

CURRICULUM POLICY (Including Early Years Foundation Stage)

The curriculum we provide enables us to fulfil our mission statement: to realise the full potential of every child by developing knowledge, confidence and self-reliance within a supportive and happy school community.

Curriculum Aims

Our curriculum is based on the core requirements of the National Curriculum. However, this is enriched and extended at every opportunity and teachers are given the freedom to teach beyond what is stated in the framework document. We aim to:

- Provide a broad and balanced curriculum that gives pupils of compulsory school age experience of linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative education;
- Meet the needs of children of all abilities, enabling them to use their talents, face challenges and achieve their full potential;
- Provide a curriculum that enables all children to learn and make progress, make connections and apply their skills in different subject areas;
- Provide personal, social, health and economic education that reflects the school's aims and ethos.
- Encourage children of all abilities to think and reason independently;
- Promote diversity, equality and awareness of global and social issues;
- Take account of children's needs and abilities in order to create a positive environment in which their achievements are celebrated.

This will enable children to develop:

- Lively, imaginative and enquiring minds with the ability to solve problems and argue rationally;
- Self-confidence, self-worth and self-esteem;
- A positive approach to learning with a willingness to apply themselves;
- Sound skills in speaking and listening, literacy, numeracy and computing;
- A recognition and appreciation of their own and others' achievements and aspirations, creating an atmosphere of mutual respect;
- Personal and moral values, showing an understanding of fundamental shared values, tolerance, and respect for other cultures, beliefs and ways of life;
- The skills required to work independently, in a group or as a team;
- The knowledge and skills, both academically and socially, to prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in British society;

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*Curriculum Policy Updated Sept 2023 by SLT and Director of Studies
Next review due Sept 2024*

All children, regardless of ability, race, cultural background or gender have the right to the highest quality of education we can provide. In order to achieve this we:

- Provide a curriculum that has breadth, balance, relevance, differentiation, progression, continuity and coherence;
- Ensure that there is equality of access for all children to academic experiences;
- Use appropriate tasks and teaching techniques to support high expectations and appropriate challenges;
- Ensure that parents are kept informed of the curriculum relevant to their child through Class Guides;
- Review curriculum planning regularly.

We have a responsibility to adapt our teaching to ensure that all pupils are engaged in their learning, motivated and enabled to succeed. Children who are experiencing difficulties in any way are identified early and given the necessary support, encouragement, guidance and, where necessary, different teaching methods and differentiated tasks are used.

Expectations of Staff

All staff are expected to promote the curriculum aims by:

- Employing a variety of teaching and learning methods;
- Having high expectations of children;
- Ensuring that all children are able to access the curriculum and are given opportunities to be successful through the creation of a positive and rewarding atmosphere;
- Delivering lessons which build upon previous experiences, providing continuity and progression;
- Providing learning opportunities which offer depth and challenge and which motivate and inspire children;
- Involving children in the learning process by giving regular feedback through discussion, assessment and marking, negotiating targets and encouraging children to evaluate their personal achievements;
- Developing children's skills to become independent learners;
- Working with children, other members of staff and parents to achieve shared goals;
- Keeping parents regularly and fully informed about the progress of their children through informal meetings, parents' evenings, grade sheets and written reports.

Curriculum Structure

The timetable is structured so that all pupils have an appropriately broad and balanced educational experience. Please see Appendix for Curriculum Plan.

The Timetable:

Pupils in Years 3 - 6 are taught for 45 periods each week. There are nine per day with five in the morning and four in the afternoon.

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are taught for 40 periods each week. There are four in the morning and four in the afternoon.

The Pre-School has 4 sessions in the morning. Pre-School Yellow has one session in the afternoon and there is an optional afternoon session for Pre-School Red.

Our children follow a common curriculum comprising:

English (including phonics in Pre-School to Year 2)	Reasoning
Maths	French
Science	Art & DT
PSHCE & Positive Education	Music
Computing	PE/Games
History	Swimming
Geography	Drama
Religious Education	Thinking Skills
Latin (Y6 only)	Ballet

Children are taught in mixed ability classes. If appropriate, the curriculum will be adapted to meet the needs of children with learning difficulties and those who are more able, gifted and talented (*see separate policies*).

