



## Curriculum Policy

The aim of this policy is:

- To offer a curriculum that enables all students to realise their full potential;
- To recognise the individual needs and talents of each student and to facilitate the development of their intellectual, moral, physical, social, spiritual and creative capacities;
- To ensure that the curriculum incorporates statutory requirements and yet is flexible and relevant to students' needs and is personalised for individual students as far as resourcing allows;
- To measure, assess and record the progress of each student;
- To monitor and evaluate the outcomes of learning and teaching for the whole school, for subject areas and for individual teachers in order to encourage continuing development;
- To use specific, achievable learning targets which promote an ethos of continuous improvement;
- To develop the skills and knowledge required for active citizenship;
- To prepare students for their next stage of learning;
- To prepare students for the world of work through Work Related Learning and Enterprise Education opportunities.

### Rationale

The school is firmly committed to the principle of providing a broad and balanced curriculum with equality of opportunity for all students underpinned by the highest standards of learning and teaching.

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Marking and Assessment Policy
- Teaching and Learning Policy
- Collective worship/RE/SMSC/British Values Policy

### Statutory Duty of the School

As a maintained school, we teach the latest National Curriculum as prescribed by the Department for Education.

### Implementation

Park Lane Learning Trust's curriculum is designed to engage and excite our students. We offer a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum which is personalised to each student. We promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of students as well

as modern British values which prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences when they become young adults.

Our school timetable comprises of 25 fifty-five minute teaching periods per week for each year group. In addition, every day all students spend 25 minutes reading during DEAR time (Drop Everything And Read). Students enjoy a variety of enrichment opportunities, from the School Play to Rugby during Breakfast Clubs, lunch times and after school.

At Key Stage 3 all students study a range of subjects including the 'core' subjects (Maths, English and Science) as well as Humanities (Geography, History and Religious Education), Languages, different technologies, Computing, Physical Education, Music, Art and Drama. Homework at Key Stage 3 is set regularly and provides either appropriate reinforcement of learning or stretch and challenge in order to develop students' independent learning skills.

At Key Stage 4 all students have a personalised curriculum based on prior attainment data, student aspirations and challenging targets, and students are offered the level of learning appropriate to their needs. We have a strong focus on assessment, progress and creating independent learners whilst ensuring that our courses provide progression and foundation for further education.

In addition to Core and Foundation subjects at Key Stage 4, a range of other subjects options are available which are in line with legislation and cover the following areas:

- Arts
- Design and Technology
- Humanities
- Modern Foreign Languages

### **Literacy across the Curriculum**

At Park Lane, we believe that good reading, writing and communication skills underpin academic success.

Literacy skills are taught in all subjects and through our literacy code for marking, literacy is a strong focus throughout the school.

To ensure that all students are fully equipped to deal with the demands of the curriculum, we deliver a focused Literacy and Learning lesson to most of year 8 and 9 students. This allows students to either consolidate reading and writing skills that have taken place in KS2 or to develop the reading and writing skills they are currently learning in KS3. It also provides an ideal opportunity for students to exercise their communication and presentation skills, problem solve in groups and practise how to be more independent learners.

Furthermore, Personal Tutors deliver a Grammar Focus lesson to students at KS3 and KS4. These short, snappy sessions have been specially customised to deal with the most common grammatical errors that teachers find in students' work.

We recognise that it is important to celebrate our students' successes in reading and writing and therefore promote a love of these core skills by running a variety of fun and challenging

competitions that aim to seek out our future novelists, poets, journalists, teachers, TV presenter's and potential Prime Ministers.

### **British Values and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education**

This is delivered explicitly through Assemblies, PSHCE lessons and Religious Education lessons. All teachers plan and use opportunities to cover these themes through the teaching of their subject where possible.

Elements of Health and Sex Education are delivered through both the Science Department schemes of work and the PHSCE programme. Citizenship is delivered through the school's PHSCE programme. In addition, all departments contribute to Citizenship Education through their programmes of study. Key Skills development is promoted within all subject areas. Financial literacy, enterprise and business and work-related learning are covered through the PHSCE programme, including work experience. All departments are also encouraged to emphasise these elements when appropriate.

### **Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

The school will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.