



Senior School Curriculum Policy

“Our mission is to create a community of innovative, creative thinkers who possess outstanding personal qualities and a deep sense of social responsibility.”

1. Aims of the Policy

St Edmund's School Canterbury is committed to providing a broad, balanced, and stimulating curriculum that promotes the intellectual, creative, physical, and personal development of all pupils. Our curriculum is designed to prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities, and experiences of adult life, fostering a love of learning, critical thinking, and respect for diversity. This policy is written in accordance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (Part 1 – Quality of Education), the Equality Act 2010, and, where relevant, the National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools. It ensures that the curriculum is accessible to all pupils, including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and those for whom English is an additional language (EAL), and that it supports the school's safeguarding duties as outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education. The curriculum at St Edmund's is regularly reviewed to ensure that it remains challenging, relevant, and aligned with our mission to develop well-rounded, confident, and responsible young people.

The curriculum policy is supported by detailed curriculum plans and schemes of work for each subject and year group. These documents identify how the requirements of the Independent School Standards are delivered, including PSHE, RSE, safeguarding and preventative education, protected characteristics, fundamental British values, careers education, literacy, numeracy and preparation for life in British society. The School Leadership Team monitors their effective implementation through curriculum reviews, lesson visits, work scrutiny, pupil feedback, assessment information and departmental review.

2. School Vision and Values

Our approach to educating young people is embedded in the following values:

We value...	“Each other”	
	Which means we	- Recognise our responsibility to create a caring and supportive community
	So we	- Show kindness, respect and empathy for other people - Prioritise the nurturing ethos of a family and community-orientated school

		- Have strong pastoral systems and policies
We value...	"Intellectual Curiosity & Creativity"	
	Which means we	- Love learning and seek to foster creative, critical and lateral thinking
	So we	- Provide an outstanding holistic education - Realise the academic potential of each individual through inspirational teaching - Go beyond the curriculum - Encourage individual research and cross-curricular approaches - Develop self-study skills - Reflect on our learning
We value...	"Excellence"	
	Which means we	- Commit to being the best we can possibly be in all things
	So we	- Foster a positive culture that celebrates achievement - Set high standards and encourage individual endeavour - Accept that taking risks and making mistakes are valuable parts of learning
We value...	"Individuality"	
	Which means we	- Recognise that everyone is different and has unique needs, strengths and aspirations - Promote equality of opportunity
	So we	- Provide wide-ranging opportunities for moral and social, spiritual and cultural and creative and physical development - Encourage and support every pupil to "be all they can be" - Actively promote social mobility and inclusion and do not tolerate racism or any form of prejudice
We value...	"Social responsibility"	
	Which means we	- Promote the idea that individuals must contribute to the greater good of society - Understand that we live in an inter-connected world where our actions can have profound consequences for others

	So we	- Provide rich opportunities to develop personal resilience, leadership and communication skills - Emphasise the importance of teamwork and empathy
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3. Access, Equality and Anti-discrimination

The School's commitments and policies are outlined in:

- Admissions Policy
- Equality Policy
- Special Educational Needs & Disability Policy
- 3 Year Accessibility Plan

These are available on the school website at this location:

<https://www.stedmunds.org.uk/about-us/policies-inspection-reports/>

The School is committed to ensuring that pupils develop an age-appropriate understanding of the protected characteristics defined in the Equality Act 2010 through a planned and progressive curriculum. Curriculum leaders will maintain and regularly review curriculum maps to identify where and when each protected characteristic is taught across subjects, with particular emphasis within the PSHEE and Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) programmes, while also identifying opportunities within the wider curriculum and co-curricular provision. This mapping will ensure that coverage is balanced, coherent and developmentally appropriate, promotes respect for diversity, equality and inclusion, challenges prejudice and discrimination, and prepares pupils for life in modern British society. Curriculum mapping will be monitored through departmental reviews and quality assurance processes to ensure effective implementation and compliance with the Independent School Standards.

