

At Packmoor Ormiston Academy we use VotesforSchools to support PSHCE, British Values, SMSC, Prevent and personal development.

Areas of inspection framework	Academy self-evaluation/ VotesforSchools commentary
Personal Development	
<p>The curriculum extends beyond the academic, technical or vocational and provides for learners' broader development, enabling them to develop and discover their interests and talents.</p>	<p>VotesforSchools' weekly current affairs and topical content allows all pupils to engage in learning that goes beyond the academy gates. The platform uses child and youth focused topics to capture the interests of pupils across the academy. The diversity of topics ensures all pupils have ample opportunity to discover an interest or subject that they may not have been introduced to previously. Through a clear 'Call to Action' and 'Career Launchpad', VotesforSchools encourages pupils to consider how they can develop emerging passions and interests as well as to seek out careers and roles that they may not ordinarily explore.</p> <p>Sample topics: <i>Is speaking English enough? Will what you learn in PE help you in your future job? Would you rent your clothes? Should all toilets be gender neutral?</i></p>
<p>The curriculum and the provider's wider work supports learners to develop their character – including their resilience, confidence and independence – and helps them understand how to keep physically and mentally healthy.</p>	<p>VotesforSchools' debates help to support a wide range of skills that contribute to character development in our pupils. These include tolerance, empathy, oracy, confidence and resilience. Through weekly debate and discussion, pupils are given a safe space to explore social and political issues.</p> <p>Building skills of tolerance, respect, compassion, listening to others & hearing views that are opposed to their own or those of their family/friends.</p> <p>Through relevant topics spread over the course of the academic year, pupils cover a range of subjects that support their understanding of physical and mental health. They also explore the contributing factors in society that impact their holistic health.</p> <p>Sample topics: <i>Is social media bad for your mental health? Should we have to walk a mile a day? Do anonymous apps make bullying worse? Are we able to talk openly about mental health?</i></p>
<p>The provider prepares learners for life in modern Britain by: equipping them with the skills needed to be responsible, respectful, active citizens who contribute positively to society; developing their understanding of fundamental British Values; building their understanding of and appreciation for diversity; celebrating what we have in common and promoting respect for the different protected characteristics as defined by law.</p>	<p>VotesforSchools directly provides our academy with the tools to allow all teachers, regardless of experience or subject specialism, to confidently deliver a consistent and quality approach to British Values for every pupil. The topics regularly allow teachers to delicately facilitate discussions that expose pupils to a range of views and opinions that support their understanding of diversity and allows them to celebrate diversity within the UK.</p> <p>Pupils vote at the end of every debate, and this vote then feeds into national policy and is shared with key decision makers. This leads pupils to the understanding that their contribution to society is important, both as a pupil in their academy and as a citizen of a wider community.</p> <p>The weekly opportunity to exercise their right to vote that VotesforSchools allows pupils to model good democratic practice and empowers them to use their voice and vote in future. It breaks down some of the psychological barriers that stop children and young people engaging in politics and community action.</p> <p>Sample topics: <i>Should the UK stay in the single market? Are popular TV shows changing attitudes to LGBT people? Should Eid be a public holiday? Are your local shops disability friendly?</i></p>

Quality of education:	
Leaders adopt or construct a curriculum that is ambitious and designed to give all learners, particularly the most disadvantaged, the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life.	VotesforSchools ensures Packmoor Ormiston Academy can provide a package that provides cultural capital to all pupils inclusively. The weekly topics expose pupils to a range of stories, experiences, knowledge and skills that enable them to engage in today's society.
	Sample topics: <i>Is enough being done to make arts and culture accessible to everyone? Do you consider Banksy's recent stunt to be art? Do you support UK military intervention in Syria? Should people in the UK be worried about North Korea?</i>
Behaviour & attitudes:	
Relationships among learners and staff reflect a positive and respectful culture. Learners feel safe and do not experience bullying or discrimination.	VotesforSchools directly supports teachers in developing a positive relationship with pupils. It does so by supporting them with discussions surrounding moral dilemmas and tricky subjects in a delicate and age appropriate way. The sessions support a positive rapport between teacher and pupil. VotesforSchools is designed to empower pupils and give them an opportunity to have their voice genuinely heard. This tool allows them to say if they see something that they believe isn't acceptable, or if they themselves are being hurt or threatened. VotesforSchools and the skills it develops are designed with the empowerment of children and young people in mind, with them beginning to self-safeguard and use their voice as a means of speaking out as the main aim.
	Sample topics: <i>Are adults setting a bad example when it comes to bullying? Is it your job to speak up about against racism in other countries? Do your friends use homophobic language?</i>
Leadership & Management	
Those with responsibility for governance ensure that the provider fulfils its statutory duties (such as under the Equality Act 2010), and other duties (such as those in relation to the 'Prevent' strategy and safeguarding).	VotesforSchools directly aligns with the government's Prevent duty. VotesforSchools provides weekly content that enables pupils to engage with controversial topics and discuss moral dilemmas. This supports them in building the skills that will enable them to be resilient in their communities. By directly addressing topics around equality, such as LGBT inclusion, as well as topics directly linked to extremism, pupils are also developing the skills to understand these issues in an unbiased and objective way, often challenging views held by other influences in their lives. VotesforSchools' mission is to empower pupils and give them a voice within their academy, local communities and nationally. Empowering pupils and allowing them to be heard is a powerful self-safeguarding tool which will help with keeping them safe both now and in the future.
	Sample topics: <i>Does everyone have a responsibility to help tackle extremism? Can you understand why someone would become an extremist? Should teens involved in county lines be treated as criminals?</i>

The cost to academy is £500 per year and every year group is involved in debating and voting every week.