



Policy
Approved
Approved by
Date for revision
Reviewed by

Curriculum Policy 2023- 24
Summer 2023
Education and Welfare Committee
Summer 2024 (for 2024-25)
Deputy Head

Statement of Aims

At Old Palace of John Whitgift School the curriculum is designed and planned to:

- instil a love of learning and provide a range of opportunities that will allow **all** learners to gain enjoyment, make progress and achieve their full potential in all aspects of their learning
- enable students to become confident individuals who are self-aware, emotionally intelligent and self-motivated
- enable students to become responsible members of local, national and global communities

Legal Obligation

The School adheres to and meets the statutory requirements for curriculum provision as laid down in the Education Act 2002/2011 and the guidelines laid down by the *Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage 2017*. The School meets the Government Public Service Agreement Target of a minimum of 2 hours high-quality PE and school sport each week. This includes the opportunity to play sport outside. Throughout the school students are provided with experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical, and aesthetic and creative education.

This will include actively promoting the fundamental British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. In addition, the School's PSHEE curriculum, called "Learning for Life", actively promotes the understanding and respect for other people, particularly with regard to the protected characteristics identified under the Equality Act 2010. Please refer to the PSHEE policy for further information.

Pre-school and EYFS

At the Pre-school, children are provided with experiences and support which will help them to develop a positive sense of themselves and of others; respect for others; social skills; and a positive disposition to learn. The Pre-school ensures support for children's emotional well-being helping them to know themselves and what they can do. The four guiding principles which shape our practice in the EYFS section are:

- every child is a unique child, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured
- children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships
- children learn and develop well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and/or carers
- children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates.

The Cornerstones Curriculum

The whole of the Prep school follows the Cornerstones curriculum for all subjects with the exception of Maths and English. The Cornerstones Curriculum is a creative and thematic approach to learning that is mapped to the 2014 primary national curriculum to ensure comprehensive coverage of national expectations and beyond.

This is a broad and balanced curriculum that is creative and designed specifically to meet the needs of our pupils. Engaging, challenging and designed to foster curiosity and develop learning, our curriculum enables our pupils to innovate and express what they have discovered in unique ways. It offers key skills and knowledge and ensures our pupils gain a real depth of understanding in all subjects.

It is based on a child-centred pedagogy called The Four Cornerstones and is delivered through Imaginative Learning Projects (ILPs) and Knowledge Rich Projects (KRPs), which provide a rich menu of exciting and motivating learning activities that make creative links between all aspects of children's learning. We believe children learn better when they are encouraged to use their imagination and apply their learning to engaging contexts.

The Cornerstones Curriculum provides many learning challenges throughout the academic year that require children to solve problems, apply themselves creatively and express their knowledge and understanding effectively. Cornerstones also provide a rigorous skills and knowledge framework that outlines the end of year expectations in all subjects. These skills and knowledge are tied to activities and are age-related so that staff can track children's progress and identify their individual learning needs.

The Four Cornerstones are:

- Engage
- Develop
- Innovate
- Express

Subject Leaders and Coordinators ensure programmes of study reflect the aims of the School, and of the curriculum, and that subject matter and teaching methods are appropriate for the ages and aptitudes of students and help them to acquire skills in speaking and listening, literacy and numeracy. Close monitoring ensures that high standards are maintained in all aspects of learning and teaching.

Maths Mastery

From Pre-school to Year 6 students follow the Maths Mastery curriculum.

Mathematics Mastery's mission is to enable all learners to enjoy and succeed in mathematics. Learners are taught to think about mathematics beyond what is tested in examinations and to be equipped with an understanding of mathematics that will be relevant and useful in their future studies and/or in the world of work.

The Maths Mastery programme has been designed to provide learners with a deep conceptual understanding of mathematical principles, the ability to confidently communicate in precise mathematical language while becoming mathematical thinkers. Evidence shows that pupils make more progress when they have been equipped to master a subject and this is what Maths Mastery provides. It is a curriculum that allows children to develop depth of understanding for fundamental concepts so that children can apply subject knowledge in unfamiliar contexts.

PSHE

PSHE is fundamental to the aims of the school and is at the core of all that we do and is an important and necessary part of all students' education. There is a whole school planned programme of learning through which students acquire the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to manage their lives and thrive as individuals, family members and members of society. We use Learning for Life to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of students and to provide guidance on religious education, financial education, careers education, sex and relationship education, physical and mental health, study skills, work-related learning, citizenship, current affairs, decision making and the importance of physical activity and diet for a healthy lifestyle. In the main, the PSHE programme follows the PSHE Association Programme of Study with additional aspects relevant to the students at Old Palace. Where possible, this subject is taught simultaneously across the School, by form and class teachers, in order to allow maximum flexibility for across year events, activities, speakers and debates.

Additional Learning Needs

Any student who has an additional learning need, as recognised by the *Revised Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice 2015 0 – 25 Years*, will receive support or provision to allow maximum possible access to the curriculum and opportunities within the school. The level of support provided remains bound by the financial and resource constraints of the school. The details of support/provision provided will be documented in an Individual Student Action Plan (ISAP). This is reviewed, on a regular basis, by the SENDco, School Health Officer and the Heads of Year as appropriate. All staff are aware of those students in their classes with an ISAP and ensure that all needs are met. Please refer to the 'Specific Learning Needs & Disabilities Policy' for further information.

