

## **St Edmund's School Canterbury**

### **CURRICULUM POLICY**

#### **Aims**

The school aims to provide a rounded, appropriate education for all its pupils. In particular, this means:

- ensuring pupils develop key skills of literacy and numeracy;
- encouraging creativity;
- encouraging the development of learning skills;
- promoting a healthy and safe life-style;
- inspiring pupils with a commitment to learning that will last a lifetime;
- promote high standards in all learning and teaching.

The school's curriculum follows statutory requirements and is based upon the requirements of the National Curriculum.

It is balanced and broadly based. It promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of all pupils; it prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

Pupils are expected to acquire skills in speaking, listening, literacy and numeracy. The medium of teaching is English. Pupils for whom English is not their native tongue receive tuition explicitly designed to foster facility in this medium.

In addition to the academic curriculum, personal, social and health education is provided in a manner which reflects the school's aims, ethos and values. Pupils all receive appropriate careers guidance in a tailored programme covering all year groups.

#### **Equal Opportunities**

Entry to all programmes of study is based on academic suitability and appropriateness, regardless of sex, race, religion or belief. As far as is possible, within the physical constraints of the building, this is also true of disability. The school aims to make the curriculum accessible to all pupils as far as is reasonably practicable. The school has an Accessibility Plan which is available to parents on request.

A variety of teaching and learning methods are used in all courses to suit pupils' different needs.

#### **Subjects Offered**

##### **L5**

English, Mathematics, French/EAL, Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics) – taught in sets

Art, Geography, Games, History, ICT, Music, PE, Religious Studies  
Optional: Drama or Spanish  
Latin or Technology  
PSHE (including careers)  
Activities (including DofE or CCF)

### **M5 and U5**

**Core:** English, Mathematics, French/Spanish/EAL, Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics) – taught in sets  
PE, Games, Activities (CCF)  
PSHE (delivered in 5 mornings over the year)  
RS (U5 only)

### **Optional:**

Normally 3 subjects from Art (Drawing and Painting), Art (Ceramics), Drama, Food Technology, Geography, Graphics, History, ICT, Latin, Music, Physical Education (GCSE), Resistant Materials, Religious Studies

Pupils in U5 undertake two weeks of work experience at the end of their course.

### **Sixth Form**

The following subjects are offered at AS and A-level. The normal programme consists of 4 subjects at AS-level (sometimes 3), followed by 3 to A-level: Art (Fine Art), Art (Ceramics), Art (Photography), Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Design Technology, English Literature, Film Studies, French, Further Mathematics, Geography, History, Mathematics, Music, Music Technology, Physical Education, Physics, Psychology, Religious Studies, Spanish, Theatre Studies.

Offered at AS only to pupils taking the AQA Baccalaureate: Critical Thinking

Additional activities: Games, General Studies (for L6 only), Activities options

Entry to the sixth form is based on demonstration of academic potential which suggests that the pupil is likely to cope with the demands of the course. This means for English Students a requirement of at least 6 GCSE passes at grade C or above, with B's or better in the subjects to be studied, or, for overseas candidates, successful completion of the school's entrance tests. For pupils unable to meet these entrance requirements, the school will try to negotiate a modified curriculum.

### **Optional Subjects**

The structure of the options system is regularly reviewed by the Academic Policy Group and by the Director of Studies. The options blocks for each academic year are published in Curriculum Booklets for each year group, and provided in hard copy to parents and electronically on the school's website.

### **Religious Education**

Religious education is provided informally for all through the medium of collective worship and Chapel services, and explicitly to fifth forms in the school. Religious Studies is an optional subject at GCSE and A-level. All pupils are expected to take part in twice-weekly collective worship. The worship is of a broadly Christian character and is designed to be inclusive for all faiths. A service of Holy Communion led by the Chaplain is held once a month. Other services may be led by the Chaplain, other members of staff, pupil groups or visiting speakers.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from acts of collective worship if they inform the Headmaster in writing; they are encouraged not to exercise this right.

### **Sex Education**

The school provides sex education in the basic curriculum as part of the PSHE programme for all pupils, in which pupils are encouraged and guided by moral principles and taught to recognise the value of family life.

A full statement of the school's sex education policy is available to parents and can be found in the Parents' Handbook. It has been drawn up in consultation with staff, pupils and parents. It has regard for the government's guidance in *Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (0116/2000)*.

In accordance with the law, the biological aspects of human reproduction are compulsory for all pupils, but parents may withdraw their children from any other part of the sex education programme offered without giving reasons.

### **Political Education**

The promotion of partisan political views in the teaching of any subject is prohibited by law. Where subject content has a political dimension, issues are presented in a balanced and objective manner.

### **PE and Games**

All pupils are expected to take part in the school's PE and Games programme unless there are medical reasons precluding this. Pupils can only be excused on an occasional basis from PE or Games lessons on production of a note from a parent or other responsible adult, or on the advice of staff in the school's Medical Centre.

### **Extra-Curricular Activities**

The school has a wide and varied programme of cultural and sporting activities that take place outside the formal curriculum. All pupils in L5 are expected to take part in the programme, and all other pupils are strongly encouraged to do so.

## **Prep**

The school expects prep to be set as appropriate. A weekly prep timetable for 5<sup>th</sup> forms is published; for sixth form pupils, work is set as necessary by teachers.

The school's normal expectations are:

L5 3 subjects per night, 30 minutes each

M5 3 subjects per night, 40 minutes each

U5 3 subjects per night, 40 minutes each

L6 3 to 4 hours work outside lessons for each AS subject

U6 5 hours work outside lessons for each A2 subject

(Some of this time may come from the use of timetabled study periods in school)

## **Special Educational Needs**

The school has a Special Educational Needs policy which applies to statemented and non-statemented pupils. In consultation with parents, the school identifies and implements the course of action most appropriate to each pupil's needs.

## **Monitoring and Review**

This policy is monitored by the Director of Studies, who reports to the Headmaster on its implementation regularly, and at least as frequently as annually.

The curriculum content for each year group is reviewed annually by the Director of Studies in consultation with the Academic Planning Group.

The Headmaster will report to the Governing Body's Curriculum Committee on the progress of the policy, and on any material changes.

## **Concerns and Complaints**

Parents who have concerns about any aspects of the curriculum should discuss these in the first instance with the child's tutor, or with the Director of Studies.

If the issue cannot be resolved, parents should make a complaint in writing to the Headmaster.

JEM

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairman of Governors**

**Review Date:**