

# CURRICULUM POLICY

## Introduction

Queen Margaret's School seeks to be a well-ordered, secure, caring and Christian community where every girl can develop her abilities, interests, understanding and character to the full. The curriculum aims to provide every girl with the right balance of care and challenge, of security and stimulus so that she can acquire the personal qualities and confidence necessary for work, leisure and life in contemporary society.

As an independent school we are not obliged to follow the National Curriculum. Our schemes of work utilise the strengths of the National Curriculum but are enhanced by our expertise and include additional material to stimulate and fuel young enquiring minds. We have a broad balanced curriculum which provides firm foundation for the study of any subject at GCSE level and beyond. The curriculum is compulsory for all girls in the first two years but some elements of choice are introduced in Year III as the girls prepare for their GCSE subject choices the following year. Throughout the first five years all girls must study the core subjects of

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- A Modern Foreign Language<sup>1</sup>

The academic curriculum is supported by tutorials, regular worship and guidance, a comprehensive Academic Extension programme (which includes PSE/Health Education/Careers/Sustainability and Politics) and a well developed pastoral care structure. If a girl is identified as having specific learning difficulties or disabilities then additional support is provided. Those girls for whom English is an additional language receive support to help them develop their linguistic skills and gain full access to all the activities on offer at Queen Margaret's. Provision is made to accommodate individual needs, whether they are academic or associated with specific talents in music, art, drama and sport etc.

As girls progress through the school we aim to develop their independence as learners by providing them with the skills necessary for study and ever increasing opportunities to practise and demonstrate those skills.

## Key Stage 3 – Years I – III

In Years I and II in addition to the core subjects the following are also taught:

- Art
- Drama
- Food Technology
- Games
- Geography
- History
- ICT
- Latin
- Music
- PE
- Religious Studies
- Textiles Technology

In Year I & II the girls study two MFLs from French, Spanish and German. In Year I a combined science course is taught but in Year II girls study Biology, Chemistry and Physics as separate subjects.

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<sup>1</sup> For girls with specific learning needs the compulsory nature of our curriculum is reviewed on an individual basis as required.

The curriculum for YIII is as Year II except that at the end of Year II the girls are asked to choose three subjects from French, Spanish, German, Latin and Classical Civilisation (a new subject for the third year). This allows both an element of personal choice and opportunities for independent study during the working day.

Half way through Year III girls choose the subjects they will study for GCSE. They then chose to study three out of

- Art
- Drama
- Food Technology
- Music
- Textiles Technology

for the final term of the year. The choice introduced for the summer term of Year III enables the girls to improve further their study skills and to undertake some extended projects set by departments.

#### **Key Stage 4 – Years IV & V**

At GCSE level (Years IV and V) the students must follow the core subjects (English Language and Literature, Mathematics, Science either Core and Additional Science or the three separate Sciences and a Modern Foreign Language). Most girls then opt to study a further three or four subjects. In this way the girls are able to follow a curriculum that meets their own interests and strengths with the core ensuring that they do not close any doors too early in their career. At GCSE in addition to the core the following subjects are offered:

- Art & Design
- Classical Civilisation
- Drama
- French
- Geography
- German
- Greek
- History
- Home Economics
- Latin
- Music
- PE
- Religious Studies
- Spanish
- Textiles Technology

All three Modern Foreign languages are included here, one must be taken as part of the core but girls may choose to follow a second language if desired.

Games and Academic Extension remain compulsory but not examined during the GCSE years.

## Key Stage 5 – LVI & UVI

In the Sixth Form the girls have a free choice of A level subjects. In the LVI most girls take four subjects to AS level and reduce this to three in the UVI as they move to A2 level. The subjects offered at AS and A2 level are:

Art (unendorsed, photography or textiles)

Biology

Business Studies

Chemistry

Classical Civilisation

Economics

English Language

English Literature

French

Further Mathematics

Geography

German

Greek

Government and Politics

History

History of Art

Home Economics

Latin

Mathematics

Music

PE

Physics

Spanish

Theatre Studies

In addition to their A Level subjects girls must attend games lessons and follow an extension studies programme which aims to broaden their thinking but is not examined. Careers guidance remains a central component of the sixth form provision with a focus very much on Higher Education choices and the UCAS application process.

### Summary

Queen Margaret's curriculum provides pupils with experience in all key areas thereby enabling them to develop key skills essential for a twenty first century citizen:

Linguistic	English; German, French, Spanish, Latin and Greek
Mathematical	Mathematics, Further Mathematics
Scientific	Biology, Chemistry and Physics
Technological	ICT, Food Technology/Home Economics, Textiles Technology
Human and Social	History, Geography, Religious Studies, Classical Civilisation and History of Art, Government and Politics, Business Studies, Economics,
Physical	Games & PE
Aesthetic and Creative	Art, Drama/Theatre Studies, Music

The subjects have been associated with curriculum areas but they are not mutually exclusive and indeed often develop skills associated with other areas of the curriculum.

Provision is available to support girls, where necessary, with specific learning needs (LDD, EAL and G & T). All pupils receiving regular support, although not statemented, have a classroom IEP which is reviewed annually. Regular PSHE and Careers Education and Guidance sessions occur throughout the school as appropriate to the age and ability of the pupils.

**AB/December 2010**