



Hodge Hill Girls' School

Curriculum Policy

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Hodge Hill Girls' School
Bromford Road
Birmingham
B36 8EY

Website: www.hodgehgs.bham.sch.uk
Telephone: 0121 464 3094
Email: enquiry@hodgehgs.bham.sch.uk

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Curriculum policy

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Prepared by Senior Leader:	Kerry Cooney
Signed Headteacher:	
Signed Chair of Governors:	

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1. Curriculum Intent

1.1 Rationale

The curriculum should inspire and challenge all learners and prepare them for the future. The school's aim is to develop a broad and balanced curriculum for every student that builds on their experiences in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 and that helps all them to become successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens.

The curriculum should help young people to:

- achieve high standards and make excellent progress.
- enable those not achieving age-related expectations to narrow the gap and catch up with their peers.
- be challenged and stretched to achieve their potential.
- enjoy and be committed to learning.
- value their learning outside of the curriculum and relate experiences to the taught curriculum.

1.2 Curriculum Aims

Our curriculum aims to:

- Promote a positive attitude towards learning.
- Have a curriculum that is fit for purpose and meets the requirements of the National Curriculum.
- Ensure equal access to learning, with high expectations for every pupil and appropriate levels of challenge and support.
- Offer a broad and balanced entitlement to all students.
- Provide equal opportunities for all students regardless of gender, aptitude or cultural, ethnic or religious background.
- Provide subject choices that support pupils' learning and progression, and enable them to work towards achieving their goals.
- Provide vocational and academic courses which meet the needs of students and prepare students with the skills required for local employment sectors.
- Provide an educational experiences and accreditation to meet the needs of our students and our local area.
- First achieve and then exceed national standards in achievement, attainment and progression.
- Work with Primary Schools to ease transition.
- Provide continuity and progression from the point of transfer to the time of leaving school.
- Develop pupils' independent learning skills and resilience, to equip them for further/higher education and employment
- Prepare students for further study, the world of work and to become active citizens.
- Demonstrate excellence in learning and teaching.
- Nurture the talents of all and celebrate success.
- Involve parents/carers and the community.
- Provide a variety of activities which bring about effective learning, provide appropriate challenges for all students and lead to achievement for all students.

- Enable pupils to develop knowledge, understand concepts and acquire skills, and be able to choose and apply these in relevant situations .
- Develop positive personal and social values.
- Embed in students Fundamental British Values and Social, Moral, Spiritual and Moral purpose.
- Support pupils' physical development and responsibility for their own health, and enable them to be active.

Our curriculum will:

- Lead to qualifications that hold currency for employers and for entry to further education.
- Fulfil statutory requirements.
- Enable students to fulfil their potential.
- Meet the needs of young people of all abilities.
- Provide equal access for all students to a full range of learning experiences beyond statutory guidelines.
- Prepare students to make informed and appropriate choices at the end of key stage 3, key stage 4 and beyond.
- Help students develop enquiring minds, an ability to question and argue rationally and an ability to apply themselves to tasks and physical skills.
- Ensure continuity and progression within the school.
- Utilise teaching techniques which will offer and encourage a variety of relevant learning opportunities.
- Help students to use language and number effectively.
- Help students develop personal moral values, respect for religious values and tolerance of other cultures, beliefs and ways of life.
- Help students understand the world in which they live.

1.3 Legalisation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the National Curriculum programmes of study which all maintained schools in England must teach.

It also reflects requirements for inclusion and equality as set out in the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice 2014 and Equality Act 2010, and refers to curriculum-related expectations of governing boards set out in the Department for Education's Governance Handbook.

