

Oaks Park High School

Title of Policy: Curriculum

Person responsible: L Gleeson

Date for review: 2017

Curriculum aims:

1. To ensure the development of the whole person

The curriculum aims to develop the whole person. It includes opportunities for learners to develop values and attitudes that are as important as the development of skills and factual knowledge, so that all learners can:

- show success in a variety of ways;
- develop and maintain positive self-esteem;
- follow a healthy lifestyle;
- show courtesy, consideration and good humour to others;
- be responsible, honest, caring and confident;
- be a constructive member of society;
- communicate effectively about themselves and be able to articulate their own opinions and needs.

2. To be inclusive

The curriculum aims to give students the opportunity to experience a wide range of courses which are suited to their needs and abilities. At KS3 this is offered through the National Curriculum subjects and at KS4 through the Curriculum Pathways. The Pathways offer students an array of courses, designed to increase each individual student's opportunity to succeed. In addition, the PSHE programme ensures clear information and guidance regarding careers, information advice and guidance, sex education, work related learning, citizenship and healthy living. Students are also given the opportunity to engage in a wide range of extracurricular activities. At KS5 students are offered a very broad range of appropriate courses and super-curriculum opportunities. In conjunction with the work of the Inclusion Department, this ensures that we are providing a relevant curriculum and day-to-day learning tasks that are accessible to, and meet the needs of, all learners so that they:

- feel valued;
- understand that learning is relevant for them;
- enjoy learning;
- take an active part in their own learning in school and want to be lifelong learners;
- use technology efficiently;
- cope effectively with change and diversity.

3. To enable the development of independent learning skills

The curriculum supports the development of independent learning skills which are vital for lifelong learning; further and higher education; work and careers as well as success in school. Independent learning skills are embedded in the curriculum for all subjects using a wide range of practical, theoretical and creative learning opportunities, to ensure that students are prepared for independent study in all areas of their life. Students at KS5 are given the opportunity to opt for the Extended Project Qualification, which encourages the further development of independent learning and provides excellent preparation for transition to university.

To enable the development of independent learning skills (cont.)

Students are encouraged to:

- think creatively, analytically and critically;
- understand that learning skills are transferable;
- communicate effectively about their learning;
- understand how to bring these skills to bear in different contexts throughout their lives.

4. To develop key literacy and numeracy skills

Oaks Park High School recognises that literacy and numeracy skills are key to successful learning and raising standards of attainment and are therefore important for all departments. Many students are also given Sound Training for Reading to improve their literacy skills. Our aim is to enable all students to develop and become:

- critical, fluent, independent readers who can locate and use information, follow an argument, summarise, synthesise and adapt what they learn from their reading;
- confident writers who are able to use grammar, punctuation and spelling correctly as well as organising their writing logically;
- effective, precise speakers who are able to use standard English where appropriate;
- thoughtful, responsive and active listeners;
- confident mathematicians who can describe, explain and justify their thinking;
- competent in using numbers in context and handling data;
- accurate in their graphical skills and in the use of measurements.

5. To ensure that students have the skills to deal with challenges and opportunities

Through opportunities provided by the school, eg. during PSHE lessons; a wide range of extra-curricular activities; careers and work-related learning, students are able to plan for the next stage of their education and their role in society, so that they can:

- be flexible, resourceful and able to adapt to new situations in a rapidly changing world;
- show initiative, resilience and confidence;
- take risks; both responsibly and creatively;
- understand and work towards the needs of their community;
- be innovative and enterprising;
- use technology effectively;
- progress to the world of work and make a positive contribution to their community.