



# CURRICULUM POLICY

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## **POLICY STATEMENT**

The school curriculum aims to provide opportunities for all students to learn and achieve, irrespective of their social background, culture, race, gender, differences in ability and disabilities.

Through the framework of the National Curriculum and the guidelines of the LA, the school will secure for all students an entitlement to a number of areas of learning.

The curriculum will further the knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes necessary for students' self-fulfilment in order to develop them as active and responsible citizens.

## **ORGANISATION: Groupings**

Two important aspects of school life are the academic and the social. Students are grouped into tutor groups and teaching groups. Their tutor group is a mixture of students from different primary schools, backgrounds and abilities. Teaching groups are usually arranged to suit particular abilities.

### **The Tutor Group**

Tutors are with their groups for registration and assemblies. During this time, tutors ensure that students are equipped for the day ahead.

Each year group has a Year Team Leader, who is responsible for the tutors and who, with them, looks after the day to day needs of students, including reward and sanctions, and oversees their academic progress.

The School also has a Head of Faculty: Pastoral who has overall responsibility for Pastoral Care in the school and who has a specific responsibility for attendance, behaviour and student welfare.

### **The Teaching Group**

In Year 7, students are taught in ability groups based on Key Stage 2 assessment. Groups are reviewed at the end of the autumn term based on Year 7 assessments from all subject areas. Students are taught in predominantly the same groups across all their subjects.

In Years 8 & 9 students are taught mainly in ability based groups. For some practical subjects such as Technology and Physical education they are taught in mixed ability groups.

We seek to give our students a broad and balanced education which will provide a solid foundation for their end of Key Stage 3 assessments and external tests, GCSE courses and future education and training when they leave us.

In Years 10-11 students are grouped according to the subject choices they make.

## **ORGANISATION: Courses**

### **KEY STAGE 3**

In **YEAR 7** all students study the same general course which consists of:

*English*

*Mathematics*

*Science*

*Design & Technology: Textiles/Food/RM*

*Drama*

*Geography*

*French*

*Religious Education*

*Physical Education*

*PSHE and Citizenship*

*History*

*Music*

*Art*

*Computer Science*

A small number of pupils receive additional support through the delivery of literacy focussed lessons. These lessons replace discrete French, History and RE but deliver the content with a literacy focussed approach.



# CURRICULUM POLICY

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In **YEAR 8** students continue with the same courses.

## KEY STAGE 4

In **YEAR 9**, students begin studying Key Stage 4 courses in **some** subjects. In the Spring Term of Year 8, students choose their Key Stage 4 courses. A curriculum booklet containing information about the options process is provided for students and parents, alongside a curriculum information evening. For the optional curriculum, students study courses over a one year period and so begin a new course at the start of each year from Year 9 onwards. The Key Stage 4 curriculum is divided into the '**Core Curriculum**' and the '**Optional Curriculum**'.

### The Core Curriculum

These are the subjects that every Student **must** study: - English, Mathematics, Science, Physical Education, Religious Studies or ICT, and Personal, Social, Health Education and Citizenship (PSHE). English, Mathematics and Science will be studied to GCSE level.

**English:** Students study GCSE English Language in Year 10. Some students may have the opportunity to study GCSE English Literature in Year 11. In Year 9, students continue to follow the Key Stage 3 English curriculum.

**Mathematics:** Students study GCSE Mathematics in Year 9 and Year 10 (two year course). In Year 11, students continue Mathematics through a choice of courses.

**Science:** Students study **either** GCSE Triple Science (Core, Additional and Further Additional Science) in Year 10 and Year 11 **or** GCSE Core Science in Year 10 followed by **either** GCSE Additional Science or GCSE Applied Science in Year 11. Some students begin their GCSE Science courses in Year 9 and follow a three year course.

**ICT/Religious Studies:** Students study either BTEC ICT or GCSE Religious Studies as part of their Core Curriculum from Year 10 onwards (two year courses). Students can also choose GCSE Religious Studies and/or BTEC ICT as part of the Optional Curriculum from Year 10 onwards.

