



## Sociology Curriculum Statement

### Vision

The Sociology Department aims to create an engaging and thought-provoking learning environment where students develop their knowledge and understanding through the exploration of real-world social issues. The curriculum reflects contemporary society, enabling students to examine key topics such as education, families, crime and deviance, and social inequality, and to understand their relevance in everyday life.

A student-centred approach underpins all aspects of the curriculum, ensuring that learning is inclusive, accessible, and responsive to the needs of all learners. We are committed to creating an environment where every student feels valued and supported, promoting full participation regardless of background or ability.

Through the application of sociological theories, research and case studies, students are encouraged to think critically about the social world and develop balanced, evidence-based arguments. This approach fosters independence, curiosity and analytical thinking.

Our vision is to prepare students for life beyond Thomas Telford School by equipping them with the academic knowledge, evaluative skills and cultural awareness required for higher education, employment and active citizenship. Underpinned by the school values of being kind, being respectful, being ambitious and achieving quality through cooperation, students develop into informed, reflective and socially responsible individuals.

### Action

Teachers within the Sociology Department deliver high-quality lessons through a consistent, structured and inclusive approach. A range of strategies are used, including discussion, debate, application tasks, independent research and exam-focused practice, ensuring students develop both strong subject knowledge and essential academic skills.

The curriculum is structured around key AQA topics, including Education, Families and Households, Research Methods, Beliefs in Society, and Crime and Deviance. Students engage with a range of sociological perspectives and are supported in applying theory to contemporary social issues.

We deliver the curriculum through a structured and consistent approach, incorporating regular assessment and exam practice to ensure students develop confidence and mastery over time. Lessons are supported by engaging media and carefully designed lesson booklets, which include both scaffolded support and extension tasks to meet the needs of all learners.

Regular retrieval and recall activities are embedded within lessons to strengthen long-term memory and reinforce key concepts. Alongside this, there is a strong focus on developing students' analytical and evaluative skills, enabling them to construct well-reasoned arguments and respond effectively to examination questions.

Teaching is adapted to meet the needs of all learners, with scaffolding, modelling and targeted intervention supporting progress across all ability levels. Students are encouraged to take ownership of their learning through independent study, wider reading and critical reflection. Session 3 and intervention sessions are used to reinforce content, develop exam technique and support independent revision. Digital resources and the online curriculum allow students to access materials both in school and remotely, enabling flexible and independent learning.

### Literacy, Numeracy and Oracy

The Sociology curriculum places a strong emphasis on developing key academic and communication skills:

- **Literacy:** Students engage in frequent extended writing, including essays and exam responses. Emphasis is placed on constructing well-developed arguments, using sociological terminology accurately and applying evidence effectively. Feedback focuses on improving clarity, structure and evaluation.
- **Numeracy:** Students interpret and analyse quantitative data, including statistics, graphs and research findings. They develop the ability to evaluate trends and patterns within society, linking numerical evidence to sociological arguments.
- **Oracy:** Discussion and debate are central to Sociology. Students develop confidence in articulating ideas, challenging viewpoints and engaging in reasoned argument. These skills support both academic success and effective communication beyond the classroom

### Impact

The course is designed to not only help students to achieve with strong academic outcomes but also imbue the ability to think critically about the world around them, challenge assumptions and form well-reasoned arguments. They embody the school values through respectful discussion, collaboration and ambition in their learning.

Career pathways are actively promoted throughout the Sociology curriculum, with explicit links made between subject content and a wide range of future opportunities. Students explore how sociological knowledge and skills apply to careers in areas such as law, criminology, social work, education, policing, public policy, media and the civil service. Lessons regularly draw on real-world examples, current affairs and case studies to highlight the relevance of Sociology beyond the classroom. Students are encouraged to consider progression routes into higher education and employment, developing an understanding of how the analytical, evaluative and communication

skills gained through Sociology are highly valued by universities and employers. This approach supports students in making informed decisions about their futures and fosters ambition in line with the school's values.

Student feedback highlights high levels of engagement and enjoyment, with students valuing the relevance of the subject to real-world issues, as well as the development of skills that support both academic success and informed participation in society.

#### Subject Contact

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