

# ASTON FIELDS MIDDLE SCHOOL

## CURRICULUM POLICY

Date: September 2023

Date of Review: Annually in September

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## CURRICULUM POLICY

### OVERVIEW

At Aston Fields Middle School, teaching takes place within a broad and balanced curriculum which builds on pupils' prior learning and is accompanied by an effective social, moral, spiritual and cultural ethos, which helps to develop and prepare pupils for life in modern Britain. Aston Fields Middle School follows the National Curriculum as introduced in September 2014. The school's Curriculum Policy is supported by the Assessment Policy.

The curriculum at AFMS:

- a) Actively promotes the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. This is underpinned by the school's ethos of providing a caring, family atmosphere based on courtesy, co-operation, mutual respect and good manners.
- b) Promotes tolerance of, and respect for, people of other faiths, cultures and lifestyles with effective social, moral, spiritual and cultural development of pupils, including through engaging pupils in extra-curricular activity and local community links.
- c) Includes a balanced approach to pupils' religious education which is broadly Christian but encompasses all major world faiths.
- d) Includes a variety of assemblies which help to promote pupils' social, moral, spiritual and cultural development, providing clear guidance on what is right and what is wrong, including in the virtual world.

Overall, the National Curriculum at Aston Fields Middle School aims to provide pupils with an introduction to the essential knowledge that they need to be educated citizens, successfully preparing them for the next stage in their school life. It introduces pupils to the best that has been thought and said; and helps engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement.

### AIM

AFMS's Curriculum is carefully and thoughtfully designed by leaders to make sure all pupils acquire the knowledge, skills and understanding they need in order to take advantage of opportunities, responsibilities and experiences in later life. The curriculum is ambitious and designed to give all pupils the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life. In effect, the school aims to deliver its motto of 'striving for excellent, learning for life.'

The National Curriculum is just one element of the education of every child here at Aston Fields Middle School. There is time and space in the school day and in each week, term and year to range beyond the National Curriculum specifications. The National Curriculum provides an outline of core knowledge around which teachers develop exciting and

stimulating lessons to promote the development of pupils' knowledge, understanding and skills as part of the wider school curriculum.

## **INTENT**

The school's intent is to make the National Curriculum relevant and meaningful to pupils within their local context, ensuring they are provided with subject specific vocabulary, knowledge and skills that allows them to build links and enhance their learning across subjects. They should acquire a deep body of knowledge – knowing more and remembering more – thus new knowledge and skills build on what has been taught before and towards defined end points. In addition to the requirements of the National Curriculum, this school supports pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds to acquire the tools for learning and real-life experiences that will give them the cultural capital on which to draw.

Integral to a successful curriculum is the ability to read. The school promotes a language rich environment and high standards of language and literacy by equipping pupils with a strong command of the spoken and written language and the development of their love of literature through widespread reading for pleasure. Reading is prioritised to allow pupils to access the full curriculum offer. In all areas of the curriculum a rigorous and sequential approach to reading develops pupils' fluency, confidence and enjoyment. Every teacher is a teacher of English. Subject leaders recognise that the success of pupils in their subject is predicated on reading and literacy skills.

Subject leaders are expected to identify clear end points for their curriculum across the four years, and what all pupils need to know and do to reach these end points. Curriculum will be sequenced to ensure that pupils build a rich web of inter-related knowledge that will provide a platform for transition to the next stage of their learning.

For AFMS the curriculum is expected to be broad and balanced across all year groups. In addition to those subjects specifically taught, the school is committed to ensuring that a diverse range of additional opportunities are timetabled throughout the year. This will include opportunities to explore fundamental British values, equality and democracy, careers and the role of government, music, sporting and arts events and learning outside the classroom which provide highly positive, memorable experiences and rich opportunities for high quality learning which has a very positive impact on pupils' personal development, safety and welfare and contributes very well to pupils achievement and their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, as we are building their character.

## **Curriculum Leadership**

In this school, every learner has an entitlement to benefit from curriculum provision and teaching of the highest quality. Curriculum Leaders (known at Aston Fields Middle School as Directors of Subject; DoS) will lead teams of teachers, who will collaborate and work to ensure that the curriculum, teaching and learning is planned, managed and delivered to the highest standard. The Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team and other key members of staff, will monitor the work of the curriculum teams to ensure that this high standard is met.

The most important role of teaching is to promote a love of learning and the acquisition of knowledge by pupils and to raise achievement. It is also important in promoting the pupils' character, and their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. SLT and Director of

Subjects will ensure that all pupils benefit from a curriculum that is well led and will observe the monitoring, evaluation and review processes that are in place, to ensure that the curriculum is delivered to the highest standard.

### **Strategies**

- The Headteacher will appoint all members of staff to teams and roles according to each teacher's experience and ability.
- Directors of Subject will be responsible to the Headteacher and SLT for carrying out their leadership of the curriculum effectively and efficiently.
- Teachers and other members of staff are expected to work efficiently with the Director of Subject to carry out their assigned responsibilities to the highest quality.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

Teachers will use the scheme of work provided by subject leaders which should include challenging content, with sequenced learning and progression through the four years of education provided by this school.

