



Curriculum Policy

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Learning | Effort | Aspiration | Respect | Nurture | Wellbeing

Curriculum Policy

School Philosophy

As a school we value all students and their education equally and seek to promote excellence, personal achievements and the realisation of each student's potential through a broad and balanced range of experience appropriate to the needs of each student. Our approach is underpinned by our LEARN Well values (Learning, Effort, Aspiration, Respect, Nurture, Wellbeing).

Overall Aim of this Policy

The curriculum at Wood Green School:

1. allows everyone to achieve
2. inspires all learners
3. develops well-rounded learners who are equipped to realise their aspirations

What is the Curriculum?

The Wood Green School Curriculum comprises all the opportunities for learning and experience which the School provides for its students. It is founded upon three different curricula:

- a broad and balanced curriculum which children are entitled to receive in their comprehensive secondary education which includes a curriculum of sports, social and cultural activities which reflect values and characteristics of Wood Green School and its local community;
- public examination specifications such as GCSE and A Level;
- the statutory National Curriculum by which lays down minimum requirements for what children are to be taught up to the age of 16.

The Purpose of the Wood Green School Curriculum

We believe that the curriculum must:

- provide a variety and richness of experience and a range of challenges which will enable every student to encounter excellence and experience success and satisfaction in their learning;
- foster in students an enjoyment of learning and discovery, and promote a learning environment in which they feel safe and individually valued;
- promote students' self-esteem by acknowledging achievement in all areas of work and personal development;
- be sufficiently flexible and personalised to meet the specific needs of students;
- recognise that learning is for life and therefore provides students with a foundation for lifetime learning;
- achieve academic qualifications;
- meet statutory requirements;
- foster the social, moral, spiritual, cultural, intellectual and physical development of each student as a member not only of the School but also of the local community and of society as a whole;

- promote a spirit of partnership with local employers, primary schools and institutions of further and higher education.

The Key Stage 3 Curriculum – Years 7 to 9

The purpose of the KS3 Curriculum is to:

- 'light fires': brings learners to a new and wide range of academic, practical and creative subjects and engages them in the rewarding aspects of these subjects
- make learners GCSE ready: the KS3 curriculum prepares any learner for any subject at KS4
- develop basic and higher level literacy and numeracy skills
- deliver a wide range of personal development embedded in the curriculum

How we do this:

- Key Stage 3 is three years long so that learners engage in and develop a wide range of skills for as long as possible. (Core subjects can start GCSE content earlier and have the autonomy to decide this.)
- Learning Objectives - Departments have autonomy to choose the key skills and content they feel will engage and inspire learners and prepare them for GCSE. These will be known as Learning Objectives. Departments will publish their Learning Objectives for KS3-5 in their Department Handbooks
- FreshStart Plus: students in need of literacy catch-up will have literacy lessons integrated into their curriculum plans. This includes 3 hours per week in year 7 instead of MFL. Students follow a programme based on the FreshStart reading materials and resources to develop to develop reading fluency, comprehension and inference, spelling, punctuation and grammar.
- writing, spelling, punctuation and grammar. Students are chosen for this programme through screening.
- Academic Enrichment: all students not following the FreshStart programme will undertake a programme in year 7 that develops thinking skills, discussion and presentation skills, research skills and writing formal essays
- Every student will have the opportunity to study a language in Key Stage 3
- Personal development is taught as an extrinsic subject by subject specialists, complemented by tutor activities and assemblies
- The KS3 Wood Green Baccalaureate promotes participation, effort and success in all aspects of the curriculum and personal development

The Key Stage 4 Curriculum – Years 10 and 11

The purpose of the KS4 Curriculum is to:

- i. ensure everyone achieves qualifications and core skills (including literacy and numeracy) that they need in order to realise their aspirations
- ii. provide opportunities to explore in depth subjects that learners wish to pursue post 16
- iii. deliver a wide range of personal development embedded in the curriculum

How we do this:

- All students will study mathematics, English Language and Literature
- All will study a science either combined science (2 GCSE's) or separate sciences (3 GCSE's) plus 3 optional subjects, each for 6 hours per fortnight
- Our partnership with Abingdon and Witney College enables students to study a wider blend of academic and vocational options
- Students taking combined science will have the opportunity to take a BTEC Level 2 course in digital literacy
- All students will have Personal Development and Ethics lessons, complemented by tutor activities and assemblies
- All students will participate in PE for 3 hours per fortnight
- The KS4 Wood Green Baccalaureate promotes participation, effort and success in all aspects of the curriculum and personal development
- All students complete work experience in Year 11 to inspire career choices and enable them to be ready for the world of work.

The Key Stage 5 Curriculum – Years 12 and 13

The purpose of the KS5 Curriculum is to:

- i. ensure everyone achieves qualifications that they need in order to realise their aspirations in regard to Higher Education or employment
- ii. provide opportunities to explore in depth subjects that learners wish to pursue
- iii. deliver a wide range of academic skills and personal development, embedded in the curriculum through our Wood Green KS5 Baccalaureate
- iv. stimulates learners to enhance their academic potential

How we do this:

- Students will take 3 or 4 A Level or equivalent qualifications
- Our partnership with Henry Box School allows the offer of A Level subjects to be as broad as possible
- Our partnership with Abingdon and Witney College allows students to blend A Level and vocational qualifications
- All students take the EPQ in Year 12
- All students pursue an enrichment programme that guarantees a range of personal development
- All students undertake community service within the school day
- All students complete work experience in Year 12 to inspire career choices and enable them to be ready for the world of work.

Monitoring the impact of this policy

- The annual Parent and Student surveys will show whether students and parents feel that the curriculum is appropriate
- Monitoring outcomes to ensure that all students are succeeding

Equalities

- All curriculum options are open to all learners, provided that they achieve any starting requirements. Where students do not achieve these requirements, but feel this is because of a particular reason, cases are considered on an individual basis.
- Financial support is available to ensure that no one is prohibited from accessing any aspect of the curriculum because of cost (e.g. trips, resources).
- Monitoring of outcomes includes progress of groups (e.g. SEND, Pupil Premium, Gender) to ensure that all students are benefitting from the curriculum.

