

Durston House

Curriculum Policy

Aim of the Policy

- to ensure that all pupils at Durston House receive a broad, high-quality education

Objectives of the Policy

- to provide all pupils, parents and teachers with a clear understanding of
 - the principles on which the curriculum is based
 - the educational aims of the curriculum
 - the nature of the curriculum offered by the school
- to complement the school's **Teaching and Learning Policy**, the **Rewards and Sanctions Policy**, the **Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Policy**, the **SMSC Policy** and the **Use of Internet and Digital Technology Policy**

Introduction

All pupils at Durston House have equal access to a full-time, supervised education. We aim to provide a thorough and balanced curriculum through which all pupils have the opportunity to learn and make progress in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative areas of education. The breakdown of this curriculum varies in different parts of the school, but the overall ethos of a broad, deep and rigorous educational provision for all applies across the school.

We aim to ensure through our curriculum that all pupils (including those identified as being especially able, gifted or talented as well as those with special educational needs) acquire the necessary speaking, listening, literacy and numeracy skills appropriate for their ages and aptitudes.

Through our PSHME curriculum and assemblies a personal, social, health, moral and economic education is provided, which reflects the school's aims and ethos.

Careers guidance features in the form of lectures and visits by selected speakers from a range of professions. During PSHME lessons, there is scope for discussions about types of work and professions. Furthermore, informal and formal conversations between teachers and boys as well as their parents may take place, in which the talents and achievements of a boy in the light of a future career are discussed. .

In Pre-Prep, which educates children below compulsory school age, the school provides a programme of activities which is appropriate to the educational needs of those pupils in relation to personal, social, emotional and physical development and communication and language skills.

On Which Principles is the Curriculum Based?

At Durston House, we believe that

- the education received by the pupils should be broad, deep and rigorous.
- the curriculum should be structured to develop the whole person.
- all pupils in a year group should have equal access to the curriculum
- learning should be a rewarding and enjoyable experience.

What are the Educational Aims of the Curriculum?

The curriculum at Durston House aims to

- provide all pupils with the opportunity to learn and make progress.
- prepare the pupils to make a seamless transition to the next stage of their education as well as to the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.
- ensure that the pupils understand the language, history and cultural values by which our society has been formed.
- help the pupils to develop into ‘Renaissance Men’.

What is the Nature of the Curriculum?

The curriculum at Durston House comprises

- the Core Academic Curriculum
- the Aesthetic and Creative Curriculum
- the Linguistic Curriculum
- the Physical Curriculum
- the Personal, Spiritual and Moral Curriculum
- the Technological Curriculum.

The Core Academic Curriculum

Durston House offers a strong, traditional, academic education. At the heart of the curriculum across the school are the core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science. These subjects are taught to all pupils at the school, as the development of the core skills and knowledge is vital in accessing other areas of the curriculum and making good academic progress.

The Aesthetic and Creative Curriculum

The Arts play a significant role in the development of the well-rounded pupil.

We ensure that Music plays a key role in the education of the pupils through lessons taught by specialist Music teachers, across the school, and participation in choirs, ensembles, orchestras, assemblies and school productions. All pupils have the opportunity to learn discrete instruments, taught by Visiting Music Teachers.

We encourage pupils to develop their artistic skills, to express their ideas through their art work and to develop a sense of appreciation of all aspects of Art. Like Music, Art is taught across the school and from Year 4 it is taught by a specialist Art teacher, in a specialist room, equipped with up-to-date technology.

We encourage pupils to participate in dramatic activities and to develop the self-confidence that goes with performing to an audience. Pupils have opportunities to do this in form assemblies and in school productions. We do not teach drama, as process, as a separate subject, or as part of the English curriculum.

The Linguistic Curriculum

Apart from linguistic development in English, we believe that our pupils benefit from learning other languages, enabling them to understand better other cultures and to communicate with others more fully. We concentrate on the teaching of one classical language, Latin, which provides the root for many others, and one modern foreign language, French. Through Outings and Trips, pupils have the opportunity to learn more about these and to practise their spoken command of them.

The Physical Curriculum

Physical Education and Games play a key role in the overall development of the individual pupil. At Durston House we set great store by the physical well-being of our pupils and encourage all to achieve their best in the sporting arena.

Individual skills are taught by Physical Education specialists, in PE classes, from Reception through to Year 8. Games sessions for all are run by these specialists and aim to develop the ability of pupils to work with others, within the boundaries of the sporting context.

We believe that our pupils should learn about a range of different sports. Therefore they have the opportunity to participate in a variety of sports with particular emphasis being placed on Football (Autumn Term), Rugby Union (Spring Term) and Cricket (Summer Term). In Years 3 and 4 pupils receive lessons in swimming as well.

Team work and developing a sense of *esprit de corps* are achieved by pupils having the opportunity to play matches and competitions, both internal (House Matches) and against other schools.

The Personal, Spiritual and Moral Curriculum

Within the context of the school's ethos, the personal, spiritual and moral education of the boys is developed. Through all our Pastoral Care policies, the values of Durston House are made clear and their interpretation is set out. These are based on selflessness, consideration and respect for others, the foundations of a healthy and successful community. Pupils receive lessons in Religious Studies as well as Personal, Social, Health, Moral and Economic Education. The spirituality and practice of various religious traditions are explored, as are the issues and responsibilities of a citizen in a modern, pluralistic society. Beyond the classroom, in the interaction of pupils and adults, the values of Durston House are infused.

The Technological Curriculum

We encourage the pupils to develop the skills and knowledge that they will need to thrive in the technological world in which they are growing up. A Computer Science (CSc) specialist teaches CSc throughout the school. The CSc curriculum covers coding, a wide range of computer software and applications. The appropriate use of technology is encouraged across the curriculum and continues to be developed.

Design Technology is not taught at Durston House. A lack of facilities appropriate to the teaching of the subject has made its development inexpedient.

The Balance of the Curriculum

A balanced curriculum is achieved through the following lesson allocations:

Year	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	Rec
Art	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	0
Computer Science	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	0
English	6	6	6	8	9	9	11	11	5
French	4	4	4	4	2	2	0	0	0
Games	4	4	5	5	4	4	2	2	2
Geography	3	3	3	2	2	2	1	1	0
History	3	3	3	2	2	2	1	1	0
Latin	4	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mathematics	6	6	6	8	8	8	10	10	5
Music	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2
Music and Movement	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0
Physical Education	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	0
PSHME	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Religious Studies	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Science	5	5	5	5	3	3	2	2	0

In Reception, in addition to the above lessons, the rest of the timetable is mainly cross-curricular learning through topics and through play, incorporating English, Maths, Science, Humanities, PSHME, PE, Computer Science and Art.

Evaluation of this Policy

This policy will be evaluated biennially by the school, amended where necessary and approved by SMT.

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