In the Summer term, Year 5 girls are grouped for one double lesson per week based to focus on exam preparation. During the second half of the Autumn term, Year 6 girls are grouped for some of their English and Maths lessons according to their senior school choices. When all senior school exams are completed, the Year 6 girls take part in a Junior Leadership course to develop their leadership, confidence and teamwork skills before starting senior school.

The Learning Development Department identify children's individual needs and communicates these with classteachers and teaching assistants. IEPs and one-page summaries are circulated to staff for children with identified learning needs.

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PSHCE has a timetabled lesson each week from Reception through to Year 6 and this is embedded into the EYFS curriculum for Pre-School classes. As part of providing a broad and balanced curriculum, children are taught about relationship and sex education (RSE), safeguarding, including online safety, as part of their PSHCE lessons, ICT lessons and during form times. We recognise that a one size fits all approach may not be appropriate for all children, and a more personalised approach for more vulnerable children, victims of abuse and some SEND children may be needed.

Every effort is made to ensure that individual music instrumental and LAMDA lessons are timetabled so that children do not routinely miss lessons of the same subject.

Early Years Foundation Stage:

At the Early Years Foundation Stage, children are working towards the Early Learning Goals. Pre-School and Reception staff work closely together in planning the Granville curriculum.

The curriculum for the Foundation Stage underpins all future learning by promoting and developing the following seven areas of learning:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Physical Development
- Expressive Arts and Design

In this stage, the pupils are taught predominantly by their class teachers, however Ballet, Computing, French, Music and PE are taught by subject specialists.

Key Stage One

At Key Stage 1, there is a broadly integrated curriculum, but care is given to balance the subject areas and there is progressively more specialist teaching in these year groups. Class teachers, supported by classroom assistants, provide the majority of the curriculum but specialist teaching continues in Ballet, Computing, Drama, French, Music and PE.

Key Stage 2

In Key Stage 2, there is some integrated teaching but the use of specialist teachers for individual subjects increases significantly. Year 3 are taught by specialist teachers for English, Maths, Science, Art & DT, Computing, Drama, French, Music and PE/Games. Classes benefit from the additional support of experienced and well qualified Teaching Assistants to further support learning.

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All children are prepared to take examinations in Year 6 and the curriculum is designed to take account of the particular requirements of individual schools. The school will give the necessary examination practice to meet the high standards required. This provision will vary to meet the needs of individuals and year groups.

Advice is given to parents about the schools that are potentially appropriate for their child through formal and informal meetings.

The Learning Environment

In order to ensure that all children have the opportunity to fulfil their potential, a positive and caring environment is created.

Pupils have the use of specialist subject rooms for Computing, Science, Art, French, Music and Drama. Years 5 and 6 have access to the senior Maths and English rooms. The Early Years have a purpose-built facility to meet their needs.

The timetable provision allows pupils to acquire skills in speaking and listening, literacy and numeracy. Other opportunities such as assemblies, drama productions, internal and external workshops, participating in fundraising events and school trips give all pupils regular opportunities to practise these skills.

Enrichment

The curriculum is enriched by:

- a range of before and after school clubs;
- individual music lessons;
- educational visits;
- theatre visits;
- internal and external workshops;
- residential trips in England and France;
- sports events;
- drama productions;
- modern technology in classrooms (interactive whiteboards and pupil/staff iPads).

Policy Documentation

The Headmistress and the Director of Studies have responsibility for the leadership of the curriculum and for monitoring its provision.

Subject Policies

Each subject area has a policy written by the Subject Co-ordinator which is discussed with teaching staff and reviewed periodically.

It is the responsibility of the Subject Co-ordinator to keep up-to-date with the needs and changes within the school and new developments outside. Any requirements should be communicated to the Director of Studies

who will ensure that there is an opportunity for staff discussion within the curriculum development process. Progression is monitored through the planning of schemes of work and through scrutiny of lessons and pupils' work.

There is a regular programme of curriculum review and development planned each September by Senior Management.

Where a general need is identified, for example children need to develop skills at working independently, it is expected that individual Subject Co-ordinators will give clear direction as to their subject's relevant contribution.

Although each subject area has its own clearly defined policy, it is expected that skills and knowledge should be applied and developed across the curriculum.

Medium Term Plans

These are submitted by subject teachers to the relevant Subject Co-ordinators and are reviewed with the policy annually.

Assessment/Communication with parents

The Assessment Policy contains information about pupil assessment and the communication of assessment information/data to parents.

Linked Policies:

Assessment Policy