

Curriculum Policy

Aim:

‘The school believes that each child should be offered every opportunity to develop his or her own talents, academic, sporting, musical and creative, to the maximum through whatever medium.’ (Aims and ethos of the school)

At Gayhurst this involves creating a balanced but challenging and enriching curriculum that encompasses the needs of all the pupils from Nursery to Year 8 including those with special educational needs as well as the intellectually gifted.

Regular curriculum review is undertaken by Department Heads, the Senior Management team, the Headteacher and the Governing Body. Any changes required will be implemented into the next academic cycle and the relevant resources required to support such changes will be provided to the applicable departments.

The curriculum policy incorporates the needs of all the children, both girls and boys, Nursery to Year 8. Since the change to coeducation in 2008 adjustments have been made where appropriate and from September 2017 the policy will apply to all children in Years N to 6.

The aims of our school curriculum are:

- To promote a thorough and broad education that engages, excites and challenges our pupils, as well as providing the opportunity to learn and make progress. This includes those pupils who have Learning Difficulties and Disabilities, More Able, Talented and have English as an Additional Language.
- To ensure that the pupils have full-time supervised education for pupils of compulsory school age, which gives pupils experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, musical, technological, human and social, physical, and aesthetic and creative education.
- To include the knowledge, skills and understanding appropriate for the age and aptitude of the pupils, including those pupils with an educational health care plan.
- To plan and provide schemes of work which provide for pupils to acquire skills in speaking and listening, literacy and numeracy.
- To provide a planned and monitored curriculum which ensures that learning is continuous and that the pupils make good progress.
- To provide a personal, social and health education which reflects the school’s aims and ethos (as stated in the Behaviour Policy, the Anti-Bullying Policy, the school’s Safeguarding policy and the, ‘Prevent’ strategy).
- To prepare the pupils for their next schools and for adult life by providing opportunities for responsibility and leadership.
- To promote a positive attitude towards learning, so that pupils enjoy coming to school and acquire a solid base for lifelong learning.
- To enable pupils to be positive citizens.

- To fulfill the requirements of EYFS and ISEB. To incorporate the National Curriculum where appropriate, to prepare the pupils for the requirements of individual schools' entry or Scholarship requirements.
- To help pupils to have an awareness of their own spiritual development, and distinguish between right and wrong.
- To help pupils to understand the importance of truth and fairness, so that they grow up committed to equal opportunities for all.
- To enable pupils to have respect for themselves and high self-esteem, and to live and work cooperatively with others.

The Early Years (Nursery and Reception)

Pupils in Nursery and Reception work towards achieving the learning and development requirements of the EYFS Statutory framework as defined in the seven areas of learning and development and the educational programmes, the early learning goals and the assessment requirements. The Early Years department offers an educational programme that meets each pupil's needs so that progress is made at a pace suitable for each individual.

The main aim is that the overall emotional, social, intellectual and physical development of each pupil is met through providing an appropriate broad curriculum.

The pupils in the Nursery gradually increase the number of sessions they attend so that by the time they reach Reception age they are ready for full time school. Nursery and Reception pupils receive Music lessons from specialist teachers. They take part in Music and Drama performances.

Reception pupils are completely integrated into the Junior School and as with Year 1, receive PE and Music lessons. The Foundation Stage curriculum is followed and most pupils reach the Early Learning Foundation Stage goals at the end of the Reception year.

The Junior School

Pupils are taught by their class teachers for the majority of their subjects. The concentration is on English: reading, writing and speaking; Mathematics: tables, number work and practical investigation; investigative Science and projects. Every encouragement is given to help pupils read fluently. Geography, History, PSHCE and Religious Studies are all taught to broaden the child's awareness and understanding and to help him or her appreciate the complexities of the environment in which we live.

Art and Design, Drama, and Music form an extension to the core subjects as well as introducing pupils to specialist skills in their own right. There are regular performances of music and drama. Many children learn to play an instrument on an individual basis. Interactive whiteboards are located in every classroom and are a valuable learning aid. All the pupils from Reception upwards use the Junior School IT area. PE and Games are incorporated into the weekly curriculum and from Reception onwards the pupils can participate in a variety of after school clubs.

Outings are an important part of the whole school curriculum for all the year groups.

The Senior school

The pupils from the Junior school join the Senior school in three or four parallel forms where the lessons are arranged into a weekly timetable based on periods that range from 35 to 60 minutes during the working day. In Years 3-4 they will encounter some specialist subject teaching and by Years 5 - 6 the majority of their subjects will be taught by subject specialists. Throughout the school the emphasis in the Sciences is on practical work, learning through investigation. Written and oral French is studied from Year 3 while Spanish is taught from Year 5. Mathematics and English are setted subjects in Years 4 - 6. IT is a timetabled subject for all year groups as well as being an integral part of all class-based lessons throughout the Senior school. Geography, History, Religious Studies, Critical Thinking, PSHCE, Art, Music, Games and PE are all incorporated into the weekly timetable.

Career Guidance

Education at Gayhurst is an important first step on preparation for life. Skills integral to pursuing a successful career are fostered taught and encouraged. This is evident in the spiritual, moral and cultural aims of the school, the behaviour and PSHCE policies as well as all curriculum areas. Children are given an insight into a number of professions through trips, talks and presentations by visiting speakers. Taking responsibility is encouraged both generally and specifically. Interview techniques, public speaking and key roles on the School Council all provide the children valuable life skills for future adult and professional life.

Special Needs

Children identified as having a learning difficulty are supported in a variety of ways depending on the nature of their need. This involves working one to one with specialists, using specialist equipment and being given appropriate time to complete tasks.

(For more detail on the subjects refer to the individual Departmental Handbooks, Plans and Policies)