4. Introduction

St Edmund's School aims to provide the best possible academic framework to allow all pupils to maximise their potential. Pupils are encouraged to aim for and achieve the very highest standards of which they are capable. We aim for our leavers to be fully equipped to make a success of their personal and professional lives and deal with the demands of the modern world. Each pupil may proceed from school with:

- Accomplished intellectual skills and the best possible academic qualifications
- A mature awareness of the spiritual and ethical as well as the material nature of life
- Self-confidence founded on self-knowledge and self-discipline, and honesty and integrity which inspires trust

- Assured social skills, including understanding of the concepts of accountability, duty and loyalty
- Willingness to accept responsibility and to be interested in, and care for, the people around them whatever their background or outlook
- Well-developed physical capabilities and understanding of all that contributes to good health, together with the qualities of self-reliance and teamwork gained through sport and the challenges of the outdoors, and appreciation of the ideals of sportsmanship
- Broad cultural awareness acquired particularly through music, drama and art, and understanding of the importance of beauty in their lives
- Clear expectations in terms of what is acceptable conduct from others, both professionally and personally

The Curriculum Policy prefaces all other policy documents which relate to teaching and learning. It is an overarching statement of provision, rather than a detailed document outlining the delivery of the curriculum. Alongside other policies, this policy seeks to deliver the school's vision and values.

This policy should be read in conjunction with

- Safeguarding & E-Safety Policy
- Equality Policy
- Department for Education Statutory Guidance on RSHE (2025, effective September 2026)
Keeping Children Safe in Education (2026)
- Assessment Policy
- Careers Education, Information and Guidance Policy;
- National Curriculum (non-statutory for independent schools)
- English as an Additional Language Policy
- Very Able and Talented Policy
- Special Educational Needs Policy; and
- Department for Education documentation regarding ongoing curriculum change at all Key Stages
- Assessment and Feedback Policy
- Core Teaching Values Policy
- Artificial Intelligence Policy
- Acceptable Use of ICT

Principles

Curriculum

- The curriculum will meet statutory requirements.
- The curriculum will be reviewed with due regard to the National Curriculum.
- The curriculum will be delivered within a framework which ensures that all pupils are safeguarded.
- The curriculum will be designed flexibly to enable all pupils to achieve.

Teaching

The Teacher Standards state that:

Teachers make the education of their pupils their first concern, and are accountable for achieving the highest possible standards. Teachers must:

- set high expectations which inspire, motivate, support and challenge pupils
- promote good pupil progress and outcomes
- demonstrate strong subject and curriculum knowledge
- Plan and teach well structured lessons

In addition, Teachers are:

- well qualified, passionate subject specialists with deep knowledge and a secure understanding of their discipline
- confident in articulating and applying relevant values, beliefs and theories
- committed to ongoing professional development
- disciplined teacher-researchers who continue to learn within a professional, collegiate community of practitioners
- committed to testing, refining and adjusting their practice based on feedback and evaluation
- committed to providing education which enables our pupils to understand the world and change it for the better
- aware that effective teaching leads to the best possible outcomes in terms of pupil progress
- committed to meeting the individual learning needs of pupils through a range of different and challenging learning opportunities and flexible planning

Preventative Safeguarding Education

The School is committed to providing a planned, age-appropriate programme of preventative safeguarding education that equips pupils with the knowledge, skills and confidence to recognise risks, make informed decisions and seek support when needed. Through PSHEE, Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE), the tutorial programme, assemblies and the wider curriculum, pupils are taught about healthy and respectful relationships, consent, sexual harassment and sexual violence, child-on-child abuse, online safety, harmful online content, exploitation (including criminal and sexual exploitation), radicalisation, and how to recognise, respond to and report safeguarding concerns. This preventative curriculum is reviewed regularly to reflect emerging safeguarding risks and statutory guidance and contributes to a whole-school culture that promotes respect, inclusion and dignity, and where sexism, racism, misogyny, misandry, homophobia, biphobia, discrimination, harassment and all forms of abuse or violence are actively challenged and not tolerated.