1.4 Roles and responsibilities

The Governing body will also ensure that:

- The Headteacher is held to account for the effectiveness and implementation of this policy.
- A robust framework is in place for setting curriculum priorities and aspirational targets.
- The school provides a "broad and balanced curriculum" which includes all subjects stipulated within the National Curriculum, and enough teaching time is provided for pupils to cover the mandatory content within each subject and the other statutory requirements.
- Proper provision is made for pupils with different abilities and needs, including children with special educational needs and those with disabilities (SEND).
- All courses provided for pupils that lead to qualifications, such as GCSEs, are approved by the department for education and are included within performance tables.

- The school implements the relevant statutory assessment arrangements.
- It participates actively in decision-making about the breadth and balance of the curriculum.

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that this policy is adhered to, and that:

- All statutory elements of the curriculum, and those subjects, which the school chooses to offer, reflect the aims of the school and meet the needs of pupils in the school.
- The amount of time provided for teaching the required elements of the curriculum is adequate and is reviewed by the governors annually.
- Where appropriate, the individual needs of some pupils are met by permanent or temporary disapplication from all or part of the National Curriculum.
- They manage requests to withdraw children from curriculum subjects, where appropriate.
- The Governing body is fully involved in decision-making processes that relate to the breadth and balance of the curriculum.
- The Governing body is advised on whole-school targets in order to make informed decisions
- Proper provision is in place for pupils with different abilities and needs, including children with SEND and those with disabilities

The Deputy Headteacher for Curriculum will ensure that:

- They oversee curriculum structure, development and delivery in response to school and local needs, alongside national initiatives and statutory requirements.
- The curriculum is appropriate, challenging and relevant whilst following guidance from the Department for Education and examination awarding bodies.
- All statutory elements of the curriculum, and those subjects which the school chooses to offer, have aims and objectives which reflect the aims of the school. This will include how the subject will be taught and assessed.
- They monitor curriculum developments and initiatives at a national and international level to ensure that the School is at the forefront of effective practice.
- Changes to curriculum are shared with Faculty Leaders and the Governing Body.
- They lead and support Faculty and Subject leaders in the process of curriculum development and implementation.
- The school timetable is designed based on curriculum planning with an emphasis on best value for money in terms of staffing and resources.
- Detailed and up-to-date schemes of learning are in place for the delivery of courses within each key stage.
- Progress and levels of attainment are discussed with Faculty/Subject leaders on a regular basis and that actions are taken where necessary to improve these and feedback is shared with.
- Pupils and parents/carers are kept informed of curriculum change and supported with decisions regarding option choices.
- The amount of time provided for teaching the curriculum is adequate and is reviewed by the governors' annually.
- Where appropriate, the individual needs of some students are met by permanent or temporary disapplication from the National Curriculum.
- The procedures for assessment meet all legal requirements and students and their parents/carers receive information to show how much progress the students are making and what is required to help them improve.

- The governing body is fully involved in decision making processes that relate to the breadth and balance of the curriculum.
- The governing body is advised on statutory targets in order to make informed decisions.

The Assistant/Deputy Headteachers (with responsibility for line management of faculties) will ensure that:

- they have an oversight of curriculum structure and delivery within each link department
- detailed and up-to-date schemes of learning are in place for the delivery of courses within each key stage.
- schemes of learning are monitored and reviewed on a regular basis.
- levels of attainment and rates of progression are discussed with Faculty Leaders on a regular basis and that actions are taken where necessary to improve these.

Faculty/Subject leaders will ensure that:

