

# THAMESMEAD SCHOOL



## THE CURRICULUM POLICY

Ratified by Governors	September 2014
Date of next review	September 2016
Governors sub-committee responsible	Standards & Performance

# THE CURRICULUM POLICY

The curriculum comprises all the planned learning that Thamesmead School provides for its students. This includes the National Curriculum, religious education, collective worship, sex education and careers education. The school curriculum aims:

- to provide opportunities for all students to enjoy learning and to achieve;
- to promote students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and prepare all students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life, by enabling them to contribute to the community, to gain a sense of economic well-being and to understand how to remain healthy.
- to reflect the values and vision of the school
- to provide students with the care, guidance and support to achieve their potential.
- to actively promotes the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Within the school curriculum, the National Curriculum secures for all students, irrespective of social background, culture, race, gender, differences in ability and disabilities, an entitlement to a number of areas of learning, and to develop knowledge, understanding, skills, mastery and attitudes necessary for their self-fulfilment and development as active and responsible citizens.

As an Academy we have the flexibility to adapt and extend the curriculum to ensure it best fits the needs of our students. At Thamesmead teachers have due regard to developing a more inclusive curriculum by setting suitable learning challenges; responding to students' diverse learning needs; and overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessment for individuals and groups of students.

Responsibility for the curriculum is shared between the head teacher and the governing body.

The subjects followed at each Key Stage and the hours allocated are detailed below:

	<b>Key Stage 3 (11-14 years old Years 7-9)</b>	<b>KS3 Curriculum % time (hours per week)</b>	<b>Key Stage 4 (14-16 years old Year 10-11)</b>	<b>KS4 Curriculum % time (hours per week)</b>
<b>Art &amp; Design</b>	•	4(1)		10 (2.5)
<b>Citizenship</b>	•	2(0.5)	•	c.c.
<b>Design &amp; Technology</b>	•	8(2)		10 (2.5)
<b>Drama</b>	•	4(1)		
<b>English</b>	•	16(4)	•	16(4)
<b>Geography</b>	•	4(1)		10 (2.5)
<b>History</b>	•	4(1)		10 (2.5)
<b>Computer Science (KS3)/ICT (KS4)</b>	•	4(1)	•	1.25 (0.5)
<b>Mathematics</b>	•	16(4)	•	16(4)
<b>Modern Foreign Languages</b>	•	10(2.5)		10 (2.5)
<b>Music</b>	•	4(1)		10 (2.5)
<b>Physical Education</b>	•	8(2)	•	4(1)

<b>Religious Studies</b>	•	4(1)	•	4(1)
<b>Science</b>	•	12(3)	•	16(4)

At Key Stage 4 students study:

▪ **A small core of compulsory subjects:** English, ICT (delivered as a discrete GCSE course in years 9 and 10), mathematics, science, citizenship, physical education and religious education – providing access to 6/7 GCSEs.

All students study English Language and English Literature as two GCSEs.

Most students will study a Science course leading to two GCSEs in Science and many will opt to take Science as an option and gain three Science GCSEs.

Many students opt also opt to develop their ICT skills through the CIDA qualification (to be replaced by Computer Science in time)

▪ **Compulsory areas** of learning: careers education, sex education and work-related learning are delivered cross-curricular and through specific focus days

▪ **Entitlement areas:** Delivered through the Options Programme, which provides students with the opportunity to access a range of GCSEs including:

- The arts – we encourage all students at KS4 to study at least one subject from a choice of Dance, Drama, Art, PE or Music at GCSE. Students admitted to Thamesmead under the music, dance or drama criteria are expected to take that subject at GCSE.
- Design and technology – we encourage students to study a technology subject from a choice of Food Technology, Graphic Products, Resistant Materials and Textiles at GCSE
- The humanities – we encourage students to study from a choice of Geography and History at GCSE or the Double Award GCSE in Leisure and Tourism.
- Modern foreign languages – students are encouraged to study from a choice of French or Spanish at GCSE

We recognise the English Baccalaureate measure of achievement will be important for some of our students and encourage them to take this into account when they select their option subjects for GCSE.

Students are given guidance in their choice of KS4 courses and every effort is made to accommodate students' wishes. However, due to timetabling restrictions their choices cannot be guaranteed.

In Key Stage 3 two hours of high quality PE and school sport a week is provided, and in Key Stage 4 one hour, for all students. This includes the National Curriculum requirement for Physical Education (PE) and extra-curricular activities. Competitive games activities are compulsory throughout Key Stage 3. Students are offered access to a wide range of extra-curricular PE and sport, including activities within the Sports Centre.

Promoting spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; promoting personal, social and health education; and promoting racial and cultural diversity are all seen as an integral part of school life. Our policy is that these should be delivered primarily through the formal subject areas, through

assemblies and the tutorial system. Focus days may be arranged to supplement this provision in exciting and challenging ways.

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

At KS3 the school follows the locally agreed syllabus, which reflects the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain. At KS4 the GCSE syllabus is followed.

### **Related Policies**

Special Educational Needs Policy

Sex and Relationships Policy

Drugs Education Policy

Careers and Guidance Policy

Assessment Policy

Literacy Policy

Numeracy Policy