



ST IVO SCHOOL

Curriculum Policy

Approved: October 2017, Governors Curriculum and Standards Committee

Next review due: October 2019

This policy seeks to support the school's academic aims but its implementation will also promote the fulfilment of many of the personal aims and social aims. The curriculum policy supports the framework of St Ivo School as being comprehensive yet offering challenge.

Curriculum aims

The aims of the curriculum of St Ivo School are to enable students to develop

- A sense of enquiry, the ability to question, solve problems and argue rationally;
- A willingness to apply themselves and an aptitude for learning;
- Knowledge and skills relevant to adult life and employment in a changing world;
- Literacy, numeracy and competence in the use of information technology;
- Their creativity, critical awareness, empathy and sensitivity;
- A recognition of their own and others' achievements, in school and beyond;
- Self-esteem, self-worth and self-confidence;
- The skills of working as an individual and as a member of a group or team;
- Appropriate moral and spiritual values and tolerance of others, to value each individual and to learn to live together in an atmosphere of mutual respect;
- An awareness of the student's place in the community and opportunities for service to each other, to the community, and the wider world.

Student entitlement

As a fully comprehensive, 11 - 18 school, we are committed to the principle that all students, regardless of ability, race, cultural background or gender, have a right to the highest quality of education we can provide. This means that we seek to ensure breadth and balance for all, appropriate levels of expectation and genuine challenge, and relevance, continuity and progression in learning.

Courses of study and teaching methods are tailored to the wide range of needs, interests and aspirations of our students. It also means that many features of the curriculum are common to all students.

Expectations of staff

Staff are expected actively to promote and seek to secure the curriculum aims (above) and, in particular to:

- Have high expectations of students;
- Employ a variety of appropriate teaching and learning methods;
- Ensure that, wherever possible, students are found means of access to the curriculum and given opportunities to succeed;
- Deliver programmes of study which build upon students' previous experiences, providing progression and continuity, and which conform to the requirements of the national curriculum;

- Provide work which meets their students' needs and aspirations, which offers depth and challenge, and which motivates and inspires them;
- Involve the learner in the process of learning, by discussing work, giving regular feedback, through assessment and marking, negotiating targets and encouraging students to evaluate their own achievements;
- Develop students' skills to become independent learners;
- Encourage, reward and value achievement and effort, both formally and informally, through praise in the learning environment;
- Work in partnership with other staff, parents/carers and the wider community to achieve shared goals;
- Keep parents/carers informed about the progress and achievements of their sons and daughters.

The timetable

The school operates a 50 period two week timetable. There are 5 periods per day, each of which lasts for one hour. In addition there is a fifteen minute registration period each morning, one of which is used for assembly. There is a short registration period at the start of each afternoon for Years 7-11.

Curriculum structure

St Ivo's broad and balanced curriculum provides all students with a wide range of both challenging and rewarding learning experiences.

Student Support offers a wide range of services. This includes preparing resources, specialist material and tutors, extra literacy and numeracy support throughout the key stages and a small group follow foundation learning pathways through Key Stage 3 and into Key Stage 4 as appropriate.

To take account of the range of ability in any class, all staff have a responsibility, when planning work, to meet the needs of all students. This will involve, at different times, adapting tasks, providing different resources, developing extension work, providing a variety of learning styles and environments, setting individual goals, giving different levels of support, and offering a variety of ways to demonstrate knowledge and understanding.

Key Stage 3 - Years 7 to 9

All students follow a broad balanced curriculum, with the following subjects being studied: English, Maths, Science, Computing, a Language, Design & Technology, History, Geography, RE, Art, Music, PSHE, Dance, Drama and PE.

Students are taught in mixed ability groups for most subjects throughout the key stage. Students are put into ability groups for Maths and PE in Year 7 and for languages and science at the beginning of Year 8. Design & Technology is taught in smaller mixed-ability groups.

Key Stage 4 – Years 10 and 11

All students take English, mathematics, science, PE and Learning4Life including Computing, RE, careers work and health education. They choose four further options from a wide choice of over twenty five subjects. Students are broadly grouped by ability for Maths, English and Science. Groupings for other subjects are largely dictated by option choices. Students remain in the same tutor groups as in Years 7 to 9.

A small group of students are guided to the Level 1 Foundation Learning Pathway. St Ivo also works closely with other partner institutions to be able to offer more vocational choice including car mechanics, with good progression for post-16.

Students are guided to choose from different areas so that they have a broad base for further/higher education choices. For most students, this curriculum will result in their obtaining 9 GCSEs. Details of the Key Stage 4 curriculum are summarised in the Key Stage 4 booklet, which can be accessed through the school website.

Post 16 - The Sixth Form (Years 12 and 13)

The majority of St Ivo students return after GCSEs to the St Ivo Sixth Form to study level 3 courses (A Level or vocational). The school also has a range of Level 2 qualifications as a one year 'bridging year' to possible level 3 courses. Many students following vocational courses participate in a work-related activity or work placement related to the subject they are studying. The Sixth Form prospectus can be accessed through the school website.

Schemes of work and lesson planning

Each department is required to have schemes of work for all of its courses/programmes related, where appropriate, to the national curriculum and or examination board requirements. Schemes of work set out how the content of the course is structured, so that students' skills, knowledge and understanding are developed progressively, and how the teaching is organised. These schemes of work are supported by assessment strategies and methods for ensuring standardisation of expectation and assessment.

Curriculum complaints procedure

Parents or carers who have any concerns regarding the school's curriculum should refer to the subject teacher in the first instance. The form tutor, Head of Year and Head of Department can also be contacted. Please refer to the school's complaints procedure on the school website for further information.

Other policies you may wish to refer to

Homework

Examinations

Special Educational Needs

Sex and Relationships Education

Collective Worship

Careers

Marking, assessment and feedback