

COGNITA



Curriculum Policy

September 2023

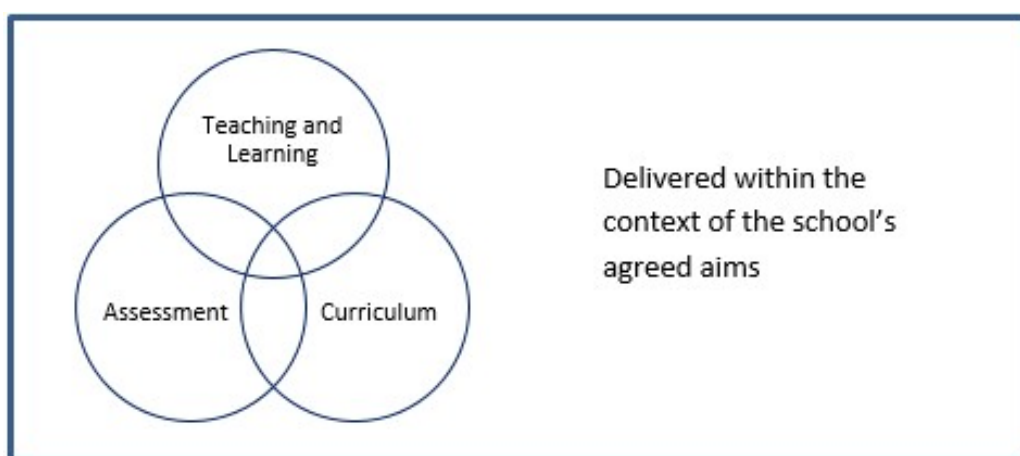
1 Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this policy is to ensure that our curriculum supports our school ethos and fulfils our school aims, which are defined as:

- To develop **character**, encouraging our students to be *adventurous, collaborative* and *future-ready*.
- To offer a *contemporary* and *innovative* approach to **academic achievement** enabling each individual to discover their passion.
- To inspire a *community* of **global citizens** who feel *empowered* to be active and *socially-aware*.

These aims support our ethos, which is:

- Distinctively, at Akeley Wood Junior School, we take children with a broad range of abilities, and we support them *in recognising and achieving their personal goals*. We do not expect them to conform to a certain mould; rather we encourage them *to thrive in an environment where independence and individuality is celebrated*. Our students are given the *freedom to find their distinct voice, and to flourish in their diversity, ultimately becoming whoever, they want to be*.



1.2 This policy applies to all pupils, including those in the Early Years.

1.3 We see the curriculum as, 'The total learning experience for our pupils, which includes not only the taught lessons but also the routines, behaviours, events, activities and other opportunities that our pupils experience on a daily, weekly and yearly basis in order to ensure that all of them make the best progress possible and attain high standards'.

1.4 A well-structured and coherent curriculum is a fundamental element of the tripartite of education that underpins all successful schools and includes Teaching, Learning and Assessment as in the following model:

1.5 We aim to provide a holistic curriculum which develops every pupil as a confident individual who loves learning. We understand that the curriculum, both within taught lessons and beyond them, and in everything we say and do, should create an environment where academic risk-taking, questioning and debating, challenging thinking and the freedom to learn from mistakes are all encouraged.

- 1.6 Our curriculum offers all pupils the opportunity to experience linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical, aesthetic and creative aspects of education. We intend that our curriculum should imbue in our pupils:
- A passion for life-long learning;
 - A capacity for independent and critical thinking;
 - Self-awareness, self-regulation and resilience;
 - Self-confidence without arrogance; and
 - Genuine interests that extend beyond the confines of the classroom.
- 1.7 British values, which are; democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs, are actively promoted in every aspect of school life.
- 1.8 Our curriculum is compliant with the following regulatory requirements as outlined in the Independent School Standards:

The written policy, plans and schemes of work:–

- (i) take into account the ages, aptitudes and needs of all pupils, including those pupils with an EHC plan; and*
- (ii) do not undermine the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.*

For the purposes of paragraph the matters are:

- (a) full-time supervised education for pupils of compulsory school age (construed in accordance with section 8 of the Education Act (1996), which gives pupils experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative education;*
- (b) that pupils acquire speaking, listening, literacy and numeracy skills;*
- (c) personal, social, health and economic education which:*
 - (i) reflects the school's aim and ethos; and*
 - (ii) encourages respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the 2010 Act(a);*
- (d) for pupils receiving secondary education, access to accurate, up-to-date careers guidance that–*
 - (i) is presented in an impartial manner;*
 - (ii) enables them to make informed choices about a broad range of career options; and*
 - (iii) helps to encourage them to fulfil their potential. The school has a separate careers guidance policy.*
- where the school has pupils below compulsory school age, a programme of activities which is appropriate to their educational needs in relation to personal, social, emotional and physical development and communication and language skills;*
- that all pupils have the opportunity to learn and make progress and*
- effective preparation of pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in British society.*

2 Taught Curriculum

- 2.1 Our taught curriculum broadly follows and, at times, goes beyond the (National Curriculum) at KS1 and 2 and is formally assessed at the end of KS2 through the GL summative Assessments, Progress Test in English, Progress Test in Mathematics and Progress Test in Science. Progress and attainment assessment data produced from these standardised assessments are compared with National standardised data sets.

