

## CURRICULUM POLICY

**Primary person responsible for this policy:** Jamie Whiteside

**Job title:** Deputy Head (Academic)

**Last review date:** June 2021

**Next review date:** June 2022

**Relevant ISI coding (if applicable) Part 1 2a**

**Circulation:** This policy has been adopted by the governors and is available to parents on request. It is addressed to all members of staff and volunteers and applies wherever they are working with children.

'Parents' refers to parents, guardians and carers.

For Portland Place School's detailed curriculum, by year group, see Appendix 1

The curriculum at Portland Place includes all activities which promote the development of pupils' intellectual, moral, spiritual and physical welfare. Extra-curricular activities are designed to enrich students' lives allowing them to follow areas of interest that are not a part of the main curriculum offer.

The curriculum covers the following areas:

**Linguistic:**

This area is concerned with developing pupils' communication skills and increasing their command of language through listening, speaking, reading and writing. All subjects are responsible for developing pupils' literacy and oracy. Lessons are delivered through the medium of English. EAL support is available for those pupils who require help. Pupils requiring EAL support may have a reduced timetable to help their progress. Year 6 study Spanish, with students in Years 7-9 choosing which language they wish to study from French or Spanish. Each of these subjects becomes optional at GCSE and A-Level. Students who are fluent in other languages will be accommodated within the exam system if they wish and where possible.

**Mathematical:**

Mathematics teaching at Portland Place helps pupils make calculations, to understand and appreciate relationships and patterns in number and space. Their knowledge and understanding of maths should be developed in a variety of ways, including practical activity, exploration and discussion. Mathematics is a compulsory subject from Years 6 to 11. Year 6 has 5 hours 25 minutes per week and Years 7 to 11 have 3 hours 15 minutes per week. Mathematics classes are set according to ability from Years 6 to 11. Mathematics and Further Mathematics are offered at A Level.

**Scientific:**

This area is concerned with increasing pupils' knowledge and understanding of nature, materials and forces and with developing the skills associated with Science as a process of enquiry. All pupils from Year 6 through to A Level are taught Science in a science laboratory and are taught by a specialist teacher. Classes from Years 7 through to 11 are set according to their ability. There is a focus on finding out how science works through scientific investigation and practical work. All students study Core and Additional Science at GCSE which encompasses Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Students who show a particular flair for Science are offered the opportunity to study for triple award at GCSE.

**Technological:**

Technological skills offered at Portland Place School include Computer Science (compulsory for Years 6 to 9 and optional for GCSE ). Pupils are encouraged to use their own laptops in lessons. All subjects are encouraged to use ICT and new technologies within their lessons to support and extend learning.

**Human and Social:**

This area is concerned with people and their environment; History, Geography, Classics, Economics and Psychology are some of the subjects offered at Portland Place. History and Geography are compulsory subjects for Years 6 to 9. Citizenship, Personal, Health and Careers Education are covered across Years 6 to 11 Curriculum. The humanities subjects augment the school curriculum with visits to museums and field trips.

PSHE is covered by the Active Citizenship Programme which is taught every day for half an hour.

**Physical:**

This area aims to develop the pupils' physical control and coordination as well as their tactical skills and imaginative responses, and to help them to evaluate and improve their performance. Pupils in Year 6 have PE every day and pupils in Years 7 to 9 four days per week. Compulsory PE is also part of the timetable for Years 10 and 11 students. .

**Aesthetic and Creative:**

This area is concerned with the processes of creating, making, composing and inventing. Art, Music, and Drama are compulsory subjects in Years 6 to 9. Design Technology is compulsory in Years 7 to 9. Subjects offered to the GCSE and A Level pupils include Art, Drama, Music, Textiles, 3D Design, Photography and Graphic Communications. Drama and music are popular extra-curricular activities and we hold numerous concerts and performances throughout the year.

**Extra-Curricular:**

Students are encouraged to supplement their timetabled lessons with involvement in extra-curricular activities. Examples of activities offered include sports clubs, choir, orchestra, drama performances, language classes, debating society, theatre visits and a wealth of national and international trips. Extra-curricular activities are listed on the diary page of the school's weekly newsletter. Information on planned trips is communicated to parents in good time of the event. An Enrichment Programme runs every Wednesday afternoon which allows students to develop skills and qualifications outside the curriculum.

## APPENDIX 1

Portland Place School has high academic standards. Developed from the British National Curriculum, the school's own curriculum offers a flexibility that, we believe, puts the pupil first. Our teaching is lively, involving and demanding; in consequence our pupils enjoy learning.

Pupils are organised into three separate programmes:

<b>LOWER SCHOOL</b> For pupils aged 9 to 14 years	Key Stage 2 Key Stage 3	Year 6 Years 7, 8 & 9
<b>UPPER SCHOOL</b> For pupils aged 14 to 16 years	Key Stage 4	Years 10 & 11

**Key Stage 2** comprises a compulsory curriculum. In Year 6 pupils take English, Mathematics, Science, Computing, History, Geography, Drama, Music and Spanish. Pupils take part in a lesson of Physical Education five days per week.

**Key Stage 3** comprises a compulsory curriculum. In Years 7, 8 & 9 pupils take English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, Drama, Music, Computing, Design Technology and one Modern Foreign Language (a choice of Spanish or French). Pupils take part in a lesson of Physical Education four days per week. Towards the end of Year 9, pupils are guided in their choice of GCSE Options for Years 10 and 11.

### **Key Stage 4**

Whilst most of the curriculum is compulsory (English Language, Mathematics and one science and Enrichment, pupils can choose five GCSEs from a selection of subjects including: Art, Business Studies, Biology, Chemistry, Computing, Design Technology, - Drama, Economics, Geography, History, MFL (French and Spanish) Drama, Media Studies, Music, Physics, Physical Education. Most GCSE examinations are taken at the end of Year 11 with the exception of some early entries for MFL and Maths. Students have the choice to take an AS in Maths if they have already secured the GCSE early.

Reviewed annually by SLT