Safeguarding Curriculum Oversight

The School recognises that safeguarding is a whole-school responsibility and that effective preventative education requires regular review and oversight. The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), together with the PSHEE/RSHE Lead and other relevant members of the School Leadership Team, will contribute to the planning, delivery and annual review of the curriculum to ensure that safeguarding education remains current, coherent and responsive to pupils' needs. Curriculum content will be informed by statutory guidance, local contextual safeguarding information, emerging risks and themes identified through safeguarding records, pupil voice and lessons learned from incidents. This collaborative approach ensures that safeguarding themes are embedded appropriately across the curriculum and that pupils are equipped with the knowledge and skills to recognise risks, keep themselves safe and know how to seek help when concerns arise.

5. Responsibilities

5.1 Governing Body

The Governing Body has strategic responsibility for ensuring that the School's curriculum complies with the Independent School Standards and reflects the School's vision, values and statutory responsibilities. Governors, through the appropriate committee, receive regular reports on curriculum provision, pupil outcomes, safeguarding education, PSHEE/RSHE, equality, inclusion and the effectiveness of curriculum implementation. They monitor the impact of the curriculum through analysis of performance data, departmental reviews, safeguarding reports and external inspection findings, and provide appropriate challenge and support to senior leaders. The Governing Body will review this policy annually, or sooner where there are significant changes to legislation or statutory guidance, to ensure that the curriculum remains broad, balanced, inclusive and responsive to the needs of all pupils.

5.2 School Leadership Team

- Implement policy
- Plan the curriculum and its resourcing to meet individual needs
- Ensure that teaching, learning and the curriculum are planned, monitored and evaluated in the light of national developments; ensure that the curriculum content for each year group is reviewed annually
- Provide accurate accounts of teaching, learning and the curriculum to the governing body
- Provide continuing professional development for teaching staff
- Maintain accountability for high professional standards.
- The Leadership Team will review the policy annually to ensure its implementation and to review its impact on quality and teacher workload.

5.3 Heads of Department

- Plan the delivery of teaching programmes to meet necessary requirements
- Prepare schemes of work
- Ensure the highest quality teaching and learning in their areas; ensuring all teachers in the area are fulfilling Teacher Standards
- Support the implementation of the policy with reference to National Curriculum subject requirements and cross-curricular themes
- Contribute to whole school developments on teaching and learning
- Ensure the department is well informed of national developments relating to the subject area(s)
- Take part in and deliver continuing professional development
- Monitor the quality of work in the areas for which they are responsible
- To lead on teaching observations (including marking scrutiny) at least once per year for each member of staff; providing support where appropriate

5.4 Teachers

- Ensure the highest quality teaching and learning in their lessons through effective planning and delivery
- Maintain accurate records of assessment
- Follow department, faculty and whole school plans and policies
- To respond to findings of lesson observations, marking scrutiny and other relevant monitoring procedures
- Take responsibility for their own continuing professional development, and contribute to leading professional development, if appropriate

- Maintain Qualified Teacher Status, Teacher Standards and/or Upper Pay Spine Standards as appropriate

5.5 Teaching Assistants

- Provide high quality support for teaching and learning
- Support individuals and small groups in their learning as deployed by the SENDCo)
- Participate in relevant continuing professional development

6. Curriculum: Principles and Content

We will provide:

6.1 A broad and balanced curriculum which is fully and accurately informed by national changes at each Key Stage

The school offers full-time supervised education for day and boarding pupils aged 11-18 which gives pupils experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative education.

The school aims to provide a rounded, age-, aptitude- and needs-appropriate education for all its pupils, including those pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan. In particular, this means:

- ensuring pupils develop key skills of literacy and numeracy
- encouraging creativity
- encouraging the development of learning and ICT skills
- encouraging reflection, metacognition and independent study skills
- promoting a healthy and safe lifestyle
- promoting personal development
- promoting fundamental British values including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance
- providing a robust education against all forms of prejudice including anti-racism
- inspiring pupils with a commitment to learning that will last a lifetime
- promoting high standards in all learning and teaching

The school's curriculum is balanced and broad. 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. It encourages respect for others and pays particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010.

