



Curriculum Policy - Secondary

Wickham Court School

1. Introduction

Our school's curriculum is all the planned activities that we organise in order to promote learning, personal growth and development. The curriculum is designed taking into consideration the local and national environment during a period of sustained reform and also includes a variety of extra-curricular and vocational activities to enrich the pupils' whole learning experience.

At the School, we seek the highest standards of attainment for all our pupils. We also value the breadth of the curriculum that we provide. We aim to foster creativity in our children, and to help pupils become independent learners. Above all we believe in making learning fun.

2. Values

Our school curriculum is underpinned by the values that we hold dear at our school. The curriculum is the means by which the school achieves its objective of educating pupils in the knowledge, skills and understanding that they need in order to lead fulfilling lives.

The main values of our school, upon which we have based our curriculum are;

- We value children's uniqueness, we listen to the views of individual pupils, and we promote respect for diverse cultures
- We value the spiritual and moral development of each person, as well as their intellectual and physical growth
- We value the importance of each person in our community, and we organise our curriculum to promote inclusion, cooperation and understanding among all members of our community
- We value the rights enjoyed by each person in our society. We respect each child in our school for who they are, and we treat them with fairness and honesty. We want to enable each person to be successful, and we provide equal opportunities for all our pupils
- We will strive to meet the needs of all our pupils, and to ensure that we meet all statutory requirements regarding inclusion
- We value our environment, and we want to teach our pupils, through our curriculum, how we should take care of the world, not only for ourselves, but also for future generations

3. Aims

The aims of our school curriculum are:

- To enable all pupils to learn, and develop their skills, to the best of their ability
- To promote a positive attitude towards learning, so that pupils enjoy coming to school, and acquire a solid basis for lifelong learning

- To teach pupils the basic skills of literacy, numeracy and information and communication technology (ICT)
- To enable pupils to be creative and to develop their own thinking
- To teach pupils about the developing world, including how their environment and society have changed over time
- To help pupils understand Britain's cultural heritage
- To appreciate and value the contribution made by all ethnic groups in our multi-cultural society
- To enable pupils to be positive citizens
- To fulfil all the requirements of the National Curriculum and the School Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education
- To teach pupils to have an awareness of their own spiritual development, and to distinguish right from wrong
- To help pupils understand the importance of truth and fairness, so that they grow up committed to equal opportunities for all
- To enable pupils to have respect for themselves and high self-esteem, and to live and work cooperatively with others

4. Organisation and Planning

We plan our curriculum in three phases. We agree a long-term plan for each year group. This indicates what topics are to be taught in each year. We review this long-term plan on an annual basis.

Through our medium-term plans i.e. termly and half-yearly we give guidance on the objectives and teaching strategies for each topic.

Our short-term plans are those that our teachers write on a weekly or daily basis. We use these to set out the learning objectives for each session, and to identify what resources and activities we are going to use in the lesson.

The curriculum is built around the needs of the pupils. We plan the activities carefully, so that there is coherent and full coverage of a range of all aspects of the subject so pupils can access a range of learning experiences that challenge, stimulate and promote learning to provide continuity and progression.

In Year 7 and 8 the pupils experience a full range of National Curriculum subjects. We strive to provide a balanced curriculum and give pupils the opportunity to access high quality learning opportunities, relevant to their personal talents, needs and aspirations, which will enable them to realise their full potential.

We operate a three year GCSE model to develop a deeper knowledge and understanding of their chosen GCSE subjects. This is also planned to ensure that pupils are fully challenged in Year 9 to build firm foundations for their further GCSE study in Years 10 and 11.

Pupils make their option choices in Year 8. The process allows pupils time to make informed choices and ensure parents are included in the process fully alongside a comprehensive package of advice and guidance that is in place to ensure the choices made are appropriate for their future progression. We are committed to the provision of a wide range of subjects and each pupil has a bespoke timetable to follow.

All pupils are entitled to examination entry in their chosen subjects provided they have met the requirements of attendance, coursework and/or controlled assessment.

We plan to offer A level studies from September 2019. The curriculum offered at Key Stage 5 will ensure that there are clear progression routes to enable pupils to continue Post 16 education at the School and prepare them for Higher Education and/or the world of work. The subjects offered are designed to build upon those offered at GCSE level but allow for additional option choice to meet a changing range of interests and learning requirements.

5. The Curriculum and Inclusion

The curriculum in our school is designed to be accessed by all pupils who attend the school. If we think it necessary to modify some children's access to the curriculum, in order to meet their needs, then we do this only after their parents have been consulted.

If pupils have special needs or additional learning requirements, our school does all it can to meet the individual needs. If a child displays signs of having special needs, then his/her teacher makes an assessment of this need. In most instances the teacher is able to provide the resources and educational opportunities that meet the child's needs, within normal class organisation. If a child's need is more severe, he/she will receive additional help from the teacher and learning support department to meet their specific learning needs. We always provide additional resources and support for pupils with special needs.

The school provides an Individual Educational Plan (IEP) for each of the pupils who are on the special needs register. This sets out the nature of the special need or concern and outlines how the school will aim to address it. The IEP also sets out targets for improvement, so that we can review and monitor the progress of each child at regular intervals.

We are committed to meeting the needs of pupils in our school who have disabilities, as we are to meeting the needs of all groups of pupils within our school. The school complies fully with the requirements of the amended Disability Discrimination Act that came into effect in September 2002. All reasonable steps are taken to ensure that these pupils are not placed at a substantial disadvantage compared to non-disabled pupils. Teaching and learning are appropriately modified for pupils with disabilities. For example, they may be given additional time to complete certain activities, or the teaching materials may be adapted.

6. Key skills

We are well aware that all pupils need the support of both the parents and the teachers to make good progress in school. We strive to build positive links with the parents of each student, by keeping them informed about how the pupils are being taught, and how well each pupil is progressing.

The following skills have been deemed 'key skills' in the revised National Curriculum:

- Communication
- Application of number
- Information technology
- Working with others
- Improving one's own learning and performance
- Problem-solving

In our curriculum planning we emphasise these skills, so that the pupil's progress in all of these areas can be identified and monitored. Teachers in all subject areas seek to contribute to a pupil's progress in these skills, because we believe that all pupils need to make good progress in these areas if they are to develop their true potential.

7. The Role of the Subject Leader

The role of the subject leader is to:

- Provide a strategic lead and direction for the subject
- Support and advise colleagues on issues related to the subject
- Monitor pupils' progress in that subject area
- Provide efficient resource management for the subject

It is the role of each subject leader to keep up to date with developments in their subject, at both national and local level. They review the way the subject is taught in the school, and plan for improvement. This development planning links to whole-school objectives. Each subject leader reviews the curriculum plans for the subject, ensures that there is full coverage of the National Curriculum, and sees that progression is planned into schemes of work.

8. Monitoring and Review

The Head is responsible for monitoring the way the school curriculum is implemented. Each subject is reviewed on a two yearly cycle.

The Head is responsible for the day-to-day organisation of the curriculum. The Head monitors the weekly lesson plans for all teachers, ensuring that all lessons have appropriate learning objectives.

Subject leaders monitor the way their subject is taught throughout the school. They examine medium or short-term planning, and ensure that appropriate teaching strategies are used. Subject leaders also have responsibility for monitoring the way in which resources are stored and managed. A subject leader will monitor assessment procedures in their subject.

This policy is monitored by the Head and will be reviewed every two years, or before if necessary.

Date	Position	Name of Reviewer	Date of Next Review
January 2019	Principal	Mrs L. Harries	January 2020
January 2019	Chair of Governors	Mr A. Khan	January 2020