



Durham High School

Curriculum Policy

This policy applies to Pre-Prep and Prep, including Early Years, and is published to parents and pupils

Reviewed: September 2022

Next review: September 2023

This policy should be read in conjunction with: Most Able Policy; SEND Policy.

Durham High School is a school with an academic curriculum where standards and achievements are high. In line with the School aims, we concentrate through the curriculum on developing pupils' individual abilities and confidence, enabling every pupil to achieve their potential.

We are keen to ensure that all pupils receive a broad and balanced education and that they undertake a wide range of educational experiences aimed at enriching and extending their abilities and understanding. There is a strong emphasis on enrichment, generally and explicitly, through extra-curricular activities, educational visits both day and residential, cultural visits, and outdoor education.

The broad and balanced Curriculum has been planned to incorporate the following:

- to encourage and stimulate the best possible progress and the highest attainment for all pupils taking into account the ages, aptitudes and needs of all pupils;
- to develop pupils' enjoyment of, appetite for and commitment to learning and achieving;
- to equip pupils with the essential learning skills of literacy, speaking and listening, numeracy and computing and the skills to enquire and make connections across areas of learning;
- to build on pupils' strengths and interests and develop their confidence in their capacity to learn and work independently and collaboratively;
- to enable pupils to think creatively and critically and to solve problems;
- to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, including awareness and understanding of, and not undermining, the fundamental British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs;
- to develop pupils' physical skills and encourage them to recognise the importance of pursuing a healthy lifestyle and keeping themselves and others safe, including the safe use of the Internet;
- to allow pupils to access impartial, accurate and up to date careers advice allowing them to make informed choices and achieve their potential;
- to provide effective preparation for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in British society.

Where a pupil has a statement of SEN or an Education, Health and Care Plan, we aim to provide education which fulfils its requirements.

Spiritual and Moral Curriculum

Durham High School is an Anglican foundation and is committed to providing a Christian education for its pupils. Teaching about Christianity in RE lessons is given high priority and is delivered alongside teaching of other faiths and philosophies at appropriate stages.

Each day usually begins with an act of worship.

Great emphasis is placed on promoting Christian values in every possible way, thus creating a community where the utmost value is placed on each individual (see Spiritual and Moral Development Policy).

Delivery of PSHCCE reflects the aims of Durham High School and its ethos. In each year group, themes studied fall under the categories of *Relationships* (RSE aspect), *Health and Wellbeing* and *Living in the Wider World*. Careers, Citizenship and Fundamental British Values are well-considered and Internet safety is also an integral part of the PSHCCE and Computing Curriculum. Circle time is used in all age groups as an opportunity to discuss friendship and other social issues. (See PSHCCE Scheme of Work) The curriculum offered is taken from the PSHE association and the Ten:Ten curriculum.

Throughout Pre-Prep and Prep there is specialist teaching in Music and PE with French and Spanish taught by a specialist teacher in the Prep Department. In addition, some maths, computing and science lessons in the Prep Department are taught by specialist teachers from Senior Department. There is support from Specialist Learning Support is also provided for pupils with specific learning difficulties identified by an Educational Psychologist's report with parental consent. A 'Buddy' is given to girls who benefit from general support in reading or numeracy. Pupils who have English as a second language are given specialist support if parental approval is received.

Foundation Stage Curriculum

(This should be read in conjunction with the curriculum delivery statement in the Foundation Stage handbook.)

The curriculum for the Foundation Stage underpins all future learning by supporting, fostering, promoting and developing children's:

- personal, social and emotional wellbeing;
- positive attitudes and dispositions towards their learning;
- social skills, in particular, the ability to cooperate and work harmoniously;
- attention skills and persistence.

The curriculum follows the EYFS guidelines and goals which, for children at the end of Reception year, are identified to inform and guide the development of an appropriate broad and balanced curriculum. It is organised in seven areas of learning:

1. Personal, social and emotional development
2. Physical development
3. Communication and language
4. Literacy
5. Mathematics
6. Understanding the world
7. Expressive arts and design

When planning the curriculum we acknowledge:

- the interests and needs of individual children;
- the importance of building on previous experiences;
- that children learn at different rates;
- the potential for learning within the outdoor environment.

Pre-Prep Department

Pre-Prep Department (EYFS-Y2) are taught by their designated class teacher for Mathematics and English each morning. These subjects are taught in mixed ability classes with clear differentiation of tasks to accommodate and challenge all levels of ability.

Our Pre-Prep Department embrace a holistic approach to supporting your child to reach their true potential. We implement an afternoon curriculum which is fun and academically rigorous, but at the same time is supportive of individual progress, personal strengths and areas to develop. The children enjoy sessions of Outdoor Learning, Science & Critical Thinking, Topic (History and Geography), Creativity and Negotiated Curriculum. They are also taught PE, Music and Yoga by subject specialists.

Individual instrumental lessons can be provided at the request of the parents.

Prep Department

The girls in the Prep Department (Years 3-6) follow all the subjects of the National Curriculum and there is a seamless progression from the Pre-Prep Department. All subjects are taught in mixed ability groups apart from Maths which is taught in ability sets if numbers in the year group allow. Work is differentiated according to the needs of the individual.

From Year 3, all pupils swim throughout the year, have two periods of games and one of either gym or dance.

In Year 3 every girl is taught the violin, in Year 4 the recorder, in Year 5 the trumpet and in Year 6 the ukulele.

Individual instrumental lessons can be provided at the request of the parents.

The timetable follows a 5 x 30/35 minute period morning and 4 x 30 minute period afternoon, 45 periods a week.