- Biological
- Cognitive
- Social
- Developmental

### What does it look like in the classroom? (Implementation)

Each lesson is enriching and supportive to allow students to challenge mental health stigma and embrace diversity at all levels by developing the ability to empathise. Our students develop a genuine appreciation of their differences to seek and create a future free from stigma and discrimination. Team working, problem solving, creativity, leadership, communication skills, resilience, responsiveness and persistence are the skills you will demonstrate in your psychology classroom. Students learn about a variety of interesting topics, such as what happens to our memory if we have a brain injury? Why do certain people become criminals? What is meant by schizophrenia? What makes us obey others and why do we dream? Students also learn how to conduct research and analyse the results, and develop their critical thinking.

Psychology is accessible both in the physical classroom and google classroom to allow students to consolidate and reflect on their learning.

What will the impact be?

Psychology encourages students to find out more about the way people act and interact. In addition to developing an understanding of what motivates, challenges or changes us. Psychology students can use this knowledge to help manage and resolve personal and social problems. Students develop an interest in investigating and offering reasoned views about moral and ethical issues and ability to understand and appreciate the viewpoints of others on these issues. Psychology students can demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their own heritage and those of others. Our psychology students develop skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.