



BISHOP VESEY'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Curriculum Policy

2019-2020

Review prepared by:	Head Teacher
Review date/by whom	Learning and Teaching Committee 13 May 2019
School's next annual review date/by whom:	Summer 2020 by Learning and Teaching Committee
Signed by Chair of Learning and Teaching Committee:	



CURRICULUM POLICY

1. SCHOOL MISSION VISION VALUES

- 1.1 The mission of the School is to provide inspiration and excellence for all our students. At Bishop Vesey's Grammar School, we are relentless in seeking to realise our vision:
- The very best progress by all students
 - A thriving school; a local, regional and national leader
- 1.2 Our curriculum is founded on this mission and vision and imbued with our values:
- 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.
- 1.3 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.

2. CURRICULUM INTENT

- 2.1 At Bishop Vesey's Grammar School, we believe that our curriculum should provide a broad and balanced experience for all our students. The curriculum is everything that happens in our School, which helps students learn and develop knowledge, understanding, skills, values and attitudes. Learning takes place in the classroom, and also, for example, through Games, assemblies, theatrical and musical productions, expeditions, residential courses, educational visits, and community work.
- 2.2 We aim to develop the enjoyment of, and commitment to, learning so that students become scholars, making the maximum progress and achieving the highest standards possible.
- 2.3 Our curriculum also aims to develop our students' sense of identity, through knowledge of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural heritages of the societies in which they are living. This includes an international dimension as we seek to increase our links with educational institutions overseas. It encourages an appreciation of the aesthetic, scientific and technological achievements of mankind.
- 2.4 The whole School curriculum develops an understanding of different beliefs, and helps our students to distinguish between right and wrong. It passes on enduring values, promotes equal opportunities, and helps to produce students, who are responsible global citizens, who care about others, about the environment, and about truth and justice and want to make the world a better place. The personal development of our students spiritually, morally, socially and culturally plays a most significant part in their ability to learn and achieve high standards.



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- 2.5 The school operates a challenging and rigorous three year KS3 programme of study and a two year KS4 programme of study. The exception is Science. GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics courses, which all begin in Year 9.
- 2.6 We encourage learning beyond the classroom through homework and by promoting our super-curricular booklet of activities for all learners.
- 2.7 The curriculum is regularly reviewed and updated to meet the evolving needs of our students and to incorporate appropriate educational developments and recommendations.

3. THE TIMETABLE

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 Each morning begins with either a 15 minute registration or assembly session. Each afternoon there is either a 10 minute registration period or students are already on games.

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 6 lessons a fortnight in Year 8. In Year 9 all students have 6 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 Technology, Art, Computing, French, Geography, History, Mandarin, PE, RE, Creative Studies (including Drama and Music) PHSE (known as Thrive) and Games. From Year 7, one class of students also additionally studies Mandarin for 2 hours a week after school and on 6 Saturdays through the school year. This is part of the Mandarin Excellence Programme, a unique yet intensive language programme supported by University College London's Institute of Education and the British Council.
- 4.5 At KS3, PSHE is taught through all subjects. There is also 1 lesson per fortnight dedicated to PSHE.
- 4.6 In Year 8 students choose to study two languages from French, Mandarin and Spanish. They also study separate science: Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- 4.7 In year 9 students also study Economics as a discrete subject. In Year 9, students choose to study 3 of the 4 following subjects: Art, Computing, Design Technology and Music.



4.8 Some students participate in World Challenge in Year 9 and some students participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme in Year 9.

4.9 KS3 student leaders organise regular competitions for 27 primary schools and special schools.

5. KEY STAGE 4

5.1 All students study Maths and English for 7 periods a fortnight in Year 10. In Year 11 students study Maths for 7 periods and English Language and English Literature for 8 periods a fortnight. All students study separate sciences: Physics, Chemistry and Biology for 4 periods a fortnight per subject in Year 10 and Year 11. All students also study PSHE, (discrete lessons are in Year 10 only), PE and Games. There is some setting in Maths and English at KS4.

5.2 It is currently 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, Economics, Design Technology, French, German, Geography, History, Music, PE, RE, Computing and Spanish. German will not be offered as a KS4 GCSE subject from September 2021.

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.

5.8 Many students participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme in Years 10-11.

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 18 subjects, with the emphasis again being on 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:

Art, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Economics, English Literature, Extended Project Qualification, French, Further Mathematics, History, Geography, Mathematics, Music, PE, Physics, Psychology, Religious Studies, Spanish.

6.2 We encourage 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 university. This is also accredited with UCAS points.

6.3 All students study 3 A levels. In some cases students will study 4 A levels. At the end of the two year programme students will sit exams in these A levels. All subjects are studied for 10



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hours a fortnight. Students also have the opportunity to do an additional qualification in Mandarin: HSK2.

- 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 the elderly, working in local care homes, volunteering in hospitals, working in local charity shops or mentoring within the school, mentoring in other schools, for example as Literacy or Numeracy leaders, as part of our Outreach programme or acting as Language or Sports leaders.
- 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.