

Charitable Objects of St. Catherine's School

The Objects for which the Company is established are to promote and provide for the advancement of education by providing, conducting, governing, carrying on and maintaining in the United Kingdom, or elsewhere, a boarding or day School or Schools for girls in which the teaching shall be in accordance with the principles of the Church of England.



SENIOR SCHOOL CURRICULUM POLICY

History

This policy, first written in 1996, was revised in 1998 and again in January 2005. It was reviewed and continued in 2007, updated in 2009 to incorporate the revised aims of the school, and renewed and updated in 2013, 2015, 2017, adapted to work in the Covid era from March 2020, and 2022.

The Senior School curriculum comprises all formal academic opportunities plus the broader opportunities of subject-related activities outside the classroom.

Our aim is to deliver a curriculum which enables us to fulfil our commitment to the girls under the heading of “Staff Aims for the Girls” to be found in the staff handbook. Our aims are:

- to provide an exceptional all-round education which will prepare girls for happy and fulfilling lives
- to create a safe and healthy environment in which the wellbeing of our pupils is paramount, enabling them to enjoy their education and thrive personally
- to provide excellent academic teaching, up-to-date facilities and a wide range of extra-curricular activities
- to encourage a love of learning and an ability to think creatively and independently
- to foster the personal, spiritual, moral, social, cultural and physical development of our pupils as well as their academic potential
- to encourage our pupils to treat everyone with respect and courtesy and show concern for the needs of others, fostering teamwork and collegiality in our diverse community and the world beyond school
- to encourage the girls to embrace the inclusive spirit of St. Catherine's, both as members of the School and lifelong as active members of the St Catherine's Association

- to give our pupils the right guidance and self-belief to help them develop fully their own unique talents and abilities, in order to achieve and succeed, both in and beyond the classroom
- to encourage an understanding of the Christian values, thoughts and deeds, in accordance with our Foundation, within a culture of understanding of the beliefs of all faiths
- to encourage each girl to develop the skills of leadership and a sense of responsibility towards others, within School and beyond
- to develop a strong partnership between staff and parents to support the girls throughout their school years

In addition, we believe that a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities offers girls the chance to develop further many of the skills which enhance their performance in the taught curriculum. Girls are also invited to devise and lead their own activities/clubs, such as Medical Reading Group.

We recognise that to facilitate these aims each student at St. Catherine's School is entitled to a curriculum characterised by the qualities listed below.

1. Relevance

We will provide a curriculum appropriate to the needs of the students at different stages of their learning. We will take into account their age, experience, needs and aptitude, and protected characteristics, enabling them to contribute with confidence within both the school community and the outside world.

2. Breadth and balance

We present a broad and balanced curriculum which incorporates these elements of learning:

- the development of knowledge
- the understanding of concepts
- the acquisition of skills
- the ability to apply these elements in a variety of circumstances, exercising independent thought and framing opinions based on evidence and sound judgement

We aim to give access to the following areas of experience: aesthetic/creative, human and social, linguistic and literary, mathematical, moral and spiritual, physical, scientific and technological.

3. Coherence

Our curriculum is given coherence by incorporating the different areas of learning and experience in such a way as to encourage the students to identify cross-curricular links and make clear associations between one idea and another.

4. Continuity and Progression

We structure the curriculum in such a way as to allow for effective continuity and development through systematic co-ordination of key aspects within each area of study. Schemes of work acknowledge and develop work covered in previous years.

5. Differentiation

Through our curriculum we will acknowledge the differences between children, even of the same age, by generating variation in tasks and content so that there is a balance between the need for a challenge and the likelihood of success for each student. Extension work is provided for those ready for it, and clinic support offered for those who need it to develop their confidence in learning. All students therefore have the opportunity to learn effectively and progress.

6. Choices

At the end of Upper 3, year 7, all girls choose two Modern Foreign Languages for L4, from French, German and Spanish, which they have studied during that year. In U4, new joiners begin Latin and Spanish ab initio and can join other MFLs as a second MFL subject where they have appropriate experience.

The U4 curriculum has a lecture period through which information on option subjects is delivered in the Autumn Term, alongside careers talks from parents or alumni and other leading and interesting educational firms. In U4 there is choice within the Creative Arts of any two of the following subjects – Textiles, Art, Food and Nutrition and Design Technology – and all girls attend a weekly PPPEL period. This is an introduction to Philosophy, Politics, Psychology, Economics and Logic, which introduces the girls to a wider experience and to some Sixth Form subjects at an earlier stage, broadening their general knowledge and enhancing their discussion and debating skills.

GCSE choices for L5 and U5: Girls have free choice, from the subjects available, for their two or three option subjects at GCSE. We ensure that they are given information and receive guidance so that they can make these choices in an informed manner.

A-Level choices: Girls are given a free choice of three A-Levels in the Sixth Form. There is the possibility of doing four if one of their options is Further Maths. Those not taking four choose a Subsidiary Subject as a part of our enrichment programme. They attend four lessons a week in these subjects until the end of the Autumn Term of U6, unless they wish to pursue a qualification (such as GCSE Italian) which would require them to continue for the rest of the academic year. The subjects provide the opportunity to develop new skills but may also complement their A-Level studies.

In addition:

The curriculum incorporates the National Curriculum KS3 to KS4 as a basis for the curriculum in Years 7 to 11 and extends beyond it in many areas. It is flexible and able to respond to changes in Government Policy related to curriculum issues.

The students will also be given opportunities:

- to develop and demonstrate the ability to prepare, process, present and evaluate within the disciplines of literacy, number, communication, problem solving and working with others

- to develop and apply their ICT capability and digital learning skills where appropriate and make use of technology to enhance their personal study. Girls in U3 to U5 use their own iPads in lessons and girls in the Sixth Form may bring a device of their own choosing
- for the promotion of their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- for effective preparation of pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in British society

All staff share the responsibility for delivering the curriculum. It is the responsibility of each Head of Department to ensure that schemes of work are produced and regularly updated, taught appropriately and progress is assessed by means of marking of prep. and assessments, following school procedures for assessment and marking. The process of assessment and evaluation is continuously reviewed in light of current educational thinking. Precise details of the curriculum outlined in this policy are made available to all parents and prospective parents on the school website via departmental websites.

Signature of Director of Studies:.....
 Dr E Nevin

Signature of Headmistress:.....
 Mrs A M Phillips

Date.....

The curriculum policy comes under the remit of the Curriculum Committee chaired by the Director of Studies.

THIS POLICY WILL BE REVIEWED IN 2023