

Policy A3: Curriculum (for September 2021)

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.

- Policy C48: The promotion of British Values
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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); Science (3); English (3); Spanish (1.5); French (1.5)
- Latin (1.5)
- Geography (1); History (1); Religious Studies (1);
- Art (1); Drama (1); Food Preparation and Nutrition (1); Music (1);
- Computer Science (1)
- Textiles (1)
- Sport (5)
- Study period (1.5)
- PSHE (1)

Year II

In Year II the girls follow the Curriculum below;

- Mathematics (3); Biology (1); Chemistry (1); Physics (1); English (3); Spanish (1.5); French (1.5)
- Latin (1.5)
- Geography (1); History (1); Religious Studies (1);
- Art (1); Drama (1); Food Preparation and Nutrition (1); Music (1);
- Computer Science (1)
- Textiles (1)
- Sport (5)
- Study period (1.5)
- PSHE (1)

Year III

In Year III the girls follow the Curriculum below:

- Mathematics (4); Biology (1.5); Chemistry (1.5); Physics (1.5); English (3.5); Spanish (1.5); French (1.5)
- Latin / Classics (1.5)
- Geography (1); History (1); Religious Studies (1);
- Art (1); Drama (1); Music (1);
- Computer Science (1)
- Textiles (1) / Food Technology (1) on a carousel
- Sport (3.5)
- Study period (1)
- PSHE (1)

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. We do have provision for English as a Second Language which may be an option for some of our native girls. PSHE is also an important part of the curriculum and all girls have timetabled lessons each week.

Core Curriculum

- Mathematics (3); Biology (2.5) Chemistry (2.5); Physics (2.5);
- English (3.5)
- Sport (3.5)

Girls select a further four subjects:

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

Classical Greek and Further Mathematics can 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. The Higher Project Qualification is also available to all girls and is the equivalent to half a GCSE. This is not a timetabled lesson and can be offered outside the curriculum.

1 Year GCSE Course:

We are able to offer an exciting 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 terms in Year V and can include:

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:

- PSHE programme
- Extra-curricular opportunities
- Timetabled study periods
- Additional lessons to support the curriculum
- A minimum of 2 PE lessons
- EAL support

Sixth Form

In the Sixth Form, girls have a free choice from 28 subjects.

All girls still take:

- Sport (3.5)
- PSHE (1)
- Life Skills (0.5)

Subject Selections (5 hours each)

- Mathematics; Further Mathematics; Biology; Chemistry; Physics; Psychology
- English Literature; English Language and Literature; Classical Greek ; Latin; Classical Civilisation; French; Spanish
- History; Philosophy and Ethics;
- Business; Economics; Geography; History of Art
- Art (Photography, Textiles, Fine Art, Graphic Design)
- Music; Physical Education
- Drama and Theatre; Politics

We also offer the Extended Project Qualification which is an invaluable part of the curriculum and does carry time on the timetable. Mandarin is also available for native speakers and again this carries time on the timetable.

Enrichment

- Sports Leaders, Leiths, Dance including Dance Leadership, NPLQ

3.3. PSHE

All girls take part in the PSHE programme. It is a non-examined compulsory part of the Curriculum. 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. The programme also aims to cover the key elements of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE).

- Policy A5: PSHE
 - Policy C8: Higher Education & Careers
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3.4. 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
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3.5. 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)
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3.6. PASS and English as an Additional Language (EAL) – Individual Lessons

A number of girls have lessons each week with a teacher from the PASS or EAL departments. These may take place in 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 PASS and EAL is set out in:

- Policy A2: Learning Support
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3.7. 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
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The curriculum is reviewed in the Autumn Term in preparation for the next academic year.

Date Agreed: May 2021

Review Date: May 2022