

Curriculum Policy

ISI Regulatory Policy
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Curriculum Policy

In accordance with the school's aims we offer a broad curriculum which is challenging, exciting and meets the needs of our pupils. It needs to be balanced, have academic integrity, cater for a variety of educational needs and to foster a life-long love of learning and enjoyment of academic pursuits. We aim therefore to support and stretch all pupils through linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical, and aesthetic and creative education.

In line with our Catholic ethos, we also aim to educate our pupils spiritually and holistically. Particular importance is attached to the promotion of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development through the wider curriculum, including worship, religious education and personal and social education. The overall curriculum aims to support and challenge the pupils to develop a range of character attributes, such as self-reflection, integrity, tolerance, resilience and grit, which will underpin their success at Princethorpe College and beyond. This is further supported through the tutor time Learning Skills curriculum and training that we give pupils, staff and parents in this regard.

To ensure the curriculum is balanced and has the depth and breadth required for our pupils to achieve their full potential, it is reviewed regularly by the Senior Leadership Team.

In planning our curriculum, we aim to:

- ensure the full development of each pupil taking account of their age, aptitudes, potential, needs and background, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and those pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or with English as an Additional Language (EAL);
- ensure that the curriculum has breadth, balance, challenge and relevance;
- ensure that there are opportunities for continuity, differentiation and progression which meet the needs of individual pupils;
- ensure that pupils have access to all areas of learning and experience which encourage spiritual, moral, social, cultural, intellectual, aesthetic and physical development;
- ensure that the teaching and learning instils a range of skills, attitudes and values in the pupils enabling them to develop as free and responsible members of the community and challenges and supports them to achieve their best;
- ensure that at key transition points pupils and parents are well-supported in order to promote good decision-making, continuity and progression;
- ensure that the curriculum allows all pupils to learn and make progress;
- ensure that the curriculum prepares and equips our pupils to succeed at Princethorpe and beyond, including further education, the world of work and adult life in general, readying them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in British society and as global citizens;
- support 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 line with our duties under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 as explained in the Prevent Duty Guidance July 2015 and any subsequent versions;

- provide appropriate, up-to-date careers guidance that is presented impartially, enables pupils to make informed choices about a broad range of careers options and helps to encourage them to fulfil their potential.

The curriculum is designed to develop pupils' knowledge, understanding and skills across all areas of learning (linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative education).

Pupils who enter the school in Year 7 all study English, Mathematics, Science, Religious Studies, Spanish, History, Geography, Computer Science, Technology (Design, Electronics, Textiles and Food Technology), Art, Drama, Music, PE and Games. Latin is studied by most pupils, with a small number receiving targeted Learning Support tuition instead.

In Year 8, French is added as a second compulsory modern foreign language and pupils either continue with their Latin or benefit from an additional English or Mathematics Skills lesson in its place. In Year 8, Outdoor Education is also added to the Technology curriculum.

In Year 9 a degree of choice is introduced; all pupils do one compulsory modern foreign language (either Spanish or French) and then choose two further options from the following list: Art, Computer Science, Drama, French, Latin and Music. With the exception of languages, it is not necessary to study an option subject in Year 9 in order to pursue it at GCSE.

We have an excellent, broad and balanced curriculum continuing in Years 10 and Years 11: all pupils take English Language and English Literature, Mathematics, Combined or Triple Science, and Religious Studies. Pupils have a very wide choice of three optional subjects from the following list: Art; Art and Design: Textiles; Business Studies; Computer Science; Dance (BTEC), Design and Technology: Resistant Materials; Design and Technology: Electronic Systems, Programmable Components and Mechanical Devices; Drama; Food Preparation and Nutrition; French; Geography; History; Latin; Music; Physical Education; Psychology; Spanish; Sport (BTEC). Students are supported by their House Tutors and the Careers Department to make their choices based on their interests, aptitude and possible future career choice. Learning Support is also offered in place of a GCSE option where appropriate and pupils may also take Additional Mathematics and Further Mathematics.

Pupils throughout the school also benefit from a comprehensive PSHE programme which has its own timetabled lesson every fortnight and covers aspects of personal, social, health education, citizenship, careers and relationships and sex, appropriate to the age of the pupils and delivered in the context of the ethos and aims of the school. This programme encourages respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the 2010 Equality Act. Through tutor times, Princethorpe Pupil Development (3PD) sessions and off-timetabled events, aspects of PSHE are further consolidated and learning skills are developed.

Across the school there are many opportunities for pupils to extend their academic learning. We have created our own *da Vinci* programme and a growing number of pupils at different levels take up the Project Qualifications with great success.

In the Sixth Form we offer a great range of choice of academic subjects – there are usually around 30 subjects offered at A-level or as Level 3 BTECs. Students normally choose three subjects from the following options: Applied Science BTEC; Art; Biology; Business Studies; Business Studies BTEC; Chemistry; Computer Science; Drama & Theatre Studies; DT: Product Design; Economics; English Language & Literature; English Literature; Fashion & Textiles; French; Further Mathematics; Geography; History; Latin; Law; Mathematics; Music;

Music Performance BTEC; Photography; Physical Education; Physics; Politics; Psychology; Religious Studies (Philosophy & Ethics); Sociology; Spanish; Sport BTEC (this may be chosen as a single or double A-level equivalent).

Alongside their core curriculum of 3 A-levels or BTECs, students take another qualification. For most, this is the Extended Project Qualification, though some take Core Mathematics or an alternative; we regularly review other courses that would be suitable to augment this curriculum, also available. Students also benefit from the CoRE Programme, including Learning Skills, a wide-ranging enrichment programme, and the Philosophy of the Person series of spirituality and ethics discussions.

Sixth Form students are also encouraged to commit to extra-curricular participation, service to others, work experience and to invest in the school's community and ethos.

All pupils throughout the school also have an afternoon of timetabled Games as well as a superb range of co-curricular options.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

At Princethorpe we strive to enable all our pupils to realise their full potential by providing a range of learning development opportunities. For most of our pupils this is achieved within the curriculum. We recognise, however, that some of our pupils have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) which require specialist input.

Pupils with identified learning needs, including those with an EHCP, are placed on the SEND Register which links to their individual SEND Pupil Profiles. Each SEND Pupil Profile gives details of the pupil's individual learning need together with advice on appropriate teaching strategies and approaches. This information is held centrally on the school's database and enables all subject teachers to plan and adapt their lessons in response to the variety of learning needs found in an inclusive learning environment. Where appropriate, we offer bespoke interventions on an individual, small group and/or in-class support basis. We use multisensory, metacognitive teaching and learning methods designed to increase pupils' independent learning across the curriculum.

In Years 7 and 8, pupils' basic skills are developed by means of individual or small-group tuition with a specialist learning development teacher. In Year 9, pupils are introduced to a range of effective learning strategies which they are encouraged to try out and evaluate across the curriculum. This may be in place of a timetabled subject. In Years 10 and above, the focus is generally on using the skills so far acquired, in context. Learning Support is available within certain option blocks in place of a timetabled option. Particular attention is paid to coursework, revision skills and examination techniques. Parents are kept informed as to the nature of their child's need, the provision made to meet that need and the progress made. The Learning Support team can also facilitate access to specialist one-to-one or very small group mathematics tuition.

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

SEND Policy

EAL Policy

Assessment, Reporting & Monitoring Policy

Princethorpe College Information booklet

GCSE Information booklet

Sixth Form Information Booklet