



KINGSDOWN SCHOOL

Curriculum Policy

Approved by:	Full Governors	Date: 27th June 2023
Last reviewed on:	June 2023	
Next review due by:	June 2024	

1. Aims

Our curriculum aims help student to develop:

- a sense of enquiry, the ability to question, solve problems and argue rationally;
- a willingness to apply themselves and an aptitude for learning;
- knowledge and skills relevant to adult life and employment in a changing world;
- literacy, numeracy and competence in the use of information technology as well as reading for pleasure;
- their creativity, critical awareness, empathy and sensitivity;
- a recognition of their own and others' achievements, in school and beyond;
- self-esteem, self-worth and self-confidence;
- the skills of working as an individual and as a member of a group or team;
- appropriate moral and spiritual values and tolerance of others, to value each individual and to learn to live together in an atmosphere of mutual respect;
- an awareness of the student's place in the community and opportunities for service to each other and to the community.

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements for academies to provide a broad and balanced curriculum as per the Academies Act 2010, and the National Curriculum programmes of study which the school has chosen to follow.

It also reflects requirements for inclusion and equality as set out in the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice 2014 and Equality Act 2010, and refers to curriculum-related expectations of governing boards set out in the Department for Education's Governance Handbook.

It complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

3. Roles and responsibilities

3.1 The governing board

The governing board will monitor the effectiveness of this policy and hold the headteacher to account for its implementation.

The governing board will also ensure that:

- A robust framework is in place for setting curriculum priorities and aspirational targets
- The school is complying with its funding agreement and teaching a "broad and balanced curriculum" which includes English, maths, and science, and enough teaching time is provided for pupils to cover the requirements of the funding agreement
- Proper provision is made for pupils with different abilities and needs, including children with special educational needs (SEN)
- All courses provided for pupils below the age of 19 that lead to qualifications, such as GCSEs and A-levels, are approved by the secretary of state
- The school implements the relevant statutory assessment arrangements

- It participates actively in decision-making about the breadth and balance of the curriculum
- Pupils from year 8 onwards are provided with independent, impartial careers guidance, and that this is appropriately resourced

3.2 Headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that this policy is adhered to, and that:

- All required elements of the curriculum, and those subjects which the school chooses to offer, have aims and objectives which reflect the aims of the school and indicate how the needs of individual pupils will be met
- The amount of time provided for teaching the required elements of the curriculum is adequate and is reviewed by the governing board
- They manage requests to withdraw children from curriculum subjects, where appropriate
- The school's procedures for assessment meet all legal requirements
- The governing board is fully involved in decision-making processes that relate to the breadth and balance of the curriculum
- The governing board is advised on whole-school targets in order to make informed decisions
- Proper provision is in place for pupils with different abilities and needs, including children with SEN

3.3 Other staff

Other staff will ensure that the school curriculum is implemented in accordance with this policy.

Staff are expected actively to promote and seek to secure the curriculum aims (above) and, in particular to:

- have high expectations of students, work and behaviour;
- employ a variety of appropriate teaching and learning strategies;
- ensure that, wherever possible, students are found means of access to the curriculum and given opportunities to succeed;
- deliver programmes of study which build upon students' previous experiences, providing progression and continuity, and which conform to the requirements of the national curriculum;
- provide work which meets their students' needs and aspirations, which offers depth and challenge, and which motivates and inspires them;
- involve the learner in the process of learning, by discussing work, giving regular feedback through assessment and marking, negotiating targets and encouraging students to evaluate their own achievements by responding to feedback;
- develop students' skills to become independent learners;
- encourage, reward and value achievement and effort, both formally and informally;

- work in partnership with other staff, parents/carers and the wider community to achieve shared goals;
- keep parents/carers regularly and fully informed about the progress and achievements of their sons and daughters;
- embrace ICT as an effective tool for enhancing teaching and learning;
- set homework in line with the school's expectations.
- collaborate with colleagues to plan and devise a suitable five year curriculum that provides a strong foundation for successes in examinations at key stage 4 and beyond.

4. Organisation and planning

The school operates a two week timetable with six 50 minute teaching lessons each day (except on Friday week 2 where there are four). Students attend four lessons before lunch and 2 lessons after. At both Key Stages but predominantly at KS4, students receive double lessons of 100 minutes rather than single lessons of 50 minutes. On a Friday week 2, students depart at 12:50pm and staff have PPA time allocated in P5&P6.

Each day begins with a tutor session or an assembly which begins at 08.35am before the first teaching lesson at 9.00am. Each week in Tutor time, students follow a programme which includes the student bulletin, Book Your Future (a whole class reading programme), leadership time, review of attendance and an assembly.

