

***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.*

## **St Catherine's Prep School Curriculum Policy**



**The Prep School refers to all staff and pupils in the St. Catherine's Preparatory which includes: the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), Pre-Prep School (Key Stage 1) and Prep. School (Key Stage 2).**

This policy was reviewed in February 2024 and replaces the previous update of October 2019, September 2018, September 2016, January 2013 and September 2009.

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The Prep 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 in which all pupils have the opportunity to learn and make progress and enables us to fulfil our commitment to the girls, in line with the ethos and values of St. Catherine's School, which are embedded in its aims. These are shared via the school website and in the staff handbook. The following values and skills underpin our curriculum:

### **Values**

**St Catherine's girls should appreciate and cultivate the following:**

- Politeness – Courtesy to everyone always.
- Kindness
- Honesty
- Open-mindedness
- Humility
- Humour
- Diligence
- Perseverance
- Courage
- Self-confidence
- Adaptability
- Imagination
- (Intellectual) Curiosity
- Orderliness
- Awareness of, and respect for, the school community and the wider world.

## **Skills**

**St. Catherine's School empowers the girls to strive for and excel in the following essential skills:**

- Reading thoughtfully and appreciatively
- Writing with precision and clarity
- Speaking coherently and persuasively
- Listening attentively
- Applying mathematical principles intelligently
- Harnessing the power of information technology effectively
- Cultivating a strong memory
- Solving problems through critical thinking
- Learning from peers and past mistakes
- Collaborating within a team
- Exercising independent and critical thinking
- Assessing risks and taking calculated leaps when necessary
- Managing time efficiently
- Leading others with confidence and empathy

We firmly believe that a diverse range of extracurricular opportunities, including field trips, residential visits, guest speakers, and workshops, provides our students with valuable chances to advance both academically and personally beyond the traditional classroom setting. We acknowledge that personal growth significantly contributes to academic success.

For a comprehensive overview of the curriculum for each year group, you can access the information through the Community portal on our school website. We also introduce these curriculum overviews to parents during the annual Welcome Talks at the commencement of each academic year.

Our curriculum is characterised by the qualities listed below:

### **1. Relevance**

We will provide a curriculum appropriate to the needs of the pupils at different stages of their learning. We will take into account their age, experience and aptitude, 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

We aim to give access to the following areas of experience – aesthetic/creative, human and social, linguistic and literary, mathematical and economic, moral and spiritual, physical, scientific and technological. All pupils (Pre-school-LIIL) follow the Jigsaw PSHE/PSED programme within our Life Matters lessons, which reflects the School's aims and ethos, encourages respect for other people, paying particular regard to protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010. We also promote fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect. The School has achieved Green Flag status of the Eco Schools England programme and girls are actively encouraged to respect local, national and international environments.

In Key Stage Two we further encourage the development of essential life skills through engaging enterprise projects. These projects empower students to explore creativity, teamwork, problem-solving, and financial literacy, fostering a spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship. They give the girls the opportunity to connect with their community and raise money for charities.

### **3. Thinking Skills**

St Catherine's is accredited as a De Bono thinking school. Throughout the school, girls are introduced to the six Thinking Hats and age-appropriate Thinking Skills are taught to develop independence in learning.

### **4. Coherence**

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

### **5. Continuity and Progression**

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

## 6. 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 support. We aim to make the curriculum accessible to all of the pupils. Individual Provision Maps (IPM) are in place for pupils with specific learning needs. These are devised in consultation with teachers, the Head of Academic Mentoring (SENCo), pupils and parents.


### In addition:

Pre-school and Reception children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) follow the curriculum outlined in the EYFS statutory framework and Development Matters. The curriculum will broadly follow the National Curriculum KS1 to KS2 as a basis from Year 1 to Year 6 and is likely to extend beyond it. The curriculum is flexible and able to respond to changes in Government Policy related to curriculum issues.

The pupils 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 where appropriate
- for the promotion of their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development in which girls are prepared for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences in a British society

All staff share the responsibility for delivering the curriculum. The Deputy Head, Curriculum ensures coverage of all areas. It is the responsibility of each Subject Leader and Co-ordinators to ensure that appropriate schemes of work are produced and regularly updated. The process of assessment and evaluation is key to the development of a relevant and meaningful curriculum. Teachers are asked to reflect and evaluate their schemes of work at the end of each term in order to further enhance pupils' academic and personal development.



Mr Matthew Parry  
Deputy Head, Curriculum



Miss Naomi Bartholomew  
Headmistress of the Preparatory School

February 2024

## St Catherine's Prep School Curriculum

### **EYFS**

Communication and Language

Physical Development

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Literacy

Mathematics

Understanding the World

Expressive Arts & Design

**Specialist lessons:** Computing, PE, Ballet, Music, Drama

### **KS1**

English, Maths, Science,

ICT, Humanities (History, Geography, RS),

Art, DT, PE, Music, Ballet

**Typical Extra-Curricular Activities:** Cooking, PE skills, French, Dance, Chess

### **KS2**

English, Maths, Science,

ICT, Thinking Skills, History, Geography, RS,

Art, DT, PE, Music, Latin

**Typical Extra-Curricular Activities:** Gym, Swimming, Netball, Cross Country, Football, Hockey, Chess, Dance, Musical theatre, LAMDA, String Orchestra, Wind Band, Choirs, MTech, Gardening, Touch Typing, Board Games and Construction, Current Affairs

