

CURRICULUM POLICY

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Introduction

The main focus of Christian education is to teach students the truth about God and His world. The content of a Christian curriculum will not be vastly different from the curriculum taught in most schools today. It is the context within which that content is placed which makes the difference. Christian education derives its context from the truth and values taught in the Bible. At The King's School, all curriculum planning should flow from key concepts of Biblical truth.

Biblical Truth and Heart Concepts

Within the Primary section of the school each class has a half-termly Heart Concept around which all their learning is based. Within the Senior section of the school Biblical truths are linked to each unit of work and opportunities taken in lessons to show students how these relate to the subject matter taught.

In preparing and delivering the curriculum in this way, teachers must maintain a balanced approach. Christian values and truths need not be explicitly mentioned in every lesson and teachers should use skill and sensitivity, remaining open to God's direction and prompting.

Our Learning Philosophy

Although we acknowledge the importance of academic knowledge and success, we believe that we need to teach far more than subject knowledge to our young people. We also need to educate them for life as well as for eternity. We provide a positive, caring environment in which students can develop a strong sense of their identity and destiny. Establishing good relationships with students, building their confidence, encouraging them to express individual ideas, examining established values leading to a greater understanding of who they are is as important as teaching the academic curriculum.

Academic knowledge (WISDOM)

Every student has access to a broad and balanced curriculum which varies depending on age.

Key Stage 4

Students at The King's School will be prepared for 10 or 11 GCSE subjects to be taken at the end of Year 9 (Option 1), Year 10 (Religious Studies and Option 2) and Year 11 (remaining GCSEs). The GCSE programme comprises a number of compulsory subjects, as well as the choice of three optional subjects.

Compulsory Subjects

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Religious Studies
- Science: Physics, Chemistry, Biology
- Spanish

Optional Subjects

- Art
- Child Development
- Computer Science
- Drama
- Textiles
- Food and Nutrition
- History
- Music
- Physical Education

Key Stage 3

Students studying in Key Stage 3 will follow a curriculum designed to provide experience in a wide range of different subject areas, including.

- Art
- Drama
- English
- Food and Nutrition
- Geography
- History
- ICT
- Latin
- Mathematics
- Music
- Personal Health and Social Education (PHSE)
- Physical Education
- Relationship and Sex Education (RSE)

- Religious Studies
- Science
- Spanish

Key Stage 1 and 2

During Key Stages 1 and 2, students will experience learning in a wide range of subjects to allow them to find their own areas of aptitude and enjoyment. Although maths and English take a high priority, the other subjects are equally important in giving students a rounded education.

Subjects in Key Stage 1 and 2:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Biblical Studies
- ICT
- Spanish (Years 3 - 6)
- Topic – either history or geography based
- Music
- Art
- Design Technology
- PE and Games
- Personal Health and Social Education (PHSE)
- Relationships Education (RE)

Early Years

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) that is taught in the Reception Year of school is a continuation of a child’s learning journey from nursery and/ or pre-school. Throughout the year there is a mix of child-initiated activity and adult-directed tasks. Together, these learning opportunities are planned through careful observations and assessments. Secure relationships and an enabling environment are crucial to allow individual students to thrive in all areas of development - that are inextricably linked (see table below). Progress towards the Early Learning Goals (ELGs) for all 17 aspects are communicated to parents, Local Authority and Year 1 teachers to ensure a smooth transition from the EYFS into Key Stage 1 national curriculum.

Characteristics of Effective Learning
<p>Playing and exploring – engagement</p> <p>Finding out and exploring Playing with what they know Being willing to ‘have a go’</p>
<p>Active learning – motivation</p> <p>Being involved and concentrating Keeping trying Enjoying achieving what they set out to do</p>
<p>Creating and thinking critically – thinking</p> <p>Having their own ideas Making links Choosing ways to do things</p>

Area of Learning and Development	Aspect
Prime Areas	
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Making relationships
	Self-confidence and self-awareness
	Managing feelings and behaviour
Physical Development	Moving and handling
	Health and self-care
Communication and Language	Listening and attention
	Understanding
	Speaking
Specific areas	
Literacy	Reading
	Writing
Mathematics	Numbers
	Shape, space and measure
Understanding the World	People and communities
	The world
	Technology
Expressive Arts and Design	Exploring and using media and materials
	Being imaginative

Education for life (STATURE)

We believe that students need to learn the character skills which will enable them to succeed in life. These include the 7 Cs of Confidence, Collaboration, Craftsmanship, Creativity, Communication, Curiosity and Commitment.

CONFIDENCE: *"I can do all this through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13)*

We encourage students to: believe in themselves, know their worth in God, value their ideas, contribute in lessons, not to worry about getting things wrong.

COLLABORATION: *"How good and pleasant it is when brothers live in unity" (Psalm 133:1)*

We encourage students to: work positively together, value each others' ideas, not insist on having their own way, include everyone, encourage one another.

CRAFTSMANSHIP: *"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as though you were working for the Lord and not for people." (Colossians 3:23)*

We encourage students to: put in extra effort and give their all, take time to do their best, take pride in their work, pay attention to detail, aim for excellence in all things.

CREATIVITY: *"God created mankind in his own image." (Genesis 1:27)*

We encourage students to: be original, not to follow the crowd, get inspired to draw, paint, sing, compose, write, create, make and design, have fun experimenting!

COMMUNICATION: *"If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal." (1 Corinthians 13:1)*

We encourage students to: express their feelings; talk to their friends; be kind and encouraging; share ideas, opinions and problems; listen to others.

CURIOSITY: *"Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honourable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise." (Philippians 4:8)*

We encourage students to: discover and explore, dig deeper, think outside the box, ask questions, challenge themselves and each other.

COMMITMENT: *"And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." (Hebrews 12:1)*

We encourage students to: be dependable, not to give up, see things through to the end, be determined.

Education for Eternity (FAVOUR)

We prioritise giving students opportunities to grow in their faith and to learn about God. Biblical Studies is compulsory throughout the school. In addition, time is spent in assemblies, classes and in tutor time studying the Bible and praying together, allowing students the opportunity to explore their faith.

Meeting the Needs of All Students

The school meets the needs of all students through the following methods:

- Small class sizes allow students to have greater individual attention
- Differentiated tasks
- Ability setting for certain subjects

- Individual Education Plans for those students with identified needs
- Classroom support where appropriate
- Individual or very small group teaching (Learning Support)
- Personalised timetables where appropriate

Able, Gifted & Talented (AG&T)

The most able students are identified and all teachers are required to provide work that challenges and stretches them.

Provision for AG&T includes differentiation within lessons, setting arrangements, as well as extension opportunities outside the normal routine which include:

- STEM events
- UKMT Maths Challenge
- Itchen College Gateway Event
- Annual School Drama Production
- School Concerts
- ISA competitions
- Maths Master Class
- Journalism Club
- Science Club
- Inter-School and Inter-House Sports Day.

Beyond the Classroom

The School has a full programme of extra-curricular activities which includes:

- Annual activity weeks for Years 3 to 9
- Annual trip to Rwanda
- Bi-annual ski trip
- Additional trips to support curriculum teaching
- Music and drama activities: choirs, Young Voices, annual school productions
- Sports clubs (football and netball)
- Community activities such as visiting local care homes and being involved in community events
- A range of peripatetic music lessons
- Student bands
- After school subject clubs and classes