

Founded 1642



New Hall School

Whole School Curriculum Policy

Reviewed by	Senior Leadership & Management Team
Date	August 2018
Authorised by	Board of Governors of New Hall
ISI Code	A3

WHOLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM POLICY

Please also refer to the Early Years Curriculum Policy

1. Preparatory Divisions

1.1 Introduction

As a Catholic school, we keep the Mission Statement at the heart of all we do. We recognise that all our pupils are made in the image and likeness of God; each one is special and unique. It is therefore our responsibility to ensure that each one discovers his/her strengths and gifts and this is done by providing a holistic curriculum which offers breadth, as well as depth, of learning.

1.2. Aims and Objectives

Through our curriculum we aim to:

- Ensure every child succeeds
provide an inclusive education within a culture of high expectations
- Build on what each learner already knows
ensure that lessons have structure and pace so that pupils know what is to be learnt, how and why
- Make learning vivid and real
develop understanding through enquiry, creativity, e-learning and group problem solving
- Make learning an enjoyable and challenging experience
stimulate learning through matching teaching techniques and strategies to a range of learning styles
- Enrich the learning experience
build learning skills across the curriculum
- Promote assessment for learning
make children partners in their learning

1.3 Curriculum Content

The content of our curriculum aims to make provision for excellent academic achievement alongside nurturing the spiritual, social, moral, cultural, physical and creative development of our pupils. It is supplemented with visits, workshops and outside speakers. Pupils will acquire skills in speaking and listening, English and Mathematics.

We acknowledge that an effective curriculum is:

- Broad
- Balanced
- Relevant
- Purposeful
- Differentiated
- Stimulating
- Cross-curricular
- Enjoyable
- Engaging

It is essential that Subject Leaders ensure that these elements are being catered for within the planning of their curriculum areas as well as in the delivery of lessons.

The curriculum at New Hall Preparatory Divisions is based upon the knowledge and skills laid out in the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum (Pre-Reception and Reception) and

the National Curriculum (Years 1-6). It is delivered through a range of exciting and engaging topics and built upon a progressive ladder of skills. In addition, the school has built into the Key Stage 2 curriculum, the knowledge and skills required for entrance examinations and the 11+ examination.

We are also keen to ensure that children are given opportunities to learn how to:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well being

1.4 Subject Allocation New Hall Preparatory Divisions

Please also refer to Early Years Curriculum Policy.

Our curriculum comprises of the following subjects:

Core Subjects

- Religious Education
- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Information and Communication Technology

Foundation Subjects

- Art & Design
- Dance (Pre-Reception and Reception)
- Design & Technology
- Geography
- History
- LAMDA (Year 1 to Year 6)
- Latin (Year 6 only)
- Modern Language (French)
- Music
- Personal, Social, Health & Economic Education
- Politics (Years 5 and 6 only)
- Physical Education
- Swimming

These subjects have been allocated a certain amount of teaching time per week, to ensure consistency of delivery across the school.

Most subjects are taught by the Class Teachers in differentiated ability groups. Setting in English takes place in Years 5 and 6 and setting in Mathematics takes place in Years 3-6. This allows pupils to be challenged and stretched still further.

Specialist teaching takes place in the following subjects:

- Music (including recorder)
- Dance
- Physical Education (including swimming)
- Politics
- Languages (French and Latin)

This allows a more in-depth knowledge and understanding of a subject to be shared with pupils, thereby raising attainment in these subject areas.

1.5 Delivery of the Curriculum

For information on the delivery of the curriculum, please see the Teaching and Learning Policy.

1.6 The Enriched Curriculum

A full programme of activities, drawing on and augmenting the curriculum, is offered to all pupils at lunchtimes and evenings. *See the Preparatory Divisions Co-Curricular Activities Booklet.*

The Preparatory Divisions also offer child care before school and run an After School Care Club from 3.30-6.00pm. This offers a wide range of activities in a caring and supportive environment which acknowledge that, 'high educational standards and pupil well-being go hand in hand. Children succeed best when they are healthy, self-confident and well-motivated. Extending the range of services that schools can offer is crucial to making sure children and families are given the support they need to thrive.

2. Senior Divisions

The curriculum at New Hall is designed, in the light of the Mission Statement and Aims of the School, to offer breadth and balance, as appropriate to the needs and interests of the students and the size of the school. The school aims to provide a curriculum accessible to all students, which enables them to develop and make progress in a wide range of areas, including the cross-curricular skills of speaking, listening, literacy and numeracy.

