

Confident Curriculum Policy 2020

Our mission



Inspiring excellence together:-

'Our mission is simply to make a difference both inside and outside the classroom'



As a united **family** together we embark on an exciting voyage of discovery into a somewhat uncharted future. We are proud to be developing the next generation of trail blazers who have a firm belief that, for them, anything is possible; that their dreams are within reach. Pupils who are proud to be **curious and creative** and find new ways of achieving their potential with the confidence and self-belief to fly!

We lead by example and live out this desire to 'inspire excellence together' by facing our fears to become stronger and wiser through **resilience** and **determination**. We look after each other and work to make our **community** a better place to live; whilst promoting an awareness of wider world issues.

Success to us is not only measured in academic outcomes; we value the wider, **enrichment** experience which educates the whole child, giving our pupils improved life chances. We endeavour to actively remove barriers from youngsters lives as best as we can to transform their future.

To us, **education** is a pursuit of the mind and to this end we encourage our school community to **read**, to learn, to challenge and to debate in a place where everyone has a **voice** that is recognised as we work together to become greater.

We take **pride** in being the school that every child wants to remain a part of, even after they have graduated; the school that has become more than a school; a **family**; a place of safety and warmth that remains in the hearts of our community throughout their life.

Our Context

We are on a path of rapid improvement. Our outcomes have shown year on year improvement with our most recent results being our best yet. 37.5% of our students now leave with grade 5+ in English and Maths. 100% of our students are enrolled in higher education or are employed when they leave us making us the most improved school in Halton. We are confident this trajectory will continue.

Our Confident Curriculum

Our *Confident Curriculum* has social justice at its heart. It is ambitious and designed to give all pupils, particularly disadvantaged pupils and pupils with SEND, the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life.

"Education is a pursuit of the mind"

We aim to prepare all students to become adults that have a thirst for knowledge and can articulate their thinking, present opinions and debate ideas with self-assurance and consideration. We demonstrate how knowledge can be acquired by reading and ensure that all of our students are exposed to '*the best that has been thought and said*' in a wide range of subjects. Oracy and reading are key vehicles for us when ensuring that we achieve this.

Our KS3 curriculum provides an excellent foundation for KS4 study and promotes mature attitudes to learning. The following table shows the subjects and number of hours studied during key stage 3. This further illustrates our commitment to providing a broad and

balanced curriculum for all students, ensuring there is no narrowing of the curriculum for any students.

Through our curriculum model, we support our mission statement. We offer 25 hours per week with 5 lessons per day. Each lesson is 60 minutes long, with the exception of period 5 which is 55 minutes in duration. This model allows us to offer a rich and varied range of subjects to all of our students at key stage 3, such as performing arts, life skills, PE, technology and humanities along with more traditional subjects like English, maths and science.

In years 7 and 8 students are taught in mixed ability classes, ensuring we enact the philosophy of “learning without limits” which is covered in the assessment policy.

Key Stage 3

Subject	Number of hours studied in Year 7,8 and 9
English	4
Maths	4
Science	4
Spanish	2
Humanities (Geography and History)	3
RE	1
Life Skills	1
PE	2
Art (Fine art and Textiles)	1
Performing Arts (Music and Drama)	1
Computer Science	1
Technology (DT and food)	1

At key stage 4, we offer a flexible, personalised curriculum which maximises pupils' engagement and achievement. Students choose the subjects they wish to study at GCSE towards the end of year 9. Our options process is led by student voice and career aspirations. We tailor the qualifications offered to each cohort through gathering expressions of interest and then fine tuning a bespoke selection offered to each year group moving through Sandymoor. This way we listen to and cater for the needs and aspirations of our students; ensuring all students benefit from what we offer under our status as a Liverpool City Region Careers Hub.

Examples of new courses that have shaped our offer for 2020 are Further Mathematics and Statistics, Animal Care, Triple Science and BTEC Digital Information Technology.

The following table shows the allocation of curriculum time for each GCSE subject. The option block content is determined as explained above to meet the needs of the current cohort of students.

Key Stage 4

Subject	Number of hours studied in Year 10 and 11
English	5
Maths	5

Science	4
Life Skills including RE	1
PE	1
Option A	3
Option B	3
Option C	3

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‘We look after each other and work to make our community a better place’

Life Skills

All students are provided with 1 hour per week to experience “life skills”. Within this subject we cover PSHE, SRE and careers. (Including alignment with the Gatsby Benchmarks). We actively encourage students to explore challenging issues that affect our communities and us as individuals. Aspirations of students are discussed and career pathways and opportunities are highlighted on our mission to actively remove barriers from youngster’s lives to transform their future.

Academic Tutor time

The first 15 minutes of each day are dedicated to academic tutor time, which is used as a vehicle to allow the consideration of personal development and British Values. There is a theme of the week that we follow ensuring every student has the opportunity to discuss and think about ethical, moral and emotional ideas challenging them as a person, allowing them to grow in their ability to understand and analyse different perspectives on topics that instil ideas of respect for each other and themselves.

Enrichment

‘Success to us is not only measured in academic outcomes; we value the wider, enrichment experience which educates the whole child, giving our pupils improved life chances’.

There are numerous enrichment activities provided after school, which are made available to students through the school E-praise on-line system. We also endeavour to provide a rich and varied enrichment curriculum including Duke of Edinburgh as well as activities provided by outside agencies such as weightlifting and coding robots.

Key stage four students are invited to attend weekly subject enhancement classes run by each department to further support and enhance GCSE studies.