Curriculum by Year and Stage

1) Early Years Foundation Stage

Staff working within this stage plan for and provide activities and opportunities that will allow children to reach their potential in each of the three **prime** areas: Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Physical Development, Communication and Language. Similar provision is made to maximise progress in each of the four specific areas of Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World, Expressive Arts and Design. We introduce students to Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) in the Pre School through the 'MFL Experience' course and to swimming.

2) Years 1 & 2

Old Palace uses the National Curriculum content as a basis for programmes of study at Key Stage 1 and includes a range of practical and investigational activities. Students study Mathematics, English, Science, Computer Science, Humanities, Religious Studies (RS), Art, Music, Design & Technology (DT), and Physical Education (PE). The curriculum is enhanced by the inclusion of French, swimming and Expressive Movement which is an amalgamation of Drama and Dance. The curriculum is flexible in order to create conditions which motivate all girls to make sustained progress and which promote creativity, whilst working within a common framework.

3) Years 3-6

As with Key Stage 1 we use the National Curriculum as a basis for our programmes of study in Mathematics, English, Science, History, Geography, RS, Computer Science, Music, DT, Drama, PE, Dance, French and Art. We use the Cornerstones curriculum to enhance these programmes of study. Students start a course on Logic and Reasoning to further support applications for selective Senior settings. Continued flexibility within the curriculum creates conditions which promote progress, creativity and increasing independence.

4) Year 7

In Year 7, students follow courses in Art, DT (including Food & Nutrition, Textiles and Resistant Materials and Robotics), Drama, English, French, Geography, History, Computer Science, Latin, Mathematics, Music, PE & Swimming, RS, and Science. Setting in Mathematics occurs following assessments during the Autumn term. Movement across sets occurs throughout the school as appropriate.

5) Years 8 & 9

In Year 8 the curriculum is further enriched by the introduction of a second MFL: German, Italian or Spanish. Extra English language sessions are available instead of a second MFL when appropriate to the needs of the student.

6) Years 10 & 11

At GCSE, the curriculum allows for students to follow up to 12 GCSEs or IGCSEs, with the majority of students beginning on 10. This includes GCSE Classical Greek as a twilight course for our most able classicists and a Level 2 Certificate in Further Mathematics for our most able mathematicians. Pupils are also able to complete a Higher Project Qualification (HPQ). Where beneficial to the individual a student may opt to study fewer subjects. The core subjects are Science, Mathematics and English Language and Literature with other subjects available as option choices. If appropriate to the needs of the individual a student may study for English Language only. Students are required to study either Coordinated Science or all three sciences. Students are encouraged to maintain a breadth of study and are advised to study at least one subject from each of the Humanities, the Creative and Performing Arts, MFL and the Technologies. Sports Leadership, Dance Leaders and the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme (DofE) are also options for students. Throughout Years 10 and 11 individual programmes of study are monitored and adapted dependent upon a pupil's needs and aspirations.

7) Sixth Form

Students choose to study between 3 and 4 subjects with the majority choosing 4 and going down to 3 during Year 12. The choice of these subjects remains free, subject to students meeting the entry requirements and the school aims to build the timetable around these choices. Should a particular choice be impossible to timetable, parents and students are kept informed of the options available. The students also study an enrichment course (Old Palace Diploma) which includes a variety of compulsory and optional modules. These include the Level 3 Extension Project Qualification (EPQ), the Arts Award (Gold), preparation courses for the study of Law, Medicine, Engineering and PPE. There are also sessions on

Current Affairs, Financial Awareness, Food & Nutrition, First Aid and Community Service. In addition all students attend PE: Healthy, Active Lifestyles. Sixth formers can embark upon the Gold DofE award.

Co-Curricular & Extra Curricular Activities

The school is committed to providing a wealth of learning opportunities beyond the classroom. For example through the provision of:

- weekly clubs,
- short courses,
- workshops,
- involvement in local and national competitions,
- day and residential trips,
- 'Points of Departure' lectures/workshops (PODs),
- visiting speakers,
- concerts,
- drama productions,
- Arts Award,
- Sports Leaders Award,
- Duke of Edinburgh Award,
- competitive sporting events,
- opportunities for leadership and management etc.

A schedule is produced each term delivering a wide variety of activities and students in Years 7-9 are encouraged to commit to at least two co-curricular activities and those in Years 10 - 11 to at least one. Sixth form students work in collaboration with staff to develop, organise and run these activities. In addition clinics provide extra subject specific support for all students at Seniors.

This document should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Careers Education & Guidance
- Equal Opportunities (Pupils)
- Homework
- Learning & Teaching
- PSHEE
- Specific Learning Needs

	Year Group														
	P	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Latin								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Learning for Life			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Literacy	✓	✓													
Logic Reasoning &					✓	✓	✓	✓							
Mathematics	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mathematics (Further)												✓	✓	✓	✓
Mathematics in Context (Level3)														✓	✓
MFL: Experience		✓													
MFL: French			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MFL: German										✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MFL: Italian										✓	✓	✓	✓		
MFL: Spanish										✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Music		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Old Palace Diploma														✓	✓
PE: General		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PE: Sports Leaders Award												✓	✓		
PE: Swimming	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Personal, social & emotional development	✓	✓													
Philosophy															✓
Photography														✓	✓
Physical Development	✓														
Physics										✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Psychology														✓	✓
Religious Studies					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Science: Coordinated:												✓	✓		
Science: General			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Understanding of world	✓	✓													

✓ 2023-24 will be the final year of both Classical Civilisation GCSE and Religious Studies A-level, with the final cohort sitting Public Examinations in Summer 2024. These subjects have been replaced by Ancient History GCSE and Philosophy A-level respectively.