

# Greenhill School



## Curriculum Policy 2014-2015

The curriculum is, in effect, the sum total of all that a pupil experiences in school.

The "formal" curriculum is the timetabled activities that take place during school hours and voluntary activities that take place out of school hours. The "informal" curriculum is expressed through the complex pattern of school life and associated experiences.

The National Curriculum introduced by The Education Act (1988) has been subsequently amended by the Welsh Assembly and it is incumbent on Local Education Authorities, Headteachers and Governing Bodies to implement 'Curriculum 2008'.

In Wales this comprises:

- a series of core subjects – Mathematics, English, Welsh, Physical Education and Science; at both KS3 and KS4. From September 2010, this will also incorporate ICT at both KS 3 and KS4;
- a series of foundation subjects – History, Geography, Design & Technology, Music, Art and a Modern Foreign Language at KS3 only;
- Religious Education must be included but it is not part of Curriculum 2008;
- Personal & Social Education at KS3 and KS4;
- work related learning at Key Stage 4.

## **The Principles on which the Curriculum should be Designed**

- The school's curriculum should reject discrimination against pupils on grounds of sex, race, religion, ethnicity or culture.
- The Governing Body agrees with the opinions of The Welsh Assembly Government that the school curriculum:
  - focuses on the learner;
  - ensures that appropriate skills development is woven throughout the curriculum;
  - offers reduced subject content with an increased focus on skills;
  - focuses on continuity and progression 3-19, by building on the Foundation Phase and linking effectively with the 14-19 Learning Pathways programme;
  - is flexible;
  - supports Government policy, including: bilingualism, Curriculum Cymreig/Wales, Europe and the World, equal opportunities, food and fitness, sustainable development and global citizenship, and the world of work and entrepreneurship;
  - continues to deliver a distinctive curriculum that is appropriate for Wales.
- The Governing Body expects that in the delivery of the curriculum opportunities will be given to every pupil to be involved in each of the following main areas of learning and experience:
  - aesthetic and creative;
  - human and social;
  - linguistic and literary;
  - mathematical;
  - moral;
  - physical;

- spiritual;
- scientific;
- technological.
- These are not to be seen as discrete elements taught in isolation from one and the other. Instead they are intended as a check-list for curriculum planners against which individual syllabuses, cross-curricular and cross-modular activities and informal activities can be judged.
- The curriculum should:
  - **be broad** - it will introduce the pupils to a wide range of knowledge and experiences and develop a range of important skills - intellectual, practical and personal;
  - **be balanced** - each area of the curriculum should be allocated sufficient time to make its specific contribution but not so much that it affects other essential areas;
  - **be relevant** - it must be linked with the pupils' own experiences. Within this experience there is a need for a practical dimension to learning to prepare pupils for a society in which new technology is commonplace;
  - **be differentiated** - what is taught and how must be matched with a pupil's age, ability and aptitudes.

It is the policy of the Governing Body that these four principles will apply to the formal education of every child. Every effort must be made to enable children with special educational needs to follow a curriculum based on these four principles.

## Delivery of the Curriculum

Individual departments must produce detailed Schemes of Work related to their Programmes of Study and Attainment Targets.

The management of the curriculum should be seen as a priority and support should be given to less experienced teachers in order that they may ensure its adequate delivery.

**REVIEW DATE:**

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Jayne Cowan – Chair of Governors**