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, Health and Economic Education (PSHEE) is provided in a manner which reflects the school's aims, ethos and values through regular PSHEE sessions and a comprehensive tutorial programme. The School places great importance on supporting pupil and staff mental health, ensuring appropriate advice, systems and personnel are in place.

Pupils all receive appropriate, accurate and up-to-date careers guidance in a tailored programme covering all year groups. This guidance is presented in an impartial manner, it enables pupils to make

informed choices about a broad range of career options and it helps to encourage pupils to fulfil their potential.

In the event of a school lockdown in response to a national or local crisis (such as COVID-19), the school will switch to remote teaching and learning. This will consist of a combination of live lessons, recorded webinars, assemblies, tutor meetings and support sessions delivered via Microsoft Teams. Work will be set and uploaded by My School Portal. The school will also provide access to online learning platforms such as GCSE Pod. The Safeguarding and E Safety Policy contains an addendum which sets out the necessary safeguarding protocols.

6.2 Access to the National Curriculum for all students aged 11-16 (Years 7-11) for whom this is suitable

Subjects Offered:

F7

**English, Mathematics, Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics) – taught in sets;
Art, Computer Science, Design Technology, Drama, Geography, Games, History, Music, Outdoor Education, PE, PSHEE (including careers), Religious Studies, and a choice from French, Latin, Spanish and EAL.**

F8

**English, Mathematics, Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics) – taught in sets;
Art, Computer Science, Design Technology, Drama, Geography, Games, History, Music, Outdoor Education, PE, PSHEE (including careers), Religious Studies, and a choice from French, Latin, Spanish and EAL.**

L5 (Year 9)

**English, Mathematics, Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics) – taught in sets;
Art, Computer Science, Design Technology, Drama, Geography, Games, History, Music, Outdoor Education, PE, PSHEE (including careers), Religious Studies, and a choice from French, German, Latin, Spanish and EAL.**

M5 and U5 (Year 10 and 11)

Core: English, Mathematics, Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics) – taught in sets;
PE, Games, Skills and Services programme (CCF or DofE for the M5)
PSHEE (delivered one period weekly)

Optional:

Normally 3 subjects from Art (Drawing and Painting), Art (Ceramics), Computer Science, Design Technology, Drama, EAL, Economics, Film Studies, Food & Nutrition, French, Geography, History, Latin, Music, Physical Education, Religious Studies, Spanish.

A small number of Very Able and Talented pupils are able to study AS English Language or IGCSE Further Mathematics as an academic enrichment opportunity in U5.

6.3 An Advanced Level programme at Key Stage 5, with access to GCSE English and Mathematics

Sixth Form

The following subjects are offered at A-level. The normal programme consists of 3 subject Art (Fine Art), Art (Ceramics), Art (Photography), Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Classical Civilisation, Computer Science, Design Technology, Drama, Economics, English Literature, Film Studies, French,

Further Mathematics, Geography, History, Mathematics, Music, Music Technology, Physics, Politics, Psychology, Sport Science (Cambridge Technical).

All Sixth Form pupils have the opportunity to take the Extended Project Qualification. Those pupils who study 3 subjects after the Michaelmas term of the L6 will follow the Sixth Form Academic Enrichment Programme, including academic endeavours such as the Thrupp Essay Competition and the EPQ.

Other Post 16 qualifications offered: Leith's Certificate in Food and Wine, Outdoor Leadership Qualification (in conjunction with ASDAN).

Additional activities: Games; Activities options, including Combined Cadet Force, Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and a full co-curricular programme (30+ activities).

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 UK students a requirement of at least 6 GCSE passes at grade 4 or above, with 6s or better in the subjects to be studied (the Sixth Form Curriculum booklet details the specific entry criteria for each subject), or, for overseas candidates, successful completion of the school's entrance tests. For pupils unable to meet these entrance requirements, the school will endeavour to negotiate a modified curriculum.

6.4 Accurate assessments of students' progress in all curriculum areas

The school assesses pupils' academic progress regularly throughout each school year. All pupils normally produce a piece of graded and assessed work every three weeks. Progress is tracked relative to recognised benchmark assessments such as MidYis, Yellis and ALIS and agreed target grades.