- Long term planning is in place for all courses. Long term plans contain due consideration to prior and future learning within the subject area, ensuring a logical progression from students starting point upon entry to the school and what they need to understand by the time they leave the school.
- Long term plans link directly to the National Curriculum and allow for complete coverage of the mandatory content.
- Medium term planning is in place for all courses with learning objectives, learning outcomes, learning activities, differentiation and resources.
- There is consistency in terms of curriculum delivery. Schemes of learning should be in place and be used by all staff delivering a specific course.
- Schemes of learning encourage progression at least in line with national standards.
- Schemes of learning make use of cross curricular opportunities (including links to numeracy, literacy, PSHCE, British Values, SMSC and careers).
- Schemes of learning promote development of skills, including resilience, independence and reflection.
- Appropriate awarding bodies and courses are selected so that they best meet the learning needs of our students whilst also being approved for inclusion in government performance measures.
- Assessment is appropriate to the course and the students following particular courses and that there is a consistent approach towards assessment.
- They keep the Deputy Headteacher Curriculum informed of proposed changes to curriculum delivery.
- All relevant information/data is shared with the Data team. This includes meeting deadlines related to assessments, exam entries etc.
- Student performance data is reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that any necessary changes in terms of curriculum delivery are planned and carried out in a timely fashion.
- They share best practice with other colleagues in terms of curriculum design and delivery.
- They oversee CPD needs with regard to curriculum planning and delivery within their area of responsibility.
- They ensure that a range of enrichment opportunities are made available to students to improve progress and enhance their enjoyment of the curriculum.

Teaching staff and learning support staff will:

- Ensure that the school curriculum is implemented in accordance with this policy.
- Deliver the content depicted within the faculty long and medium-term plans.
- Keep up to date with developments in their subjects.
- Have access to, and be able to interpret, data on each student to inform the design of the curriculum in order that it best meets the needs of each cohort of students.
- Adapt the curriculum for individual classes when data indicates that it is not meeting the needs of specific groups of students.
- Adapt the curriculum for individual students when data indicates that it is not meeting the needs of the individual.
- Share and exchange information about best practice amongst their colleagues in different schools and through external networks, resulting in a dynamic and relevant curriculum.
- Participate in high quality professional development, working with other teachers to develop their skills in understanding the learning needs of their students and how best to address those needs and engage them.
- Work in partnership with other agencies to provide an appropriate range of curriculum opportunities.

Students will:

- Receive a high quality education that is designed to meet their learning needs and which will equip them with the skills they need to thrive throughout their lives.
- Be expected to fully engage with the curriculum delivered through lessons and enrichment days.
- Will be placed in to sets conducive to effective learning – this will be decided by the faculty leader in consultation with members of the senior leadership team.
- Will receive co-ordinated support to enable them to make the appropriate curriculum choices in year 9 for GCSE/vocational courses at key stage 4.
- Be given additional support if they start to fall behind in their learning, helping them get back on track quickly.

Parents and carers will:

- Be confident that their child is receiving a high quality education that is designed to meet their learning needs and which will equip them with the skills they need to thrive throughout their lives.
- Work with the school to support their child’s learning.
- Be informed about the curriculum on offer and the rationale behind it.
- Be informed of any decisions to change the setting of their children.

2. Curriculum Implementation

2.1. Curriculum Organisation

The timetable is based on two weekly timetable organised in to 25 lessons a week. There are 5 lessons of 1 hour each day, and a 15min form period. Pupils are taught in different sets for each subject depending upon the needs of the subject, these may be mixed ability set, or ability profiled within their curriculum band. Options subjects are taught in mixed ability groups.

The curriculum is currently organised as follows:

- Years 7, 8 and 9

Pupils will study English, Mathematics, Science, Computing, Art, Design Technology, Physical Education, Drama, Music, Dance (in which the PE National Curriculum content for Dance will be delivered), Geography, History, Religious Studies, PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship), Drama and one Modern Foreign Language (French, Spanish or Urdu).

Some subjects will start their GCSEs at some point in year 9 depending upon the appropriateness of the course content and potential overlap with the key stage 3 National Curriculum . We highly value a broad and balanced curriculum and as such all students will study the full breath of National Curriculum subjects until the end of year 9.

During the Spring Term Year 9 pupils will consider their GCSE options. They will be supported carefully in this process, through curriculum evenings, subject presentations, parental meetings with teaching staff and parental guidance.

At the end of the academic year pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 will sit examinations in all subjects and reports will be sent home to show progress they have made that year. A more detailed breakdown of subject allocations can be found in Appendix A.

