



CURRICULUM POLICY

For St. James' School

Date: August 2011
Annual Review
Next Review: August 2012

The school will deliver the National Curriculum at all key stages. In addition we will provide a curriculum, which responds to the needs of all pupils across the full age range of the school.

AIMS OF THE POLICY

To help pupils to:

- develop lively, imaginative and enquiring minds.
- acquire knowledge and skills relevant to adult life.
- have sound numeracy and literacy skills
- develop personal and moral values and respect for other cultures and religions.
- develop an understanding of the world in which they live.
- appreciate human achievements and aspirations.
- take their place in society as informed, confident and responsible citizens.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CURRICULUM

The curriculum should have the following characteristics:

- be balanced, relevant and differentiated.
- provide progression and continuity.
- provide an opportunity for more able pupils to accelerate their learning and acquire both GCSE and Advanced Level qualifications at an earlier stage.
- promote knowledge and understanding.
- promote spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development for all students.
- provide a pathway from early years through to education at Sixth Form level.
- provide the opportunity for students to work at a pace best suited to their own needs.
- provide appropriate tasks and teaching techniques to support high expectations and appropriate challenge.
- should be subject to ongoing evaluation and review.

PROPOSED OUTCOMES OF THE CURRICULUM

The curriculum should:

- deliver current and future statutory requirements.
- enable all students to fulfil their potential.
- prepare pupils to make informed and appropriate choices at post 16.
- meet the needs of the full range of abilities across all age ranges in the school.
- ensure continuity and progression within the school and between the phases of education.
- foster teaching styles, which offer a variety of relevant learning opportunities.
- encourage a respect for the school and its environment so that learning is a positive and pleasurable experience for all.
- ensure effective use of language and numeracy.
- help pupils develop lively, enquiring minds, an ability to question and argue rationally and an ability to apply themselves to academic tasks and physical skills.
- help pupils develop personal moral values, respect for religious values and tolerance of other races, religions and ways of life.
- help pupils to appreciate human achievements and aspirations.

KEY STAGE 1

The following subjects are taught to all children in Years 1 & 2.

Literacy (English)
Numeracy (Maths)
Humanities (Geography, History and Religious Education)
Science
French
Art
Design technology
ICT
Music
Physical Education
Swimming

KEY STAGE 2

In addition to the above mentioned subjects, children in Years 3,4,5 & 6 are taught:

Geography
History
Religious education
Games

These are taught as separate subjects

KEY STAGE 3

In accordance with the Government initiative to eliminate Key Stage 3 examinations, it is the Schools policy to complete the Key Stage 3 curriculum in English, Maths and Science in Years 7 and 8 and to start the GCSE curriculum in Year 9.

All Year 7 and 8 pupils study the following:

English	Music
Maths	Drama
Science	Information Technology
Geography	Home Economics
History	PSHE
French	Games
Spanish (Year 7)	Swimming
German (Year 8)	Art
Religious Education	

All Year 9 pupils study the following:

English GCSE to be completed after three years, with the exceptions of those who have been accelerated. These pupils will complete the course after two years.

Maths: GCSE to be completed after three years, with the exceptions of those who have been accelerated. These pupils will complete the course after two years.

Science: GCSE in Separate Science to be completed after two years.

French
German
Art
Music
Religious Education

Games
Geography
History
Information Technology
Physical Education.

EARLY ENTRY:

The current curriculum allows a selection of Year 10 pupils to be entered at GCSE Level in the following subjects:

Statistics
Separate Science

All Year 10 pupils study the following:

English
English Literature
Maths
Separate Science
PE or German
French or Art
OCR Nationals in information Technology
Geography or History
Careers
Games

All Year 11 pupils study the following:

English
English Literature
Maths
Science A or AS Biology
Careers
Games
Art or German
French or Music
Health & Social Care or AS Maths or AS Biology

Advanced Subsidiary Level Options:

Currently, the options are as follows;

French or Physics
Biology/Music Technology
Chemistry
English
Maths or Geography
Art

All Year 12 pupils attend a tutorial session with the Head of Sixth Form each week.

Advanced Level Options:

Currently the options are as follows:

Chemistry

Maths

Biology/Art

Further Maths

Music technology

Physics

Chemistry

All Year 13 pupils attend a tutorial session with the Head of Sixth Form each week