Progress data on all pupils is produced each term and reviewed by academic staff in regular Pupil Progress meetings. Action plans are devised for pupils who are underperforming and implemented by the Heads of Key Stage Three and Head of Sixth Form, in conjunction with the School Leadership Team.

Pupils who perform particularly well in each Academic Review period are recognised with prizes in assembly and a hand-written postcard home. Parents are informed formally of pupil progress through Academic Review Cards, reports and parents' evenings

6.5 A co-curricular programme to complement the taught curriculum

The school has a wide and varied programme of cultural and sporting activities that take place outside the formal curriculum. All pupils in the school from M5 upwards are strongly encouraged to take part in the 'Skills and Services' programme, while F7-L5 pupils participate in an Outdoor Education programme. M5 pupils choose either to participate in CCF or in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. There is a weekend activity programme for boarders.

6.6 A careers education and guidance curriculum to enable students to make the right choices about their futures

The School takes seriously its responsibility to support and advise pupils on their choices relating to future careers and education. Our Head of Careers conducts annual Morrisby Tests, feedback sessions and careers interviews in September each year. The Head of Progression manages the UCAS process for pupils, starting mid-way through the L6 year. The Tutorial Programme also provides assistance to pupils on University choices and the application process. We also have a visiting speaker programme

designed to give pupils useful insights into careers and life in the wider world. The school helps pupils choose GCSE and A-level courses in a timely and impartial manner, showing no bias or favouritism towards a particular education or work option. The school enables pupils to make informed choices about a broad range of careers options. The school's careers guidance enables pupils to know how their strengths, weaknesses and interests relate to the world of work. Pupils learn about different careers and opportunities, obtain individual guidance, have an opportunity to take part in work experience, and gain information about training, education and occupations beyond school. The school avoids stereotyping in the advice and guidance which it offers and ensures that pupils from all backgrounds and diversity groups consider the widest possible range of careers.

6.7 Opportunities for students to develop their spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness

We promote a culture whereby individuals are not discriminated against in any way. In the provision of equal opportunities, the school recognises and accepts its responsibilities under the law and opposes discrimination on the basis of: sex, pregnancy and maternity, gender reassignment, race, disability, religion or belief (including lack of religion or belief), sexual orientation, (in the case of adult members of the school Community) marital or civil partnership status; and age. These are the "Protected Characteristics". The school also opposes all bullying and unlawful discrimination on the basis that a person has a special educational need or disability (SEND) or because English is an additional language.

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. The school recognises and understands its responsibilities under the *Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015* and the *Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Act 2019*, to take every effort to prevent individuals from being drawn into terrorism through the internet or by other means, and to challenge extremist ideas propagated by terrorist organisations. Therefore, the school seeks to foster understanding and respect for the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and a tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs throughout the whole school community in a variety of ways, which include: whole school assemblies and chapel services, Curiosity Shop lectures, citizenship as part of PSHEE, the tutorial programme, through trips to Parliament and other important UK institutions, through questionnaires to test pupil understanding of key concepts like "democracy" and "representation" and through exploiting opportunities within the academic curriculum, particularly (though not exclusively) in subjects like History, English, Religious Studies and Politics.

Sex education is provided in the basic curriculum as part of the PSHEE 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 can be found on the school website. It has been drawn up in consultation with staff, pupils and parents. It follows government's guidance as set out in Department for Education Statutory Guidance on RSHE (2025, effective September 2026) and *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (2026)

Parents and carers have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of the sex education provided as part of Relationships and Sex Education, other than content forming part of the science curriculum. There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education. On receiving a request, the Head will discuss the request with the parent or carer and, where appropriate, the pupil, in accordance with statutory guidance. Except in exceptional circumstances, the request will be granted until three terms before the pupil turns 16. From that point, if the pupil wishes to receive sex

education, the School will make arrangements for this to occur. The School will provide appropriate, purposeful education for any pupil who is withdrawn.

The school promotes respect and a culture of tolerance and diversity. In accordance with *Careers guidance and inspiration in schools, April 2017*, the school develops in every young person the values, skills and behaviours they need to get on in life. All pupils receive a rich provision of classroom and co-curricular activities, to develop the personal qualities which underpin success in education and employment.

