

## **CURRICULUM POLICY** (Ref: ISI Handbook part 1; ISSR 2a – 2j)

*This policy forms part of our Academic Policy (please see full list of policies on the website)*

- 2.12.1 The school's curriculum follows statutory requirements. It is balanced and broadly based, and promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of our pupils and of society and prepares our pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.
- 2.12.2 The school provides full time supervised education for all pupils, which gives them experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative education, appropriate for their ages and aptitudes.
- 2.12.3 Pupils are expected to attend all lessons provided for the curriculum they are following at the appropriate stage in the school.
- 2.12.4 Pupils are expected to acquire skills in speaking and listening, literacy and numeracy skills.
- 2.12.5 Personal, social and health education is provided in the lower and middle school, reflecting the school's aims and ethos.
- 2.12.6 Appropriate careers guidance is provided.
- 2.12.7 The school sets out to:
  - ensure that pupils develop the essential literacy and numeracy skills.
  - provide pupils with a full and rounded entitlement to learning.
  - foster pupils' creativity and develop essential skills, including learning skills.
  - promote a healthy lifestyle.
  - inspire pupils to a commitment to learning which will last a lifetime.
  - promote high standards in all learning and teaching.
  - ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to learn and make progress.
- 2.12.8 Religious education is also provided for pupils in timetabled lessons as well as through whole school and year-based spiritual assemblies.
- 2.12.9 The curriculum policy is reviewed on an annual basis by the Deputy Head (Academic), advised by the academic committee, to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of pupils.
- 2.12.10 Equal Opportunities: entry to all programmes of study is based on academic suitability and appropriateness, regardless of sex, race, disability, religion or belief.
- 2.12.11 Disabilities: in accordance with the statutory requirements the school aims to make the curriculum accessible to all pupils as far as is reasonably practicable. The school has an Accessibility Plan which is available to parents on request.
- 2.12.12 Differentiation: a variety of differing teaching and learning methods and materials are used in all courses to suit pupils' different needs.
- 2.12.13 The following subjects are offered to all pupils in years 7 and 8 (Removes and Shells): Art; Biology; Chemistry; Design Technology; English; a carousel of three modern foreign languages (French, German and Spanish) in the Removes leading to a choice of two languages in the Shells; Geography; History; Information Technology; Latin; Mathematics; Music; PE; Physics; PSE and Religious Studies.
- 2.12.14 In year 9 (the 3<sup>rd</sup> Year) all pupils study English, Geography, History, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Religious Studies, PE and PSE. In addition pupils choose to study four of the following subjects; French, German, Spanish, Latin, Classical Civilisation, Art, Design Technology or Music, with at least one of these choices being a modern foreign language.
- 2.12.15 All pupils in years 10 – 11 (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Years) study English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and PE. In addition they choose six option subjects from Art, Biology, Business Studies and Economics, Chemistry, Classical Civilisation, Computer Science, Design Technology, French, Geography, German, History, Latin, Music, Religious Studies, Physical Education, Physics and Spanish. Of these 6 option choices, at least two science subjects must be chosen (from Biology, Chemistry and Physics) and at least one modern language must be chosen (from French, German and Spanish)

- 2.12.16 Sixth form (GCE): in years 12 and 13 – pupils study four subjects in year 12 and may drop to three in year 13, chosen from Art, History of Art, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Classical Studies, Computing, Design Technology, Economics, English Literature, English Language, French, Further Mathematics, Geography, German, History, Latin, Mathematics, Music, Philosophy, Physical Education, Physics, Politics, Religious Studies and Spanish.
- 2.12.17 All pupils, with the exception of those years 10 and 11 (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Years), take part in a programme of Enrichment which is timetabled once a fortnight for 2 hours on a Friday afternoon. Enrichment activities are offered in addition to the wide range of extra-curricular activities taking place throughout the week.
- 2.12.18 An on-going curriculum review is in place, led by the Deputy Head (Academic) to consider additions to the range of subjects offered throughout the school.
- 2.12.19 Entry requirements for sixth form:  
Pupils wishing to progress to the sixth form (or join it from outside) require a minimum of seven GCSE passes of which four must be at least grade A; a further three at grade B, including A /A\* in the subjects to be studied at A level.
- 2.12.20 Religious Education and collective worship: religious education is available to all pupils and is compulsory in years 7 to 9 (Removes to 3<sup>rd</sup> Year). Parents have the right to withdraw their children from religious education.
- 2.12.21 All pupils are expected to take part in school services and assemblies and in the three services held each year in Chester cathedral.
- 2.12.22 Sex Education: the school provides sex education in the basic curriculum for all pupils in the lower and middle school, in which pupils are encouraged and guided by moral principles and taught to recognise the value of family life.
- 2.12.23 A full statement of the school's sex education policy is available to parents.
- 2.12.24 In accordance with the law the biological aspects of human reproduction remain compulsory for all pupils, but parents may withdraw their children from any other part of the sex education provided.
- 2.12.25 Political Education: the promotion of partisan political views in the teaching of any subject in the school is forbidden by law. Political issues are introduced in a number of courses and are presented in a balanced manner.
- 2.12.26 PE and Games: all pupils are expected to take part in the school's Physical Education and Games programme.
- 2.12.27 Pupils can only be excused from PE and Games lessons for medical reasons, for which a note from a parent will suffice, or other reasons agreed with the school.
- 2.12.28 Extra-Curricular Activities: the school has a wide and varied programme of cultural and sporting activities that take place outside the formal curriculum. All pupils are encouraged to take part in the programme.
- 2.12.29 Homework: the school expects homework to be undertaken by all pupils each evening. As guidance the school expects pupils to spend the following times on homework:
- Years 7 and 8      60 to 75 minutes per day
  - Year 9              90 minutes per day
  - Years 10 and 11    1-2 hours per day
  - Years 12 and 13    2-3 hours per day and more at weekends
- A separate homework policy sets out the requirements expected of pupils throughout the school.
- 2.12.30 Special Educational Needs: the school has a special educational needs policy and, where deemed to be in the best interests of a pupil, may modify the courses followed by the pupil in consultation with the parents.
- 2.12.31 Concerns and Complaints: parents who have concerns about any aspect of the curriculum should discuss these in the first instance with the pupil's form tutor.
- 2.12.32 If the issue cannot be resolved by the form tutor, parents are invited to seek an appointment with the Deputy Head (Academic).
- 2.12.33 Monitoring and Review: this policy will be monitored by the Deputy Head (Academic), who will report to the Headmaster on its implementation on an annual basis.
- 2.12.34 The Headmaster will report to the governing body's Education Committee on the progress of the policy and will recommend any changes.