



BISHOP VESEY'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Curriculum Policy

Review prepared by:	Deputy Head Teacher
Review date/by whom	Chair of Learning and Teaching under Chair's Action 23 March 2017;
School's next annual review date/by whom:	Summer 2018 by Learning and Teaching Committee
Ratified by Learning and Teaching Committee:	5 th June 2017
Signed by Chair of Learning and Teaching Committee:	



CURRICULUM POLICY

1. SCHOOL VISION

Our curriculum is founded on our vision of delivering:

- Inspirational teaching and outstanding learning.
- Academic excellence, a spirit of enquiry and curiosity.
- Enrichment opportunities building leadership, independence and resilience.
- A warm, outward-looking community, celebrating diversity and supporting others.

2. CURRICULUM PRINCIPLES

Every student will have a curriculum that will provide them with a programme of learning that fits their ability and aspirations. We recognise that within education there is not a 'one size fits all' approach to learning, but instead each individual should have a curriculum that fits their needs.

Prior to the ending of specialist funding we were a Language College. We continue to value languages as subjects which raise standards of achievement across the school in terms of empathy, a team ethos, self-confidence and the ability of our students to communicate with staff and their peers, and as befits our international school status, a commitment to being a global citizen.

The school operates a challenging and rigorous three year KS3 programme of study (except in Physics, Chemistry and Biology where it is two years) and a two year KS4 programme of study. Throughout KS3 and KS4 we offer a wide-range of stimulating experiences, inside and outside of the classroom.

The curriculum is regularly reviewed and updated to meet the evolving needs of our students and to incorporate appropriate educational developments and recommendations.

This policy is written with the United Nations Convention of the Rights of The Child in Mind. All of our policies bear in mind Articles 3 and 28- the child's best interests and the right of the child to an education. This policy also bears in mind Article 24- every child has the right to develop their interests and abilities to the full.

3. THE TIMETABLE

The school operates a two week timetable. Each week comprises of a 25 period week. There are five periods per day, each of which lasts for 1 hour. This allows time for developed and rigorous learning.

Each morning has a 5 minute registration slot. Each afternoon there is either a 20 minute tutor period or assembly. One afternoon each week year groups move to games during this time.



4. KEY STAGE 3

- 4.1 Our provision follows a three year programme at KS3 that delivers the National Curriculum across the subject areas.
- 4.2 In Years 7 & 8 students study English for 7 lessons a fortnight. Students study Maths for 7 lessons a fortnight in Year 7 and six lessons a fortnight in Year 8. In Year 9 all students have six lessons a fortnight in both English and Maths. Students are in sets for Maths from Year 8. We personalise learning by providing support and challenge so that students make the progress they are capable of. All students sit base-line tests in literacy and numeracy at the start of Year 7. Additional support is provided where necessary.
- 4.3 In Science and all other subjects students are taught in mixed ability groups.
- 4.4 In addition in Year 7 all students are taught Design, Art and Computing, French, Geography, German, History, PE, RE, Creative Studies (including Drama) and Music, PHSE and Games.
- 4.5 At KS3, Citizenship is taught through all subjects, as opposed to a discrete subject.
- 4.6 In Year 8 students choose two languages from French, German and Spanish. They also study separate sciences, Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- 4.7 In year 9 students also study Business Studies and Enterprise Education as a discrete subject.

5. KEY STAGE 4

- 5.1 All students study Maths and English for seven periods a fortnight in Year 10. In Year 11 students study Maths for seven periods and English Language and English Literature for eight periods a fortnight. All students study separate sciences: Physics, Chemistry and Biology for four periods a fortnight per subject in Year 10, and five periods a fortnight in Year 11. All students also study Citizenship, PE and Games.
- 5.2 It is compulsory for every student to study one core language from French, Spanish or German. In addition, students must choose to study either Geography or History. Students can opt for any combination of a further two subjects at KS4 from Art, Business Studies, Design Technology, French, German, Geography, History, Music, PE, RE, Computing and Spanish.
- 5.3 The emphasis, as at KS5, is to encourage students to choose their own combinations of subjects that they enjoy; are good at and provide an insight into any potential future career. All option subjects are taught in mixed ability groupings. Students are supported through the options process with a comprehensive IAG (information, advice and guidance) programme involving tutors, one to one conversations and an extensive offer of information sessions/meetings and events.
- 5.7 All students have four hours of statutory PE/Games a fortnight. We encourage all students to participate in sport as part of a healthy lifestyle and developing self-discipline.



6. KEY STAGE 5

- 6.1 Students enrol in an A Level programme of study over two years. Students have the option to elect any combination of subjects from a choice of 19 subjects, with the emphasis again being in what they enjoy, are good at and what they need to go on to study for their aspired degree/further education course or chosen career path.
- 6.2 We encourage all students in the Lower Sixth to do the Extended Project. We believe this to be excellent preparation for any student aspiring to study at a Russell Group university. This is also accredited with UCAS points.
- 6.3 All students study three linear A levels. In some cases students will study four A levels. At the end of the two year programme students will sit exams in these A levels.
- 6.4 An exciting feature of our KS5 curriculum is Enrichment. Students are encouraged to do something to support the community, whether it be supporting over 60s computer classes, working in local charity shops or mentoring within the school.
- 6.5 An extensive range of extra-curricular activities are offered to students covering sport, music, the arts, academic support programmes, international and domestic trips, sports tours, dinners and celebration evenings, visits, enrichment to name but a few. Other additional opportunities for Sixth Form students include volunteering to help with in class support for KS3 groups, a sports and language leader programme and a breath-taking range of musical activities including the school show, senior soloists evenings, busking week, piano recitals and orchestra etc.