Students who enter the school with lower than expect prior attainment, including SEND students will receive targeted interventions to narrow the gap between themselves and their peers. This might take the form of small withdrawal groups, in class support from teaching assistants or afterschool provision. For a small group of year 7 students this will involve a specific programme involving a smaller than average teaching group and additional support from our team of teaching assistants.

- Years 10

Pupils follow a core curriculum leading to appropriate qualifications in English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science (combined and triple award) and Religious Studies. Everyone will also study compulsory non-examined subjects like Computing, Physical Education and PSHCE and be given Careers Education, Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG). Physical Education and PSHCE will be delivered as discrete subjects in the curriculum. The others will be integrated into enrichment days or embedded into the other curriculum subjects.

Students in year 10 will study 4 optional subjects. They will be offered the opportunity to study a modern foreign language, a humanity subject, an arts subject and a design subject if they so wish. There are a range of academic and vocational subjects in 2 of the option blocks. Students are encouraged but not forces to select subjects that would allow them to achieve the English Baccalaureate.

All students are given the same options.

We offer a wide choice of optional GCSE courses including Art, Business Studies, Citizenship, Computer Science, Design and Technology, iMedia, Business studies, Health and Social Care, Sport Studies.

Students in the current year 10 will continue the same structure into year 11.

- Year 11

Pupils follow a core curriculum leading to appropriate qualifications in English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science (combined and triple award) and Religious Studies. Everyone will also study compulsory non-examined subjects like Computing, Physical Education and PSHCE and be given Careers Education, Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG). Physical Education and Computing will be delivered as discrete subjects in the curriculum. The others will be integrated into enrichment days or embedded into the other curriculum subjects.

Students in year 11 study 3 optional subjects. There are a range of academic and vocational subjects in the option blocks. Students are encouraged but not forced to select subjects that would allow them to achieve the English Baccalaureate.

We offer a wide choice of optional GCSE courses including Art, Business Studies, Citizenship, Health and Social care, Sport Studies.

2.2. Cross Curricular Themes

There are themes, which are embedded in the school's curriculum and taught through the full range of subjects, form time, PSHCE and Enrichment days. These include:

- Careers Enterprise Work Related Learning
- Citizenship
- Character education/Resilience training
- Study/revision Skills

There are numerous enrichment days through out the year e.g. Pastoral STEAM week, aspirations day, something different day. These provide opportunities for all students to follow a diverse range of curricular and extra-curricular experiences. Pupils take part in a variety of workshops that can develop their literacy and problem solving skills, alongside participating Enterprise or Political Challenges; or taking part in Art projects, such as the Little Hoot and the Big Read; meeting authors and developing their understanding of Literature; thinking about communication with CVs written in Urdu to learning British Sign Language; considering the world by developing awareness of global, environmental and economic issues. There are also a number of field trips where pupils visit various Art Galleries or museums to work alongside professional artists; take part in outdoor adventurous activities such as canoeing and climbing; the annual trip to the 'Big Bang' Science Fair develops awareness of potential careers in STEM (Science, Technology and Engineering); in addition to Geography and History Field Trips to Warwick Castle, Birmingham City Centre and Birmingham Cathedral or The Fort, Birmingham.

Further details can be found in our 'learning outside the classroom policy' and the 'out of hours learning policy'

2.3 Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

We believe that spiritual and moral development is fundamental to the whole educational experience and we strive to harness the diversity of faiths and beliefs within the school population of our consideration of spiritual and moral issues.

Through the ethos of the school, collective worship and assembly time, the personal support system, the teaching of Religious Education and the National Curriculum we endeavour to convey to our pupils principles and values which reinforce the difference between right and wrong, good and evil, together with an understanding of the reasons for the difference. We emphasise the importance of telling the truth, keeping promises, respecting the rights and property of others, acting considerately towards others, helping others less fortunate than ourselves and taking responsibility for our own actions. We reject bullying, deceit, cruelty, irresponsibility and dishonesty.

