



St Laurence School

Policy on Curriculum 2019 UPDATE 2020

This policy should be read alongside the Curriculum information published on the school website

Introduction

Within the context of our Christian vision and the School's aspiration to "Care – Inspire - Succeed", the Governing Body affirm the School's aims to provide a curriculum, both formal and informal, which promotes its common purpose, shared aims and core values. The Governing Body are committed to meeting the needs of all students and raising standards by developing a supportive atmosphere and by managing resources effectively. The Governing Body believe in the importance of developing creativity and in the value of developing links with the immediate and wider community. The Governing Body aims to ensure that the School meets all the statutory requirements for the curriculum, within the broader context of its status as a school with a Christian foundation. The school pays proper regard to legislation and to its own policies for equal opportunities, special educational needs, health and safety and SMSC outcomes.

The school's vision and ethos treasure the breadth of learning and experiences for young people and it recognises the concern around "minority" subjects, which all schools are increasingly struggling to deliver due to small uptake. The school is open to exploring different models which ensures that these courses survive, for example, some post-16 subjects could be delivered in conjunction with other sixth forms.

As part of the discussion about the School's curriculum, it is important to be mindful of what our local context provides. For example, the history of the town and area, the skills and experience of our staff (e.g. for learning outside the curriculum), the Wiltshire Music Centre, links with our primary schools and expertise in the local area. It is also important to consider the intake and how that may change over time, so that the curriculum and courses we offer, adapt based on the cohort's and individuals' needs.

Aims

The School Curriculum aims to:

- Create 'successful learners' who enjoy learning, make good progress and achieve.
- Play its part in shaping confident individuals able to lead safe, healthy and fulfilling lives.
- Focus on developing the students' attitudes, attributes, skills, knowledge and understanding to help them become responsible citizens.
- Allow for the cohort's needs and reflect the students' aspirations who attend St Laurence

Provision

The school aims to provide the highest quality education by ensuring the curriculum:

1. Is broad, balanced and challenging, seeking to promote our mission and Christian values as an inclusive Church school, preparing young people for life in the 21st century.
2. Provides quality and continuity of learning within each subject area.
3. Reflects the crucial importance of strong foundations by emphasising and enabling the development and retention of learning, effective assessment and secure progress through a full key stage 3 programme.
4. Through our **careers education and guidance programme**, provides coherent learning pathways from age 11-18 for students of all abilities, across the whole spectrum of needs, **placing the emphasis on quality of experience and achievement rather than quantity of qualifications amassed. This quality of experience includes ensuring that students' emotional and mental health and wellbeing are promoted.**
5. Promotes the development of reflection, long term memory, resilience and **interdependence** in learning (this includes affirming the importance of Homework and Revision)
6. Recognises the importance of developing subject-specific speaking and writing, in confidence and in depth, in enabling all students, especially those with disadvantage, to learn effectively.

Approval: Standards Committee

Review: March 2021



7. Places appropriate emphasis on English and Mathematics, recognising these as fundamental to academic achievement and career progression
8. Emphasises the development of spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness, including environmental education and places a high value on religious education, in keeping with our academy object

The school is also committed to:

- Recruiting, training and developing professionals who work continuously to improve their own teaching skills and understanding of how students learn most effectively;
- Defining a clear framework for the leadership and management of the curriculum;
- Working in partnership with all stakeholders;
- Ensuring that teachers plan lessons that engage, motivate and encourage all students;
- Providing opportunities for students to develop as independent learners able to think for themselves, take risks and learn from mistakes and have positive self-esteem;
- Providing a wide range of opportunities for students to develop individual interests and strengths, and challenging them to become involved in activities beyond the timetabled day.

Organisation

Details of organisational aspects are published annually in the curriculum maps and in course brochures at KS4 and 5. Copies of these are available from the school or the website.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The quality and effectiveness of the curriculum will be monitored and evaluated through:

- A rigorous school self-evaluation programme.
- An analysis of a range of accountability measures.
- Regular reports on curriculum development and impact to the appropriate Governors' committee by the appointed member of the senior team.