**Carousel:** Students in Year 9 also study a 'carousel' of different subjects for one hour per week. This allows students to continue studying subjects that are part of the optional curriculum in preparation for future selection.

### The Optional Curriculum

Students select a new course at the start of each year from Year 9 onwards; these are one year course. The following subjects are currently offered:

*GCSE Art and Design*

*GCSE Astronomy*

*GCSE Catering/Foundation Learning*

*GCSE Dance*

*GCSE Drama*

*GCSE Geography*

*GCSE Health and Social Care*

*GCSE History*

*BTEC Information and Creative Technology*

*GCSE Media Studies*

*GCSE Modern Foreign Languages - French*

*GCSE Music*

*GCSE Physical Education*

*GCSE Religion, Life Skills and Moral Issues*

*GCSE Resistant Materials/Product Design*

*GCSE Textiles*

*GCSE Psychology*

*GCSE Business Studies*

*GCSE Hospitality*

*Torc Centre (Vocational Courses)*

The viability of these courses depends on resources and the numbers opting to take them.



# CURRICULUM POLICY

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## ADDITIONAL CURRICULUM INFORMATION

Parents may wish to have information on these areas of the curriculum.

### Religious Education

Religious Education is an essential part of the curriculum for our students. Our teaching conforms to the Warwickshire Agreed Syllabus. All students in Years 7, 8 and 9 have weekly lessons of Religious Studies, studying aspects of Christianity and the Bible. Other world religions are also studied.

Parents have the right to withdraw their son/daughter from these lessons if they wish. We would ask that they discuss this with the Headteacher before the admission of their child to the school.

### Sex Education

Sex Education is taught in appropriate contexts and at suitable times during a student's school life. The biology of reproduction is taught by science staff in Year 7. Students are prepared for the changes which take place in adolescence and this is supported by work on relationships in the Personal and Social Education Course. We encourage students to develop responsible attitudes to life and to each other, which will lead to stable relationships in adult life.

Parents may obtain further details of the agreed Sex Education Policy by contacting the school.

### Personal, Social & Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship

All students follow a Personal and Social Education course. PSHE and Citizenship is delivered to all students through four discrete days through the year.

During Years 10 and 11 students are guided to make informed self assessments and choices about possible career opportunities. They are given up to date information by means of invited speakers, films, visits and access to the Careers Library.

As part of the Year 10 course students spend one week on Work Experience during the Summer Term.

The aim of the Personal and Social Education course is to prepare students for transition from the school environment to the adult world with particular reference to the social, moral and practical implications of experiences within the home, family, marriage, community and the working situation.

### Learning Support

At some time in their school life most young people need some kind of extra support whether they are very gifted or whether they have some difficulty with school work. Kingsbury School provides Year 6 students with in-class support for the last year of their education in our partner schools. This establishes a familiarity with the school's method of learning support well before arriving as Year 7 students. The support offered at Kingsbury School relies heavily on classroom assistant provision but also welcomes specialist interventions from agencies such as The Dyslexia Institute, The Learning and Behavioural Support Service (LABS) and 'Units of Sound'. Learning Support is seen by all departments as a shared responsibility that is the entitlement of all students.



# CURRICULUM POLICY

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## Physical Education

Kingsbury School has good playing fields and a well-equipped Leisure Centre, comprising of a Swimming Pool and a newly built Sports Hall. Physical Education is an important part of the national curriculum and all students are expected to take part. Notes from parents are required for every absence from P.E. due to illness.

All major summer and winter sports are played and inter-school matches take place after school. Parents are asked to encourage an interest in school games and are very welcome at matches.

The P.E. Department provides a P.E. Syllabus which follows National Curriculum guidelines. Our aim is to promote a competitive approach to sport whilst ensuring fairness, sportsmanship and an all round co-operative spirit in all our students.