By offering pupils opportunities to contemplate and to ask questions about the meaning and purpose of life, we strive to increase their spiritual awareness and help them towards a better understanding of themselves and a clearer perception of the value and importance of relationships with other people.

Further details can be found in the 'Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education Policy' and the 'Sex and Relationships Policy'

2.4 Careers Education

Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance Careers Education and Guidance has a high status within the school. A planned programme of support and guidance within the PSHCE curriculum begins in Year 7 and continues every year through to Year 11. In Year 8 pupils are encouraged to think about what likes and dislikes they have and to research career options based on these findings. They are also entered into the NHS Careers Competition in which pupils learn about the variety of careers in the NHS. Pupils in Year 9 use the careers software Kudos to research different careers and the qualifications they need, to help them to decide which options to choose for Year 10. In Year 10 and Year 11 pupils attend the Careers Convention held within school, where different employers, colleges and universities are available to provide advice and answer pupils' questions. Some Year 10 pupils may be selected to attend the Work Skills Show at the NEC. Guest speakers from different career backgrounds also visit school to speak to our pupils.

Decisions on potential careers are further supported on the annual aspirations' day where every year group in the school takes part in activities relating to careers. We also offer one to one career interviews to all pupils. Pupils are fully aware of the effects of stereotyping in relation to career choice and aspirational thinking is systematically encouraged and supported. Further details of the careers education programme can be found in the Careers Policy

2.5 Work Experience

All pupils have the opportunity to participate in a work experience scheme where they are able to sample first-hand the world of work. The aim is always to give all students the opportunity to experience an external work experience placement, although this is subject to risk assessments being completed. If it is felt that it is not safe for a student to attend their chosen work placement, then an alternative experience will be provided in school.

Pupils receive thorough preparation and debriefing through a structured programme in PSHCE with support and guidance from staff. The programme usually takes place for one week in the summer term of Year 10

2.6. Inclusion

Teachers set high expectations for all pupils. They will use appropriate assessment to set ambitious targets and plan challenging work for all groups, including:

- More able pupils
- Pupils with low prior attainment
- Pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds
- Pupils with SEND
- Pupils with English as an additional language (EAL)

Teachers will plan lessons so that pupils with SEND and/or disabilities can study every National Curriculum subject, and ensure that there are no barriers to every pupil achieving.

Teachers will also take account of the needs of pupils whose first language is not English. Lessons will be planned so that teaching opportunities help pupils to develop their English, and to support pupils to take part in all subjects.

Further information can be found in our statement of equality information and objectives, and in our SEND policy and information report.

3. Curriculum Impact

3.1 Monitoring arrangements

Governors will monitor coverage of National Curriculum subjects and compliance with other statutory requirements.

The governing body will receive an annual report from the Deputy Headteacher Curriculum on:

- The progress and attainment for each subject compared with national and local benchmarks for the leaving year 11s.
- The number of students for whom the curriculum was disapplied and the arrangements which were made.

The governing body will receive a termly report from the Deputy Headteacher Curriculum on:

- The standards achieved at the end of each term for every year group taking into account any important variations between groups of students, subjects, courses and trends over time, compared with national and local benchmarks.

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum). At every review, the policy will be shared with the full Governing body.

4. Links with other policies

This policy links to the following policies and procedures:

- Assessment, Recording, Reporting and Marking policy
- SMSC Policy
- SEND policy and information report
- Equality information and objectives
- Sex and Relationship Education Policy
- Teaching and learning policy
- Careers strategy
- Provider access policy

Appendix 1 - Subject allocations 2019-2020

Year 7

Subject	Number of lessons per fortnight	Notes
English	8	
Mathematics	8	
Science	6	
PSHCEE	1	
Religious studies	2	
Computing	1	IT skills to be taught via subject areas
PE	4	2 hours per week is the guidance
History	4	
Geography	4	
MFL	5	Extra lesson because for most students this will be a new subject
Art, Design and Technology	5	9 weeks of each of the 4 subject areas: RM, Textiles, Food, Art
Performing Arts	2	1 term of Drama, 1 term of Music and 1 term of Dance (in which the PE National Curriculum content for Dance will be delivered)
TOTAL	50	