Personal Development and SMSC are delivered through timetabled PD lessons which take place each week for 50 minutes. This is a structured program that ensures progression across five years to ensure the statutory curriculum is delivered and more.

Enrichment was introduced in September 2021 as a 50 minute weekly session on a Wednesday afternoon. Students are completing projects to develop their citizenship and teamwork skills through community projects and more. However, to support the additional lessons of PE from September 2023, enrichment will fall outside the school day through the wider school enrichment curriculum.

Students at Key Stage 3 follow a common curriculum comprising:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- Computing
- Design and Technology
- French: the identified more able students study 2 languages - French & Spanish
- Geography
- History
- Physical Education
- Drama
- Music
- Art
- Religious Education
- Personal Development

Key Stage 3 Curriculum

The KS3 Curriculum is designed to enhance the learning undertaken in the primary schools to allow students the foundations to follow their chosen courses in KS4. The KS3 curriculum offers more than these foundations as it broadens and enriches the learning experience across a wealth of different subject disciplines

In the vast majority of subjects students are taught in mixed ability classes. However, students who have identified barriers to learning for reading and numeracy and who are significantly below their age-related expectations are taught as one group in each of Y7, Y8 and Y9. Here they have further time to engage with reading and numeracy programmes to enable them to close the gaps on their peers and to make accelerated progress. These students access the full range of the Kingsdown Curriculum but at a pace that allows for further scaffolding and modeling to enable success.

Year 8 Choices:

To support the Year 9 Options process, from September 2023, we are pleased to offer Year 8 Choices. Students can choose a Performing Arts pathway (Music & Drama) and a DT Pathway (Food, Product Design & Textiles) meaning that they have the option to continue doing all subjects or to specialise in one. This is to maximise student engagement in Year 9 and give pupils the opportunity to choose a subject that they are considering pursuing at GCSE and it will feature more heavily on their timetable. Regardless of their choices in Year 8, all students can still choose any of these subjects for their GCSE options in Year 9.

Key Stage 4 Curriculum

At key stage 4, students study the core subjects including personal development. Students are also offered a suite of optional subjects of which four can be selected.

The common core comprises:

- English (students take language and literature);
- Mathematics;
- Science (Combined Science);
- Physical Education.
- Personal Development

Students are encouraged to select a balance of subjects to include the arts, languages and humanities. One option choice must be an EBacc subject and include one of History, Geography, a Modern Foreign Language or Computer Science.

Selected students who demonstrate the aptitude for the Ebacc pathway embark on the Ebacc certificate. Here they choose a language, a humanities subject and 2 further option choices.

The vast majority of courses lead to GCSE examinations; Health and Social Care and Sport Science lead to a Cambridge National Certificate which is the equivalent of a GCSE. The majority of students therefore can achieve up to nine GCSEs.

From September 2023, we are pleased to offer an alternative pathway for a small number of targeted students. They will be able to pursue a bespoke vocational course in place of a fourth option, in addition to core subjects, a double weighted humanity

and a free option choice. This will include study skills, ASDAN courses etc to prepare pupils for enrolment on traineeships and the next compulsory stage of education and training.

5. Inclusion

Teachers set high expectations for all pupils. They will use appropriate assessment to set ambitious targets and plan challenging work for all groups, including:

- More able pupils
- Pupils with low prior attainment
- Pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds
- Pupils with SEN
- Pupils with English as a second language (ESL)

Teachers will plan lessons so that pupils with SEND and/or disabilities can study every National Curriculum subject, wherever possible, and ensure that there are no barriers to every student achieving.

Teachers will also take account of the needs of students whose first language is not English. Lessons will be planned so that teaching opportunities help students to develop their English, and to support students to take part in all subjects.

Further information can be found in our statement of equality information and objectives, and in our SEN policy and information report.

6. Monitoring arrangements

Governors monitor whether the school is complying with its funding agreement and teaching a “broad and balanced curriculum” which includes the required subjects.

Heads of Department evaluate the effectiveness of their curriculum through the Restless Teacher Programme. This ensures that learning walks, work reviews, student voice, analysis of data, home learning reviews are undertaken at calendared points in the academic year. From these reviews, Heads of Department collaborate to share best practice, develop actions plans and measure the impact of these.

Heads of Department have responsibility for monitoring the way in which resources are stored and managed.

This policy will be reviewed annually by the headteacher. At every review, the policy will be shared with the full governing board.

7. Links with other policies

This policy links to the following policies and procedures:

- Assessment policy
- Teaching and Learning Policy
- SEN policy
- Extra-curricular Policy

Signed



Emma Leigh-Bennett
Headteacher

Date

9th July 2023

Signed



Lynne Scragg
Chair of Governors

Date

9th July 2023