- 2.2 All pupils in Year 3 Year 5 sit the CAT4 test in October in their year of entry. The outcomes of all tests are shared with pupils and parents as part of informed discussions about a pupil's potential. They are used to make sure that the curriculum offer is individualised to need. Class Teachers and Phase Leaders use this data to monitor the progress and attainment within their subjects. The data from the CAT4 tests is also shared with relevant specialist teachers. All new pupils to the school sit a CAT4 test, appropriate to their year as well as baseline Progress Tests in English and Maths upon entry to the school. This information is also shared with pupils and parents.
- 2.3 Time awarded to each subject in each year group is visually explained in each year group's specific class timetable, located in the UK AWWP Academic platform on Microsoft Teams, in the folder Admin and Timetables.
- 2.4 Details of how the taught curriculum is translated into subject Schemes of Work (SoW) and lesson plans can be found in the UK AWWP Academic platform on Microsoft Teams, under each year group channel and folder.
- 2.5 Taken together, the taught curriculum will ensure that by the time they have completed their time with us, all pupils are able to demonstrate the knowledge, skills and understanding to enable them to move onto the next stage of their education at the highest level.

3 Special Educational Needs and Disability - SEND

- 3.1 Our curriculum is inclusive. For those pupils with special educational needs or specific learning difficulties, the school has a well-established Learning Support department, led by the SENCO/Inclusion Lead.
- 3.2 Further details of this provision can be found in our Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Policy.

4 SMSC

- 4.1 Our policy follows the advice given by the DfE in the non-statutory guidance of November 2014 and meets the requirements of the Independent School Standards. Aspects of SMSC are infused within the day to day operation of our school; incorporated through the curriculum, both in content included in subject schemes of work and through other planned learning opportunities in the school. They are captured in our written aims and expressed in the ethos and behaviours of everyone. Our approach to SMSC ensures that principles are actively promoted which:
 - Enable pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence;
 - Enable pupils to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England;
 - Encourage pupils to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative and understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality in which the school is situated and to society more widely;
 - Enable pupils to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England;
 - Further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling pupils to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures;
 - Encourage respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the 2010 Act; and
 - Encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic process, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England.
- 4.2 Discriminatory or extremist opinions or behaviours are challenged as a matter of routine.

- 4.3 In addition, our approach to SMSC ensures that all pupils will gain an:
- Understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process;
 - Appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their well-being and safety;
 - Understanding that there is a separation of power between the executive and the judiciary, and that while some public bodies such as the police and the army can be held to account through Parliament, others, such as the courts, maintain independence;
 - Understanding that the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law;
 - Acceptance that people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour; and
 - Understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination.

5 Religious Education and PSHEE

- 5.1 Our school chooses to respond to the legal requirement in maintained schools to teach Religious Education and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), and to non-statutory guidelines to cover other aspects of Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHEE). Our programme encourages respect for other people, with particular regard to the protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010
- 5.2 Our PSHE course is delivered to all pupils through PSHE lessons taught by our teachers. Teaching resources are taken from our scheme but also the PSHE Association. There is one hourly lesson of taught PSHE a fortnight. Elements of the programme may be supported through the bringing in of additional expertise, such as outside speakers, or the use of teachers with a particular interest or knowledge in a specific area. In addition to these discrete sessions, PSHE is also dealt with across the curriculum (e.g. Health through PE; Citizenship through History & RE and through the themes and topics in our assembly programme. We use the scheme One Decision which encourages children to discuss the possible consequences of different actions and helps to develop their understanding of the impact of their actions on others. It aims to empower children to take responsibility for their actions and make informed choices.

6 Co-curricular

- 6.1 A wide range of enrichment activities supplements the timetabled curriculum. Our pupils are encouraged to take part in an extensive range of art, drama, music, sport and other activities and clubs. Regular themed days and weeks are held. These may include World Book Day, World Maths Day, NSPCC Number Day, STEM (Science) Week, Anti-Bullying Week, Children in Need, Comic Relief, Jeans4Genes Day and Cognita's Global Be Well Day.
- 6.2 Pupils are taken to places of interest on a regular basis, linked to their learning experiences. Visits, including residential opportunities, are organised annually, which help to develop independence, teamwork and responsibility in a different environment to that in school. Pupils in LKS2 and UKS2 are provided with opportunities to take part in a residential, appropriate for the age group

7 Other Opportunities

- 7.1 Our school aims to provide an education for life. Other aspects of our curriculum which enable our pupils to gain the skills, knowledge and experience to be successful adults include:
- Pupil Councils;
 - Well-being Leads
 - Pupil Leadership through opportunities such as Head Student and House Captains in Year 6

- Expeditions and trips;
- Fundraising Activities;
- Sport – with the opportunity to compete locally, regionally and nationally
- Our extensive extra-curricular offer

8 Responsibility

- 8.1 The person with responsibility for the overview and yearly evaluation of this policy is the Assistant Headteacher – Academic. However, all staff are responsible for ensuring this policy is implemented and acted on.
- 8.2 When evaluating the use and impact of this policy, our school leaders will evaluate the extent to which there is evidence of a curriculum which:
- Fulfils the aims of the school;
 - Embeds aspiration, attributes and the expectation to achieve high standards and high rates of progress; and
 - Provides engagement and excitement for learning.

Curriculum Policy

Ownership and consultation	
Document sponsor (role)	Group Director of Education
Document author (name)	Karen Nicholson, ADE
Consultation – May 2017	Consultation with the following schools: Long Close School, Charterhouse Square School, Quinton House School, El Limonar Murcia, Cumnor Boys' School, Downsend Leatherhead Pre-Prep School, Oakleigh House School and El Limonar Villamartin. Education Team representative: John Coleman, ADE.
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Spain	Yes

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Related documentation	
Related documentation	Curriculum Policy Assessment Policy Teaching and Learning Policy SEND Policy EAL Policy Prevent Duty Early Years Policy, where relevant Independent School Standards