#### **Structure**

The National Curriculum (pub 2014) will be taught to all pupils. Programmes of Study for the subjects of the National Curriculum will be used selectively as the basis for long-term and medium-term planning, supported by the whole school literacy and numeracy across the curriculum strategies and policies.

Short-term planning will be brief. It will demonstrate a clear learning journey focusing on pupils' progress, with strategies in place for differentiated learning, remembering that all pupils are entitled to a challenging curriculum - differentiating or scaffolding through talk and other resources that facilitate learning for each pupil.

Members of staff will be given responsibility for leading, managing, monitoring, evaluating and reviewing the curriculum. Teachers will be given good opportunities to use their subject expertise to enhance the curriculum.

The agreed syllabus (SACRE/Diocesan Syllabus) will be used as the basis for the planning and teaching of Religious Studies.

Cross-curricular links will be made between subjects at every opportunity. Citizenship will be planned within the curriculum. The school has separate plans to promote Literacy Across the Curriculum and Numeracy Across the Curriculum which inter-link with this policy.

Pupils will be taught explicitly about character and what good character looks like, how to demonstrate good character and make the right decisions, at the right time and for the right reasons.

Opportunities will be taken to enrich the curriculum through educational visits and visitors to school; involvement of parents/carers, visitors, artists, crafts people, actors and musicians; the use of the school grounds, the locality and the wider environment.

An extensive range of high quality resources including IT will be used to underpin the curriculum.

Homework will be set where appropriate, to link the curriculum with learning at home.

## Strategies

- Teachers are expected to make positive contributions to developing the quality of teaching and learning in the areas of the curriculum that have been assigned to them.
- Directors of Subjects will be responsible for developing curriculum guidelines under the National Curriculum. Teachers will be responsible for developing clear objectives and plans which set out the knowledge, skills and understanding that their pupils need to acquire. The question should be asked '*What are you doing and why are you doing it on **this particular day**, with **this particular pupil?***'
- Where appropriate, teams will come together to plan cross-curricular dimensions of the school curriculum and plan opportunities for promoting cohesion with the community and creative learning.
- Director of Subjects will ensure that teachers' planning provides for challenge for all their pupils and advise teachers on an appropriate range of teaching methods to enable all pupils to learn effectively, knowing more and remembering more. Innovate ideas for learning outside the classroom will be supported, budget and safeguarding constraints permitting.

## IMPACT

Children develop as learners through knowing more, remembering more and being able to do more, building on prior learning and knowledge and developing the skills to become lifelong learners. Children's work and achievement within the curriculum will be celebrated and displayed to enable it to have a significant impact on the visual appearance of the school and to contribute positively to its ethos. The exciting curriculum that we provide will help children to understand who they are and where they live, as citizens of modern Britain. It will help them to learn about their community, the nation and the world in which they live. It will deepen their cultural awareness and increase their understanding of history, time and place. They will develop their understanding of modern Britain and a loyalty to their country, whilst developing a respect for and understanding of different cultures and beliefs. They will learn about issues facing the world and the importance of caring for our planet.

## Strategies

- Pupils will be assessed at least termly to measure their progress and assist teachers in future lesson planning.
- Director of Subjects and SLT will monitor teachers' lessons to ensure that teaching and learning are firmly rooted in the curriculum guidelines.
- Director of Subjects will ensure that teachers use the curriculum learning objectives as the basis for assessing, recording and reporting pupils' progress and achievement in accordance with the school's assessment policy.
- This document links in to the school's responsibilities to ensure equal opportunities by making sure that the curriculum is accessible to all, adapting it for all pupils and making reasonable adjustments for pupils with Special Educational Needs. (See also SEND Policy).
- Director of Subjects and SLT will ensure that time, support staff and other resources including IT are used effectively in the learning environment.

- Director of Subjects and teachers work closely in Bromsgrove, to develop a continuous EYFS to Post-16 education for all our pupils. South Bromsgrove is a particularly strong 3-tier pyramid with regular liaison meetings for Director of Subjects working closely with colleagues from first and high schools, to develop a seamless transition and a 21<sup>st</sup> century curriculum for our pupils. AFMS will continue to work closely with colleagues through the Spire Trust Learning Partnership to ensure consistency and good practice across the curriculum is shared.
- The Governors' Quality Assurance Committee is the forum through which all aspects of Curriculum are monitored.
- The school works with parents and carers to help support them with curriculum information. Curriculum Evenings are held throughout the academic year, to help parents and carers support their children's learning. These include introductions to each Key Stage of education and E-Safety for example. The website is also updated regularly as a means of communication and Parents' Evenings and reports are scheduled throughout the year.

## **Outcomes**

The work of SLT and Directors of Subjects will ensure that all pupils benefit from an exciting, rich, broad, balanced and challenging curriculum that is matched appropriately to their ages, abilities and aptitudes and places character and lifelong learning at its heart. They will ensure that all pupils are treated equally and given equal opportunities and access to the curriculum as much as is reasonably possible within a mainstream school.