The curriculum provides full-time supervised education for pupils of compulsory school age (construed in accordance with section 8 of the Education Act 1996), and it gives students experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative education. Personal, social and health education, which reflects the school's aim and ethos, takes place across all year groups in the Senior School, either through dedicated 'Human & Spiritual Days' or via regular PSHEE lessons.

Work planned in all areas of the curriculum is differentiated for all students, including those with special educational needs, students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, those on the More Able & Talented register and for those for whom English is an additional language. Where a pupil has a statement, the education provided fulfils its requirements. Schemes of Work form part of each departmental handbook; these also contain similar content to that found in the Preparatory Divisions' Teaching and Learning Policy.

Careers guidance is provided for students and this ranges from assisting students with their GCSE option choices to supporting students with their UCAS applications and helping them to plan their lives beyond New Hall.

See Differentiation Policy; Most Able & Talented Policy; EAL Policy; Learning Difficulties/Disabilities & SEN Policy.

2.1 Compulsory Elements of Timetable for all Senior School Year Groups

As befits a Catholic school, Religious Education (known as 'Theology' in the Senior School) is taught in the Senior School as a core curriculum subject in Key Stages 3 and 4, with the opportunity for all students to take GCSE in the subject at the end of Year 11. In the Sixth Form, as well as being available as an A Level option, students receive general RE through termly Human & Spiritual Days that are put on by the Theology Department.

All Senior Division students benefit from a Games afternoon once a week. This provides an excellent release from, and counterpoint to, academic study. It also enables all students to be involved in a wide variety of sporting pursuits, from swimming to golf.

2.2 The Enriched Curriculum

A full programme of activities, drawing on and augmenting the curriculum is offered to all students at lunchtimes, evenings and at weekends.

2.3 Key Stage 3

The school aims to provide a curriculum accessible to all students, which enables them to develop learning in a wide range of areas:

- **Mathematical**

Mathematics is a core subject throughout KS3 and numeracy underpins work in many subjects across the curriculum, especially the sciences.

- **Linguistic**

English is a core subject throughout KS3, alongside Latin and French or Spanish. Some students who show particular aptitude for languages are offered the opportunity to study both French & Spanish. Latin is offered to all students and Greek is introduced as a co-curricular club in Year 9

- **Scientific**

The three separate sciences, Biology, Chemistry and Physics are taught as core subjects. Computer Science is taught to all students in KS3 and is an option at KS4 and KS5. Psychology is also available in KS5.

- **Human and Social**

History and Geography are studied by all students at KS3. PSHEE, incorporating Careers Guidance, is taught through one dedicated lesson per fortnight.

- **Technological, Aesthetic and Creative**

Computer Science is taught to all students at KS3. Art, Drama, Music and Design and Technology are taught to all students in Years 7 and 8; two of these are chosen for study in Year 9 and beyond. Students will also have experience of Cookery. Dance is available as a co-curricular activity.

- **Physical**

All students at KS3 have both Physical Education lessons and one Games afternoon per week. At KS4 and KS5, students also have one Games afternoon per week.

All students will acquire skills in speaking and listening, literacy and numeracy, both through specific subject content in Mathematics and English, and the wider curriculum. LAMDA qualifications, delivered principally through the Drama course, boost skills in oracy.

Project Qualifications

Students have the opportunity to embark on project qualifications at various levels. This is an excellent way of developing important academic skills, such as the capacity for independent research, use of resources, essay writing, presentation skills and the ability to manage a large and complex task over an extended period. The most frequently chosen of these is the Extended Project Qualification, taken by students in the Sixth Form.

2.4 Key Stage 4

A core curriculum of Mathematics, English, Science, Modern Languages and Theology / Religious Studies is broadened by the addition of subjects from a range of options to provide for a wide range of interests at GCSE level. Most students study 10 GCSE subjects, though some study 8 or 9 and a few 11 or 12.

2.5 Sixth Form

A wide range of subjects is offered to enable students to study 3 or 4 subjects to A Level. Students also follow courses in PE, LAMDA (public speaking), Cookery (Menu for Life in Year 13), as well as 'Horizons' - a programme of general studies and lectures throughout Years 12 & 13. Besides Theology being available as an A Level option, students receive general RE through termly Human & Spiritual Days that are put on by the Chaplaincy Team. In addition, each year some students opt to undertake the 'Extended Project' (which

carries the UCAS tariff equivalent to half an A Level); this is a detailed research project into a topic of their choice, and is well regarded by universities. Careful choice with appropriate guidance gives students access to the full range of higher education options available.