

Ashley High School

Curriculum Policy

The curriculum at Ashley High School supports our mission statement: *Success in Partnership* by giving pupils the opportunity to learn and develop in a supportive, collaborative and nurturing environment.

***Intent***

The school is committed to providing an ambitious, broad and well-planned curriculum which enables students to develop core skills alongside knowledge and understanding. The wide range of subjects, learning experiences and accreditation on offer aims to develop students both academically and personally, both in the classroom and off-site. We aim to provide an enriched pupil centred curriculum which engages students, takes into account the needs of the individual, enables them to thrive, achieve their potential and prepares them for independent living and the world of work.  We place a great emphasis on our students having a careers programme in place that ensures that they are well equipped for the future and have the information needed to make realistic and informed decisions about further education, training and employment.

***Implementation***

At **Key Stage 3**, the full range of National Curriculum subjects are taught as well as discrete timetabled lessons which are skills based. Personal Development lessons cover the six core skills;

* Collaboration and Communication
* Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
* Creativity and Imagination
* Citizenship
* Digital Literacy
* Student Leadership and Personal Development

Literacy and Reading are a high priority and all students participate in a wide range of Literacy activities throughout the school week to develop and refine their reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. Weekly Numeracy sessions are also taught.

Independent Living is taught across the school and provides a foundation for lifelong learning focusing on transferable social and life skills which are essential for living and working in the community. Weekly PSHCE lessons help all our students develop as individuals in a wider society. Our students learn to understand themselves physically, emotionally, socially and sexually and to understand their relationships with others.

Across the curriculum, we actively promote Global Learning, British Values, Thinking Skills and the development of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural education (SMSC) including through our Rights Respecting School programme.

***Key Stage 4***

At **Key Stage 4**, all students follow the Core and Foundation curriculum and are placed in the appropriate group for their ability. They access either GCSE or Entry Level courses in the following subjects:

* English
* Maths
* Science
* ICT
* Humanities (History GCSE or Entry Level Humanities)

A range of short course accreditations are also available at Key Stage 4 including Level 1, Entry Level or ASDAN courses. They include:

* Animal Care
* Creative Media
* Home Cooking Skills
* Preparing for Work
* Gardening
* Construction
* Safe Road Skills and Attitudes
* Independent Living

Key Stage 4 students also study Religious Education, PSHCE and P.E. (non-accredited) with opportunity in Year 11 to access a BTEC Sports accreditation. Duke of Edinburgh (Bronze award) is also offered at KS4.

***Key Stage 5***

At **Key Stage 5** our academic curriculum consists of three core areas; English, Mathematics (Level 1, Level 2 and GCSE level) and ICT (Level 1 and Level 2). Qualifications in all of these areas are essential for future employment and we strive to challenge all of our students effectively so that they might achieve to the best of their ability in all three. Students wanting to complete similar academic qualifications in other areas of the curriculum are often able to do so by accessing our Key Stage 4 classes (if their timetable allows).

**Vocational education** covers certain disciplines which enable students to acquire skills which are traditionally non-academic and related to a specific trade, occupation or vocation. In year 12 students complete a BTEC Certificate in Vocational Studies as well as completing taster sessions in a range of vocational areas. In year 13 students are given the option to continue with a BTEC Extended Certificate (Entry Level 3) or Diploma (Level 1) in Vocational studies or to concentrate on an alternative vocational area.

Our **Careers Programme** is introduced in Year 7 and builds significantly through Year 8 to Year 14. We make every effort to support all of our students into a positive destination that utilises their skills and interests. We do this through a rigorous careers programme with the involvement of local employers. We also participate in a whole school Enterprise Day to build up employability skills and allow students to use their creative talents. Our overall aim is to support our students in making well informed and realistic career decisions for the future. We do this by providing:

* A comprehensive careers programme from Year 7 onwards
* Individual careers guidance for students in Year 9 and above
* Access to up to date careers information
* Links with local employers.

***Extra-curricular***

Extra- curricular activities are extensive and provide enrichment opportunities where learning and teaching can take place in a variety of ways both within and beyond the classroom. Forest and Coastal school activities, residential trips, community projects, themed weeks and after school clubs are some examples when students are able to develop their social skills and learn to to become more active citizens within the school community and beyond.

We are proud of our curriculum at Ashley High and are continually reviewing and updating to give our students the best possible learning experiences in order that they achieve their full potential and are well prepared for adulthood and working life.

**This policy was reviewed: November 2019**

**To be reviewed: November 2020**

**Curriculum Leader: Clare Ogburn (Deputy Head)**