

## **Policy A3: Curriculum (for September 2018)**

### **Curriculum Policy**

This policy has been written in line with:

The Education (Independent Schools Standards) (England) Regulations 2014

ISI Regulatory Handbook Re: Quality of Education (January 2015)

Children and Families Act 2014

SEN and Disability Code of Practice, 0-25 years January 2015

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#### **3.1. Introduction**

Queen Margaret's seeks to promote excellence inside and outside the classroom. The Curriculum is regularly reviewed by the Education SLT, the Academic Leadership Team and endorsed by the Governors' Education Committee. We believe that the girls should receive a core curriculum which provides them with the essential skills for future study and employment, whilst providing a wide choice of subjects from which they can select as they discover their passions and seek to achieve their potential. All girls at QM have the opportunity to learn and make excellent progress and the education we provide prepares girls for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life in British society.

As an independent school, we are not obliged to follow the National Curriculum (NC). We select the most important and inspiring parts of the NC, upon which we build challenging, enjoyable and engaging schemes of work. Subjects are enhanced by practical work, educational visits and visiting experts.

QM provides a full-time supervised education for all girls in its care. This is mathematical, scientific, linguistic, human, social, aesthetic, creative technological and physical. Subject matter is appropriate for the ages and aptitudes of the girls and does not undermine the fundamental British values (BV) of democracy; the rule of law, 'individual liberty', and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. Further information regarding our promotion of fundamental British values can be found in Policy C48. Suitable Learning Support is available for those identified with a Special Educational Need. The PSHE programme covers personal, social and health education appropriate to the girls' age and needs. As well as incorporating the key aspects of the SMSC agenda, it is reviewed on a regular basis and reflects the School's aims and ethos.

### 3.2. Curriculum by Year Group

#### Year I

In Year I the girls follow a set Curriculum as indicated below (hours per week in brackets):

- Mathematics (3); Biology (1); Chemistry (1); Physics (1); English (3); Spanish (2); French (2)
- Latin (2)
- Geography (1); History (1); Religious Studies (1);
- Art (1); Drama (1); Food Technology (1); Music (1);
- Computer Science (1) and Textiles (1) on a carousel
- PSHE (1); Sport (5)
- Study period (1)

#### Year II

In Year II the girls follow the Curriculum below,:

- Mathematics (3); Biology (1); Chemistry (1); Physics (1); English (3); Spanish (2); French (2)
- Latin (2)
- Geography (1); History (1); Religious Studies (1);
- Art (1); Drama (1); Food Technology (1); Music (1);
- Computer Science (1) and Textiles (1) on a carousel
- PSHE (1); Sport (5)
- Study period (1)

#### Year III

In Year III the girls follow the Curriculum below, with choice between some subjects as indicated.

- Mathematics (4); Biology (1); Chemistry (1); Physics (1); English (4); Spanish (2); French (2)
- Latin and Classics (2)
- Geography (1); History (1); Religious Studies (1);
- Art (1); Drama (1); Music (1);
- Computer Science (2) and Textiles (2) and Food Technology (2) on a carousel
- PSHE (1); Sport (4)

Where possible, the curriculum is modified, on an individual basis, to suit particular needs and nurture the development of specific talents.

#### Years IV and V

In Years IV and V girls take a core curriculum and make a number of choices as set out below. The study of the Sciences leads to three separate Science qualifications **or** two qualifications that incorporates Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The English qualification leads to both English Language and English Literature awards for most candidates.

#### Core Curriculum

- Mathematics (3.5); Biology (2) Chemistry (2); Physics (2);
- English (4)
- Sport (4)

#### Girls select a further four subjects, and for most including one Language:

- French (2.5); Latin (2.5); Spanish (2.5)
- Business Studies (2.5); Classical Civilisation (2.5); Geography (2.5); History (2.5); Religious Studies (2.5)
- Art (2.5); Art Textiles (2.5); Drama (2.5); Food Preparation and Nutrition (2.5); Music (2.5); Physical Education (2.5)
- PSHE (1)

Greek and Further Mathematics will also be offered as GCSE subjects outside the curriculum.

Where there is sufficient demand for German and Mandarin, the school will look to provide provision where possible.