Year 8

Subject	Number of lessons per fortnight	Notes
English	8	
Mathematics	8	
Science	6	
PSHCEE	2	Extra lesson to allow students to experience citizenship as an independent subject prior to the options process in year 9
Religious studies	2	
Computing	1	IT skills to be taught via subject areas
PE	4	2 hours per week is the guidance
History	4	
Geography	4	
MFL	4	
Art, Design and Technology	5	9 weeks of each of the 4 subject areas: RM, Textiles, Food, Art
Performing Arts	2	1 term of Drama, 1 term of Music and 1 term of Dance (in which the PE National Curriculum content for Dance will be delivered)
TOTAL	50	

Year 9

Subject	Number of lessons per fortnight	Notes
English	8	
Mathematics	8	
Science	6	
PSHCEE	1	Called Citizenship in year 9 to aid student in making the connection to the optional subject of Citizenship in year 10
Religious studies	3	Extra lesson to prepare students for GCSE
Computing	1	IT skills to be taught via subject areas
PE	4	2 hours per week is the guidance
History	4	
Geography	4	
MFL	4	
Art, Design and Technology	5	9 weeks of each of the 4 subject areas: RM, Textiles, Food, Art
Performing Arts	2	1 term of Drama, 1 term of Music and 1 term of Dance (in which the PE National Curriculum content for Dance will be delivered)
TOTAL	50	

Year 10

Subject	Number of lessons per fortnight	Notes
English	8	English Literature
Mathematics	8	
Science	8	Increase because 2 GCSE qualifications being taken
PSHCEE	1	Will not lead to a qualification but is compulsory
Religious studies	3	GCSE
PE	2	Will not lead to a qualification but is compulsory
Option A – Humanities block	5	
Option B – Language block	5	
Option C – Arts block	5	
Option D – Technology block	5	
TOTAL	50	

*Computing National curriculum will be completed via Enrichment days

Options offered within option block:

<u>Option A</u>	<u>Option B</u>	<u>Option C</u>	<u>Option D</u>
History Geography French Spanish Urdu Computer science	History Geography French Spanish Urdu Computer science	Fine Art Drama BTEC Sport History Geography Photography Citizenship Creative iMedia Triple award**	Hospitality and catering BTEC Health and social care Citizenship Business Studies Computer science iMedia Design and technology (Paper) Design and technology (textiles) Triple award**

** Selected students only

Final option blocks based on subjects selected by students:

Option Block	Subject	Numbers of student	Number of groups that we plan to run in each block
A	History	44	2
	Geography	17	1
	French	19	1
	Spanish	22	1
	Urdu	17	1
	Citizenship	30	1
	B	History	51
Geography		18	1
French		24	1
Spanish		24	1
Urdu		17	1
Computer Science		15	1
C		Fine Art	15
	Sport	13	1
	Photography	37	2
	iMedia	21	1
	Geography	16	1
	History	26	1
	HSC	21	1
D	Food	17	1
	HSC	30	1
	Citizenship	30	1
	Business studies	25	1
	iMedia	19	1
	Triple award	28	1

DfE target for students completing the Ebacc is 75% by 2022. We currently have 81.1% opting for a combination of subjects which would enable them to achieve the Ebacc

Year 11

Subject	Number of lessons per fortnight**	Notes
English	8	English Language
Mathematics	8	
Science	6	
Religious studies	4	GCSE
Computing	2	All student to study iMedia
PE	2	
Option A	6	
Option B	6	
Option C	6	
TOTAL	50	

*PSHCEE National curriculum will need to be completed via Enrichment days and form period sessions

**All numbers are double what students received in Y10