



BLENHEIM
SCHOOLS

Curriculum Policy

Policy Folder: Operations

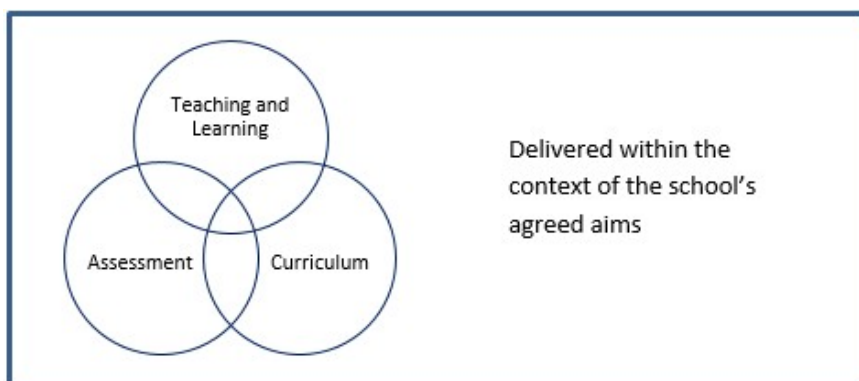
1 Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this policy is to ensure that our curriculum supports our school ethos and fulfils our school aims. This policy applies to all pupils, including those in Reception.

- To provide a small, family environment which fosters a sense of belonging and allows our children to feel happy, confident and secure.
- To encourage a growth mindset which will develop children's resilience and curiosity, cultivating skills for the future.
- To offer a personalised learning journey for our children, building on their individual strengths from whatever their starting points.
- To fulfil our school motto "Optime" by aspiring to excellence in all that we do.

1.2 We see the curriculum as the total learning experience for our pupils, which includes not only the taught lessons but also the routines, behaviours, events, activities and other opportunities that our pupils experience on a daily, weekly and yearly basis in order to ensure that all of them make the best progress possible and attain high standards.

1.3 A well-structured and coherent curriculum is a fundamental element of the tripartite of education that underpins all successful schools and includes Teaching, Learning and Assessment as in the following model:



- 1.5 We aim to provide a holistic curriculum which develops every pupil as a confident individual who loves learning. We understand that the curriculum, both within taught lessons and beyond them, and in everything we say and do, should create an environment where academic risk-taking, questioning and debating, challenging thinking and the freedom to learn from mistakes are all encouraged. We believe that pupils learn most effectively when they are actively engaged in their learning and are given opportunities to apply their knowledge and skills in meaningful contexts.

Our STEAM facilities further enhance this approach, providing pupils with opportunities to take part in inquiry-based projects, hands-on experimentation and collaborative problem-solving. Through these experiences, pupils are encouraged to connect abstract academic concepts to real-world challenges, develop curiosity and perseverance, and become confident in applying their learning in new and unfamiliar situations.

- 1.6 Our curriculum offers all pupils the opportunity to experience linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical, aesthetic and creative aspects of education. We intend that our curriculum should imbue in our pupils:
- A passion for lifelong learning;
 - A capacity for independent and critical thinking;
 - Self-awareness, self-regulation and resilience;
 - Self-confidence without arrogance;
 - Genuine interests that extend beyond the confines of the classroom;
 - Curiosity and a willingness to ask questions, investigate and explore;
 - The ability to collaborate effectively and solve problems creatively; and
 - The confidence to apply their knowledge and skills to real-world contexts.
- 1.7 Foundation subjects are introduced through a carefully considered 'Big Question', which provides a clear purpose and direction for pupils' learning throughout the unit. The Big Question is designed to stimulate curiosity, encourage enquiry and provide pupils with an authentic reason to engage with the subject matter. Throughout the unit, pupils acquire the knowledge, vocabulary and subject-specific skills needed to explore and answer the Big Question. They are given opportunities to question, investigate, experiment, create, collaborate and apply their learning, including through practical and inquiry-based experiences in the STEAM Lab where appropriate.



At the end of the unit, pupils return to the Big Question and use the knowledge and skills they have developed to formulate a thoughtful and informed response. In this way, the Big Question provides a meaningful outcome for learning and enables pupils to demonstrate not only what they know, but how effectively they can apply, connect and communicate their understanding. This forms our assessment for the foundation subjects.

- 1.8 British values, which are; democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs, are actively promoted in every aspect of school life.
- 1.9 Our curriculum is compliant with the following regulatory requirements as outlined in the Independent School Standards:

The written policy, plans and schemes of work:–

- (i) take into account the ages, aptitudes and needs of all pupils, including those pupils with an EHC plan; and*
- (ii) do not undermine the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.*

The school is committed to ensuring:

- (a) full-time supervised education for pupils of compulsory school age (construed in accordance with section 8 of the Education Act (1996), which gives pupils experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative education;*
- (b) that pupils acquire speaking, listening, literacy and numeracy skills;*
- (c) where the principal language of instruction is a language other than English, that lessons in written and spoken English, except that this matter does not apply in respect of a school which provides education for pupils who are all temporarily resident in England and which follows the curriculum of another country;*
- (d) personal, social, health and economic education which:*
 - (i) reflects the school's aim and ethos; and*
 - (ii) encourages respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the 2010 Act(a);*
- e)for pupils receiving secondary education, access to accurate, up-to-date careers guidance that–*
 - (i) is presented in an impartial manner;*
 - (ii) enables them to make informed choices about a broad range of career options; and*



(iii) helps to encourage them to fulfil their potential. The school has a separate careers guidance policy.

f) where the school has pupils below compulsory school age, a programme of activities which is appropriate to their educational needs in relation to personal, social, emotional and physical development and communication and language skills

g) where the school has pupils above compulsory school age, a programme of activities which is appropriate to their needs;

h) that all pupils have the opportunity to learn and make progress and

i) effective preparation of pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in British society.