**1 Year GCSE Course:**

We are able to offer a new programme that has been designed as an opportunity for international girls to join Year V. Girls will be fully integrated into mainstream curriculum and will typically study between 5 and 7 GCSE courses. This programme will run for 3 term in Year V and includes:

Subject 1	Maths
Subject 2	English Language
Subject 3	Science (Biology, Chemistry OR Physics)
Subject 4	Language (French, Spanish, German, Latin, Greek)
Subject 5	Humanities (Geography OR History)

**Additional subjects:**

Subject 6	Second Science (Biology, Chemistry OR Physics)
Subject 7	Second Language (French, Spanish, German, Latin, Greek)

This 1 Year Programme also includes:

- 1 lesson of Personal, Social and Health Education each week
- Extra-curricular opportunities
- Timetabled study periods
- Additional lessons to support the curriculum
- A minimum of 2 PE lessons
- EAL Lessons
- Queen Margaret’s Diploma

**Sixth Form**

In the Sixth Form, girls have a free choice from a very wide range of subjects.

**All girls still take:**

- PSHE (1); Sport (4)

**Subject Selections (5 hours each)**

- Mathematics; Further Mathematics; Biology; Chemistry; Physics; Psychology
- English Literature; English Language; Greek ; Latin; Classics
- French; Spanish
- History; Philosophy & Ethics;
- Business Studies; Economics; Geography; History of Art

- Art (Photography, Textiles, Fine Art)
- Music; Physical Education
- QM Diploma

**Enrichment**

- EPQ, Sports Leaders, Leiths, Dance

**3.3. Curriculum Summary (September 2017)**

Subject	Year I	Year II	Year III	Year IV	Year V	LVI	UVI
Drama	1	1	1				
English	3	3	4	4	4		
PSHE	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sport	5	5	4	4	4	4	4
Mathematics	3	3	4	3.5	3.5	5	5
Biology	3	1	1	2	2		
Chemistry		1	1	2	2		
Physics		1	1	2	2		
Art	1	1	1	2.5 (x5)	2.5		
Geography	1	1	1				
History	1	1	1				
Music	1	1	1				
Religious Studies	1	1	1				
Computer Science	1	1	2				
Textiles							
Food Technology	1	1					
Latin	2	2	2				
Classics							
French	2	2	2				
Spanish	2	2	2				
Mandarin							
German							
Business Studies							
Greek							
Physical Education							
Economics							
English Language							
English Literature							
Further Mathematics							
Government & Politics							
History of Art							
Philosophy & Ethics						N/A	

### 3.4. PSHE

All girls take part in the PSHE programme. This is allocated one hour per week in the timetable and is a non-examined compulsory part of the Curriculum. Each year's programme consists of a series of short courses that classes take in a carousel and which is supplemented by a lecture series, extension project or activity. Full details of the programme, which includes the required aspects of personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE) and the social, moral, spiritual and cultural (SMSC), are set out in Policy A5. Higher Education advice and Careers talks and seminars also form part of this programme. These aspects are set out in further detail in Policy C8.

- Policy A5: PSHE
- Policy C8: Higher Education & Careers

### 3.5. Sport

Physical exercise is an essential part of our Curriculum. Girls receive tuition and training in team sports and personal fitness. From Year V girls are able to make choices about the sporting disciplines they wish to pursue. A full list of available sports is provided below:

- Hockey
- Lacrosse
- Netball
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Athletics
- Badminton
- Fencing
- Football
- Rugby
- Riding
- Rounders
- Shooting
- Squash
- Table Tennis
- Volleyball

### 3.6. Dance, Music and Sport – Individual Lessons

In addition to the set curriculum, girls are able to have individual lessons timetabled in the following disciplines.

- Dance (Classical Ballet, Contemporary, Hip-Hop, Modern Jazz, Tap)
- Drama (Speaking Verse & Prose, Solo/Duologue Acting, Reading for Performance and Speaking in Public)
- Music (Brass, Keyboard, Percussion, Strings, Voice, Woodwind)
- Sport (Personal Fitness, Riding, Squash, Tennis)

### 3.7. Learning Support and English as an Additional Language (EAL) – Individual Lessons

A number of girls have lessons each week with a teacher from the Learning Support or EAL Departments. These may take place in Private Study periods or lunchtime and, in some cases, a girl's Curriculum may be reduced by one or two subjects to facilitate the additional lessons required. Further information regarding the provision of learning Support and EAL is set out in:

- Policy A2: Learning Support

### **3.8. Curriculum Review**

The Curriculum is kept under regular review by the Education Committee to ensure that we are providing the structure for the best possible educational experience for the girls in the School alongside any changes to the public Examination structure (made by the DfE and OFQUAL) and requirements from the Higher Education sector. Suggestions and comments on proposed changes are sought from staff, girls and parents and the Governors are kept fully apprised of discussions through the Governors' Education Committee. Final decisions of changes rest with the School's Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and changes are communicated to staff, girls and parents with adequate notice if changes will affect them.

**Claire Rhodes**  
**Academic Deputy**

The curriculum is reviewed in the Autumn Term in preparation for the next academic year.

**Date Agreed: September 2018**  
**Review Date: May 2018**