6.8 Appropriate levels of support to access the curriculum for those students with learning difficulties or disabilities

Entry to all programmes of study is based on academic suitability and appropriateness, regardless of learning difficulty, gender, 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 on the school's website. The school will also make reasonable adjustments for prospective pupils during the application process.

The school recognises the importance of differentiation. A variety of teaching and learning methods are used in all courses to suit pupils' different needs to ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to learn effectively and to make progress. The school prepares pupils effectively for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in wider society.

6.9 Opportunities for personalised learning in conjunction with other local providers for pupils for whom the national curriculum may not be suitable

6.10 Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

The School's SEND provision follows statutory requirements and is based on the *SEND Code of Practice 0-25 years (2015)*.

The Learning Enhancement department has considerable experience and expertise in dealing with a broad range of learning difficulties. The school admissions process includes an audit of previous support. When a pupil with SEND joins the Senior School the SENDCo consults with parents to provide accurate information and strategies for staff. This ensures that pupils' needs are known and taken into account from their first day.

The small class sizes and caring teachers at St Edmund's enable us to differentiate the curriculum appropriately to meet the needs of our SEND pupils, but sometimes extra support is needed. The school tracks pupils' academic progress closely throughout each school year relative to recognised benchmark assessments. Pupils who are at risk of underachievement are discussed and an action plan is formulated. This may include the pupil accessing an intervention programme until their grades are securely on track.

Having identified particular needs for intervention (usually in English or Maths) the Learning Enhancement Department withdraws pupils from lessons or tutorials to attend targeted programmes aimed at raising their levels of performance. We work closely with subject teachers to ensure that our interventions are relevant to the pupil's courses of study.

On occasion, members of staff may suspect a pupil has a learning difficulty. Our SENDCo, Mr Gulliford is able to quickly carry out a meaningful assessment and recommend action to help the pupil concerned.

Exam concessions (such as extra time or use of a laptop) are used to compensate for a pupil's disabilities and allow a level playing field for them to reach their potential in exams. The School policy on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities as well as the Accessibility Plan, can be accessed on the school website and on Teams. The school has followed the changes to the national arrangements for SEND since 2014 with the implementation of provisions from the *Children and Families Act 2014* and the *SEND Code of Practice, 0-25 years (2015)*.

6.11 English as an Additional Language (EAL)

English is the language of teaching, learning and formal communication within the School. Pupils are encouraged to use English during lessons and other educational activities to support their academic progress, participation and integration within the school community. At the same time, the School values and respects the linguistic, cultural and ethnic diversity of its pupils and recognises that home languages are an important part of individual identity and heritage. Pupils are encouraged to celebrate and maintain their first languages and cultures, and no pupil will be disadvantaged or discriminated against because English is an additional language. Appropriate support will be provided to enable pupils with English as an Additional Language (EAL) to access the curriculum fully and participate confidently in all aspects of school life.

Bilingual learners at St Edmund's come from a range of ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Their ability to function in English at an appropriate initial level is assessed prior to acceptance in the school. The school's objective is to support their learning through developing their linguistic competence – aural, oral and written – in the English language, in order to ensure that their educational achievements at the end of their course is commensurate with their ability and is not compromised by difficulties in written or spoken English.

Curriculum Arrangements

- All pupils in Key Stage 3 for whom English is not their native language are directed to EAL lessons during the teaching block devoted to Modern Foreign Languages. This provides up to 6 lessons per fortnight, delivered in a group context, in which English is studied formally. There is a charge for this additional support.
- Pupils in M5 and U5 are expected to opt for EAL as one of their GCSE options.
- The requirement to take additional EAL lessons may be waived for those pupils who are confidently expected to gain a B grade or above in English at GCSE, this being the standard exemption made for University entrance.
- Sixth Form pupils whose language skills fall below those expected from IELTS for entry to British Universities are directed towards individual or small-group EAL lessons to coincide on an individual basis with their study periods. Again, additional charges apply. They are expected to sit IELTS examinations. At the pupil's request, formal lessons may be discontinued once the appropriate IELTS standard has been reached.
- It is expected that during the school's working day, pupils should use English as their medium of communication. Out of school hours, the use of English is encouraged but not formally enforced.
- All classroom teachers are expected to be aware of the challenges facing pupils working in English as a second or third language, and to differentiate their teaching accordingly.