2 Taught Curriculum

2.1 Our taught curriculum broadly follows and, at times, goes beyond the National Curriculum at KS1, 2 and is formally assessed in the middle Year 6 through 11+. Our pupils also take GL summative assessments at the end of years 1-6 in English and Mathematics.

1. Reception follows the Early Years Framework and bespoke curriculum objectives. We use the Read Write Inc programme to teach phonics.
2. Years 1-6 follow the Core Knowledge curriculum in Geography, History, Science, Music and Visual Arts/DT. We use and extend the National Curriculum in Years 1-6 in Maths and English using White Rose Maths and Hamilton Trust resources.
3. Our taught curriculum broadly follows and goes beyond the (National Curriculum) and is formally assessed in the middle of Year 6 through 11+. Our pupils also sit GL summative assessments at the end of years 1-6 in English and Mathematics
4. Years 3-6 complete CAT4 baseline assessments in September which we use to inform planning and teaching. In Years 4-6, these tests are used to guide discussions as to what schools children should be aiming for.

Details of what children will be learning can be found in the relevant class curriculum maps.

5. Taken together, the taught curriculum will ensure that by the time they have completed their time with us, all pupils are able to demonstrate the knowledge, skills and understanding to enable them to move onto the next stage of their education at the highest level.



3 Special Educational Needs and Disability - SEND

- 3.1 Our curriculum is inclusive. For those pupils with special educational needs or specific learning difficulties, the school has a well-established Learning Support department, led by the Head of Inclusion.
- 3.2 Further details of this provision can be found in our Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Policy.

4 Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development of Pupils

- 4.1 Our policy follows the advice given by the DfE in the non-statutory guidance of November 2014 and meets the requirements of the Independent School Standards/BSO Standards. Aspects of SMSC are infused within the day-to-day operation of our school; incorporated through the curriculum, both in content included in subject schemes of work and through other planned learning opportunities in the school. They are captured in our written aims and expressed in the ethos and behaviours of everyone.
- a) actively promotes the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs;
- b) Ensures that principles are actively promoted which-
- Enable pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence;
 - Enable pupils to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England;
 - Encourage pupils to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative and understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality in which the school is situated and to society more widely;
 - Enable pupils to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England;
 - Further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling pupils to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures;
 - Encourage respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the 2010 Act; and



- Encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic process, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England.

(c) precludes the promotion of partisan political views in the teaching of any subject in the school; and

(d) takes such steps as are reasonably practicable to ensure that where political issues are brought to the attention of pupils—

(i) while they are in attendance at the school,

(ii) while they are taking part in extra-curricular activities which are provided or organised by or on behalf of the school, or

(iii) in the promotion at the school, including through the distribution of promotional material, of extra-curricular activities taking place at the school or elsewhere,

they are offered a balanced presentation of opposing views.

4.2 Discriminatory or extremist opinions or behaviours are challenged as a matter of routine.

4.3 In addition, our approach to SMSC ensures that all pupils will gain an:

- Understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process;
- Appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their well-being and safety;
- Understanding that there is a separation of power between the executive and the judiciary, and that while some public bodies such as the police and the army can be held to account through Parliament, others, such as the courts, maintain independence;
- Understanding that the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law;
- Acceptance that people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour; and
- Understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination.



5 Religious Education and PSHEE

- 5.1 Our school chooses to respond to the legal requirement in maintained schools to teach Religious Education and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), and to non-statutory guidelines to cover other aspects of Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHEE). Our programme encourages respect for other people, with particular regard to the protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010
- 5.2 Our PSHEE course is delivered to all pupils through discrete PSHEE lessons taught by our teachers. There is one lesson of taught PSHEE a week. Elements of the programme may be supported through the bringing in of additional expertise, such as outside speakers, or the use of teachers with a particular interest or knowledge in a specific area. In addition to these discrete sessions, PSHEE is also dealt with across the curriculum (e.g. Social issues through the teaching of English Literature; Health through Biology and PE; Citizenship through History & RE). There are also centrally organised sessions which supplement the delivery in house, dealing with issues such as bullying, alcohol, sexual relationships and drugs, as well as supporting careers and economic education.

6 Co-curricular

- 6.1 A wide range of enrichment activities supplements the timetabled curriculum. Our pupils are encouraged to take part in an extensive range of art, drama, music, sport and other activities and clubs. Regular themed days and weeks are held. These may include Book Week, Science Week, Anti-Bullying Week or Languages and Cultures week.
- 6.2 Pupils are taken to places of interest on a regular basis. Visits, including residential opportunities, are organised annually, which help to develop independence, teamwork and responsibility in a different environment to that in school.

7 Other Opportunities

- 7.1 Our school aims to provide an education for life. Other aspects of our curriculum which enable our pupils to gain the skills, knowledge and experience to be successful adults include:
- Pupil Councils;
 - Residentials and trips;
 - Fundraising Activities;
 - Sport.





8 Responsibility

- 8.1 The person with responsibility for the overview and yearly evaluation of this policy is the Deputy Head. However, all staff are responsible for ensuring this policy is implemented and acted on.
- 8.2 When evaluating the use and impact of this policy, our school leaders will evaluate the extent to which there is evidence of a curriculum which:
- Fulfils the aims of the school;
 - Embeds aspiration, attributes and the expectation to achieve high standards and high rates of progress; and
 - Provides engagement and excitement for learning.





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