



Whole School

Academic Curriculum Policy (inc. EYFS)

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Introduction

The school has harmonized its curriculum with national requirements yet preserves the best features of its own very broad provision. Our ethos is to encourage all our students to take control of their own learning from a very early age, in the words of Magaluzzi we believe children are confident and capable learners from birth.

Nursery and Reception

We deliver a skills-based curriculum based on the framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS); this describes the seven areas of learning and development.

Prime areas are:

- Communication and Language
- Personal Social and Emotional
- Physical Development

Specific areas are:

- Literacy

- Numeracy
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

We find the most important aspect of the work we do is based around the three characteristics of effective teaching and learning which are:

- Playing and Exploring
- Active learning
- Creating and thinking critically

We nurture innovation and creativity through play and respond to each child's emerging needs and interests. Their interest and enthusiasm is captured and exploited immediately to maximize learning and progress. We guide their development through warm and positive interactions. Children have the freedom to learn in an environment which supports, provides risks, engages, extends, challenges, encourages independence, values creativity and offers choice inside and out.

We believe that child directed learning is the most important tool in ensuring deeper engagement and active learning. We are inspired by the work which takes place in the municipality of Reggio Emilia and believe that children are confident and capable protagonists and co-collaborators in their own learning journey. We plan for the environment (RHB Continuous Provision) to allow children to be independent and active learners and we follow the lead of the children when there is a spark of interest and interact with them to move learning forward as the moment happens (RHB Teachable Moments).

Specialist Teaching

In addition to the enriched environment our children can experience both inside and out of the ELS, they also enjoy specialist sessions in French, Music, Dance, Drama, PE and Forest Fun.

Reception children have these specialist sessions within their timetable with the addition of swimming and gymnastics.

Junior School Curriculum

Lower Juniors (Y1-3)

Teachers use the UK Primary National Curriculum as a basis for planning and assessment.

All year groups study Mathematics, English, Science, Modern Foreign Language (French), Computing, History, Geography, RE, Art and Design, Dance, Drama, Music, Swimming, Gymnastics, PE and, in Year 3, Games.

Our life skills programme incorporates aspects of personal, social, moral and health education, and citizenship.

Mathematics, English and ICT links are also incorporated across the curriculum where possible.

Upper Juniors (Y4-6)

Children at this stage will begin to move to a more specialist timetable and in Year 5 and Six will have different subject specialists (some of whom also teach in the Middle and Senior School). All year groups study Mathematics, English, Science, Modern Foreign Language (French with conversational Spanish added in Year 7), Computing, History, Geography, RE, Art and Design, Dance, Drama, Music, Swimming, Gymnastics, PE and Games.

Form teachers teach RE and life skills discretely as well as fostering links with other subjects. Plus, we continue to make links to Mathematics, English and ICT links across the curriculum where possible.

Middle School Curriculum

KS3 Students follow common courses in English, Modern Foreign Languages (French/Spanish), Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, Public Speaking, Drama, Dance, Music, Computing, Gymnastics, Swimming and Physical Education.

Some students may be advised to take extra English, have study support or supervised study periods instead of a Modern Foreign Language.

We have a rich and relevant life skills programme (Aspire to Be) which In Year 9, the curriculum broadens to encompass personal, social, health, spiritual, moral education and citizenship and includes modules on topics such as sex education, careers education, body image and drugs education. Although British Values form a part of the ethos of our school and are therefore apparent in all our curriculum where relevant, it is expected that there will be more discussion around these ideals as part of the A2B programme.

Senior School Curriculum

GCSE Years

GCSE In Years 10 and 11 our GCSE curriculum usually consists of 9 or 10 GCSE subjects. Those students studying Triple Science will be studying 11 subjects. These students are carefully advised regarding the inevitable workload and revision pressures that studying this number of GCSEs brings.

GCSE core subjects at Reddam House Berkshire are; English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, and the Sciences. The majority of our students undertake the Triple Award course particularly if they may wish to choose Science A Levels.

There is flexibility in the remaining five subjects, which may be chosen according to a student's interests and talents. Options could include an additional language or a creative subject for example, we offer GCSEs in PE, Art and Design, Dance, Drama, Music and Media Studies We encourage students, where possible, to include at least one of the humanities: History, Geography or Business Studies in their option choices and we also offer Computing GCSE. English as an Additional Language is available as a charged extra.

This range of offered subjects ensures both a broad education and that future university and other higher education paths remain as open as possible at this point

A-Level Years

Sixth Form options are reviewed annually. Provisional choices are made during the Spring Term prior to entry, after which the option groups are fixed for the following year.

Current A-Levels on offer are English Literature, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, History, Geography, Business, Economics, French, Spanish, Psychology, Computing, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Theatre Studies, Dance, Music, Art and Design, Photography and Physical Education. English as an Additional Language is available as a charged extra.

Most students study 3 subjects at A level. Very able students take 4 subjects. Advice on this decision is given once GCSE results are confirmed in August. The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is available for interested students and is equivalent to an AS grade.

Other Curriculum Matters

The School Day

The Academic curriculum is taught between 8.40 am and 4 pm Monday to Friday with activities, clubs and societies taking place at lunchtime and before and after school. Sports matches take place after school and sometimes at the weekend.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education

The school is non-denominational and affords equal status to all religious beliefs and faiths. Students in Years 1-6 have RE each week and those in Years 7-13 are taught RE as part of the A2B programme. The syllabus covers all the major faiths and it also teaches pupils how to make moral decisions.

All students have lessons in sex education during Science and A2B lessons (see the schools Sex and Relationship Education Policy).

Adaptations to Curriculum

We will always work with parents to make reasonable adjustments to the curriculum in cases of specific need. Occasionally students finding the standard GCSE curriculum offer difficult may be advised to study 7 or 8 GCSEs or students at an early stage of language acquisition might be required to undertake additional English lessons. Where this is the case, the school will discuss this and any additional charges with parents. Please see the SEND, EAL and Inclusion Policies for more details.