

The William Henry Smith School

Curriculum Policy

Policy Details

Status:	In-house
Frequency of review:	Annually
Lead member of staff:	Sue Ackroyd
Last reviewed:	January 2018
Next Review Date:	Autumn Term 2018
Policy Number:	E4

1.0 Introduction

The required subjects of the National Curriculum are taught at the relevant Key Stage. The Principal will ensure that all Statement or EHCP requirements are met and will use temporary disapplication from the National Curriculum if it should be considered beneficial to the student. A balanced curriculum will be taught to all students in such a manner that it will promote their spiritual, moral, cultural, social and physical development and prepare them for experiences in adult life. We enrich the curriculum by our strong ethos based on respect for ourselves and others, equality and a sense of wonder at the world we live in. We are committed to developing the whole student and value the way in which all students are unique, and our curriculum promotes respect for the views of each individual, as well as people of all cultures. Our students have the opportunity to be creative, to be physically active and be academically challenged. We value parents/carers and work in partnership with them to enrich the curriculum. Parent/carers are informed about the curriculum through topic letter, homework and consultation meetings and are positively encouraged to become involved.

2.0 Entitlement

- 2.1 Students at the William Henry Smith School study a wide range of subjects. No student shall be denied the opportunity to study a subject or take part in an activity purely on the grounds of intellectual ability, ethnicity or social class.
- 2.2 The curriculum should provide students with opportunities to explore their own identities, their relationships with others and to prepare them for taking their place in society. Accordingly, all students will undertake a structured personal and social education programme through PSHE lessons, keyworker sessions, and assemblies and, at the appropriate time, careers guidance and

work

experience.

- 2.3 All students are entitled to be entered for external examinations at the highest level they can manage. The school offers a wide range of certificated courses up to GCSE level.

3.0 Organisation of teaching

- 3.1 The school expects all teachers to have the knowledge to enable them to teach all core subjects and provide subject specialism as required. We plan our curriculum in three phases. We agree a long-term plan for each Key Stage. This indicates what topics are being taught in each term. With our medium-term plans, we give clear guidance on the objectives and teaching strategies and use aspects of the QCA schemes of work to support medium plans. Our short-term plans are those that our teachers write on a weekly basis.
- 3.2 The school aims to provide appropriately equipped specialist teaching rooms for all subjects which require them. It endeavours to ensure that all classes are taught in well-maintained, safe and pleasant surroundings.
- 3.3 The amount of time devoted to a particular subject in the curriculum will take cognisance of DfE recommendations, the demands of teaching the subject at the William Henry Smith School and the total amount of teaching time available. Curriculum time allocation will be reviewed annually.

4.0 Teaching and learning

- 4.1 As well as providing interest and offering a challenge, learning at the William Henry Smith School should provide enjoyment and should stimulate an appreciation of the value of life-long learning.
- 4.2 Students' learning experiences should encourage them to become independent learners. Through our teaching we aim to provide students with the skills and motivation to study and learn without the constant direction of the teacher.
- 4.3 We aim to meet the individual needs of all students using differentiation. The supports all students and Learning Support Assistants and One to One Staff work in conjunction with class teachers to ensure constructive participation in all learning opportunities.
- 4.4 We will establish and maintain close links with families, LAs and Children and Young People's Services.

5.0 Resources

- 5.1 It is the aim of the school that the curriculum should improve resources through the process of subject self-evaluation. Budgets for individual subjects are reviewed annually.

6.0 Training

- 6.1 Training/professional development is linked to Performance Development, changes in legislation or practice in education and residential social care. It is included in the planning of staff development as part of an annual cycle.

- 6.2 It is the role of the subject leader to keep up to date with developments in their subject, at both national and local level. They review the way the subject is taught in the school and plan for improvement. Each subject leader reviews the curriculum plans for their subject, ensures that there is full coverage of the National Curriculum and that progression is planned into schemes of work.
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7.0 The curriculum beyond the classroom

- 7.1 All learning opportunities are important at The William Henry Smith School. Much of our learning takes place beyond the classroom and our '24 hour' curriculum provides significant opportunities for learning.

We aim to demonstrate to our students that our 24-hour curriculum can be used constructively and give them interests and develop skills and talents which we hope they will continue into adulthood.

8.0 Policy review

- 8.1 This policy will be reviewed and evaluated in line with the School Improvement Plan, annually.