6.12 Very Able and Talented

The School has extensive provision for Very Able and Talented (VAT) pupils, and gives all pupils the opportunity to take risks and experience the challenge of going beyond their known capabilities.

This process starts through identification and information sharing. Pupils may be identified by their past educational performance, by tests of underlying ability or by nomination through teacher, parents or peers. The status and profile of all VAT pupils is shared with staff, pupils and their parents. Enrichment opportunities include extension courses of study, workshops, development programmes plus the many co-curricular trips and visits on offer. We have a programme of presentations and talks which Academic Scholars in F7-M5 are expected to attend.

We track pupil progress carefully, offering personalised extension and co-curricular enrichment sessions to VAT pupils when appropriate.

Progress of all pupils, including VAT, is monitored closely through regular data drops, termly reports, discussion with Learning Enhancement, Housemasters, at departmental meetings and in public examinations.

We believe that challenge is the driving force of teaching, and only by giving pupils work that makes them struggle, and having high expectations of them, will we be able to move beyond what they know and can do now.

Core Teaching Values:

- **As teachers we routinely:**
- Consider what kinds of teaching will lead to the kind of learning that is needed
- Develop our pupils' habits of mind through a systematic focus on promoting creative dispositions and developing metacognitive skills
- Teach challenging lessons that make our pupils think hard
- Understand how young people learn, are able to evaluate the thinking behind pupils' own methods, and can identify common misconceptions
- Review pupils' previous learning so that they have a secure base from which to develop their knowledge and understanding
- Model the learning process, using a range of strategies, and put in place the necessary scaffolding to enable all pupils to achieve quality outcomes
- Use effective questioning to probe pupils' understanding and identify gaps in knowledge
- Create opportunities for structured deliberate practice so that pupils are given time to craft and improve their work
- Use formative assessment to identify strengths and weaknesses in pupils' knowledge, understanding and skills and provide incisive feedback about what they can do to improve
- Embed reading, writing and communication and, where appropriate, mathematics across the curriculum
- Set challenging prep that consolidates learning, deepens understanding and prepares pupils for future learning

- The School's Core Teaching Values are:
- **Nurturing Creativity** for rich, deep learning and fresh perspectives
- **Challenging Lessons** to make pupils think deeply
- **Metacognitive skills** to support independence

7. Other considerations

As a Church of England Foundation School, we:

- Provide religious education informally through the medium of collective worship and Chapel services.
- Expect all pupils 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.
- Provide parents with the right to withdraw their children from acts of collective worship if they inform the Head in writing; parents are encouraged not to exercise this right.

In addition, we will:

- Teach programmes which enable continuity and progression;
- Make partnerships for curriculum delivery, where this is appropriate (e.g. with special schools, further education colleges, work-based learning providers, employers);
- Publish outline programmes of study;
- Ensure that assessment is timely and accurate;
- Encourage innovation in teaching and learning where it will contribute to high standards;
- Develop intervention and other programmes to meet the needs of those students who are not achieving to their full potential;
- Ensure that literacy and numeracy are delivered effectively throughout the curriculum;
- Seek students' feedback on their curriculum experiences;
- Ensure that impartial advice and guidance is provided for progression and transition;
- Ensure that teachers receive appropriate professional development to fulfil their duties including using school partnerships such as EKST
- Make appropriate resourcing decisions to support the curriculum.

