



# Curriculum Policy

## St James' School

### 1. Introduction

Our policy reflects the DfE guidance, in particular the National Curriculum (DfE, 2014), and 'Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years' (DfE, 2015).

This policy should be read in conjunction with the policies listed below:

- Teaching and Learning
- Non-Discrimination and Inclusion
- PSHCE
- RSE

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. Our curriculum takes into account the ages, aptitudes and needs of all pupils, including those pupils with an EHC plan. Our curriculum does not undermine the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

This policy is related to the curriculum for full-time supervised education for pupils of compulsory school age (construed in accordance with section 8 of the Education Act 1996), which gives pupils experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative education;

- that pupils acquire speaking, listening, literacy and numeracy skills;
- personal, social, health and economic education which–
  - reflects the school's aim and ethos; and
  - encourages respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the 2010 Act
- provides up-to-date and impartial careers guidance that enables pupils to make informed choices about a broad range of careers options and helps encourage them to reach their potential;
- that all pupils have the opportunity to learn and make progress; and effective preparation of pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in British society.

At our 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 pupils, and to help pupils become independent learners. Above all we believe in equipping pupils with learning skills that will support them during their education and beyond.

## **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 pupil'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 pupil 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 (of all ages and aptitudes, including SEND) 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 prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in British society;
- 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 enable pupils to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England;
- 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 develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence;
- 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 in their planners. 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.

Pupils make their option choices in Year 9. 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.

The curriculum offered at Key Stage 5 ensures 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 wide and varied and not only 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 pupils 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 pupil displays signs of having special needs, then their teacher makes an assessment of this need. In most instances the teacher is able to provide the resources and educational opportunities that meet the pupil's needs, within normal class organisation. If a pupil's need is more severe, they will receive additional help from the teacher and SEN 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 pupil 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 believes in equal opportunities for all. 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.

## **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. Careers**

The School endeavours to:

- prepare pupils for life post-education;
- develop an understanding of different career paths and challenge stereotypes;
- develop an understanding of the differences between school and work;
- inspire pupils to chase and achieve their dreams;
- offer targeted support for vulnerable and disadvantaged young people;
- instil a healthy attitude towards work.

The School will work to encompass careers education and guidance into subjects across the curriculum. All teachers will be asked to support the career development of young people in their role and through their subject teaching. The School will engage with local employers, businesses and professional networks, inviting visiting speakers, as appropriate. The School will provide events to support career choices and aspirations including business related activities and projects, for example: Career fairs, assemblies with business agencies, parents and public speakers

In secondary education, careers become a larger focus for pupils and the school community. The careers strategy is in line with Careers guidance (January 2018). Discuss additional support provided to pupils: meetings, UCAS/personal statement support, individual careers guidance with careers teacher, careers weekly lessons guidance & support lessons.

## **10. Monitoring and Review**

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

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 year, or before if necessary.

Date of Review	Position	Name of Reviewer	Date of Next Review
August 2023	Headteacher	Miss T. Harris	August 2024
August 2023	Proprietor	Mr A Khan	August 2024