8. Implementation and Monitoring

The school monitors the implementation of this policy through:

- Annual departmental reviews (including public exam results analysis)
- Appraisal and professional development
- New staff induction programme and probationary review

Formal lesson observations (often as part of the appraisal cycle) are used to ensure all staff:

- Set high expectations which inspire, motivate and challenge pupils
- Promote good progress and outcomes by pupils
- Demonstrate good subject and curriculum knowledge

- Plan and teach well-structured lessons
- Adapt teaching to respond to the strengths and needs of all pupils
- Make accurate and productive use of assessment
- Manage behaviour effectively to ensure a good and safe learning environment
- Fulfil wider professional responsibilities

Related documentation:

- Teaching lesson observation and planning forms

9. Departmental expectations: documentation and planning

All academic departments maintain a departmental handbook which covers the following aspects listed below. This documentation is reviewed (often with a particular annual focus) in the annual departmental reviews between the Head of Department, Director of Studies, Deputy Head (Educational Development) and the Head.

i. Aims & objectives

Statement of aims

ii. Organisation

Staff biographies & responsibilities

Current departmental timetables & staffing grid

iii. Curriculum

Curriculum overview

Schemes of Work

Trips/Educational visits

iv. Policies

Key departmental policies: lesson & homework planning, behaviour, SEND, VAT, assessment and marking, presentation of work, use of ICT

v. Resources & Administration

Rooming & Resources

Resources recommended for pupils

Administrative processes

vi. Whole School Priorities

Literacy & Numeracy

Very Able and Talented

SEND Pupils

SMSC

vii. Monitoring Performance

Use of pupil data

Assessment strategy

viii. Planning
Departmental Self-Evaluation Form/Development Plan

Appendix

- ☐ St Edmunds lesson plan template
- ☐ Summary of Specifications used

10. Pupil assessment, monitoring and reporting procedures

Annual reviews of overall public exam data are conducted and discussed at the senior management and governor level including detailed analysis and scrutiny which takes place within the Governors' Education & Staffing Committee.

Analysis conducted includes:

- Overall GCSE and A-level performance (including in relation to national and independent school performance)
- Value-added performance measures (inc. CEM baseline data)
- Individual subject scrutiny
- University and progression data
- Examination procedures and appeals statistics
- Cohort analysis (gender / EAL / SEND/ VAT)

Baseline analysis is also conducted each year and scrutinised by the Governors' Education Committee:

- CEM Midyis, Yellis and ALIS baseline data is collected through pupil testing in Years 7, 9, 10 and L6
- Baseline data is collated internally to facilitate pupil and cohort tracking
- Baseline individual pupil feedback is made available to teachers, tutors, pastoral and learning support staff to assist in promoting pupil awareness and differentiation needs
- In particular, staff attention is drawn to those pupils scoring >116 and those scoring <90 in the standardised baseline results. These are not intended to act to define pupils or groups but are a useful highlighting tool to further promote differentiation and extension.

11. Health and Safety

Our curriculum provision is risk-assessed with all departments considering health and safety issues in curriculum planning. Particular health and safety procedures and risk-assessments are in place throughout the curriculum where activities are individually risk-assessed and additional health and safety guidelines, regulations and procedures exist for laboratories and practical work. Educational visits are subject to separate health and safety, consent form and risk assessment procedures.

12. Educational Visits

The school recognises the real value to pupils of participation in educational visits including local and day trips, national residential and international residential opportunities. The school undertakes an extensive programme of educational visits each year for all year groups.

The school's aims in all conducted educational visits are to:

- Enhance pupils' understanding of curricular activities (for example, language or history studies);
- Provide opportunities to practise skills;
- Develop pupils' social skills (for example, meeting pupils from other countries and cultures).

13. 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, Housemaster or with the Director of Studies. The Deputy Head (Educational Development) will address issues or concerns that are not immediately resolved.

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

EOC/AEB September 2026

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Governor responsible for the Curriculum

Review Date: September 2027

Version Number	Date of Amendment	Signature
1	September 2013	LJMh
2	April 2014	LJMh
3	April 2015	LJMh
4	September 2015	LJMh
5	September 2016	LJMh
6	September 2017	LJMh
7	February 2018	LJMh
8	September 2018	EOC
9	September 2019	EOC
10	September 2020	EOC
11	September 2021	EOC
12	September 2022	EOC
13	September 2023	EOC
14	September 2024	EOC
15	September 2025	EOC
16	September 2026	EOC