



WESTWARD HOUSE SCHOOL

Curriculum Policy

Ratification

Role	Name	Date
Proprietor	Harriet Harrison	10th January 2023
Lead Teacher	Michelle Dunne	10th January 2023
Review Date:		January 2024

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Our vision

Our vision is to ensure that our curriculum provides the very best foundations for all of our student's needs.

The school curriculum comprises all learning and experiences that we plan for our pupils. The Curriculum for Wales is the basis of our curriculum and we will use PlanBee for our curriculum planning to ensure coverage. Plan Bee covers all of the national curriculum and also includes "An education for Social Responsibility Curriculum". The national curriculum and Plan Bee provides an outline of core knowledge around which teachers can develop exciting and stimulating lessons to promote the development of pupils' knowledge and skills.

The aim of the curriculum at Westward House is to be an ***integrated framework for learning***, designed to draw upon the many different learning experiences open to pupils, harvesting every opportunity to make learning fun, exciting and meaningful. It relies on making connections between subject areas, enabling learning to be synthesised and mutually reinforced, helping develop the child's ability to transfer their learning to other settings.

Our vision for learning extends way beyond what can be conveniently measured and marked, acknowledging that every day is a 'learning day' for children which exceeds the boundaries of subject areas.

Our curriculum will provide breadth, balance and relevance to the modern world, as well as securing the fundamentals of literacy, numeracy and ICT capability. There is a strong emphasis on children's personal development, including the development of learning and thinking skills, and personal, social and emotional skills. The curriculum offers the flexibility to tailor learning to children's needs, interests and aspirations. It recognises the importance of active learning in engaging children, helping them achieve a wide range of outcomes and make the best possible progress.

We aim to improve the life chances of all children by ensuring each child becomes:

- **A successful learner**, who enjoys learning, makes good progress and achieves well.
- **A confident individual**, able to live a safe, healthy and fulfilling life.
- **A responsible citizen**, able to make a positive contribution to society.

In achieving this, our children will long remember us not simply because of what we taught them, but how we taught them and how they learned.

Our curriculum aims to promote:

- Mastery of key knowledge, understanding and skills within a coherent, broad and balanced curriculum, particularly in speaking, listening, reading and writing.
- Global, Social, Health, Environmental, Financial, Entrepreneurial, Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural awareness and understanding.
- Thinking and Learning *Skills*.
- Active thinking and learning *dispositions*.
- Information, Media and Technology Skills.
- Meaning and purpose to children in the here and now, and prepare them for the next phase of their education and for their future.
- Widening of horizons and raising aspirations about the world of work and further education.
- Awareness of, and engagement with, local, national and international communities.
- Recognition that personal development is essential to wellbeing and success.

How our curriculum is delivered

Some subjects and aspects of subjects are taught separately, some are taught through cross-curricular themes. This will vary depending on the theme being covered at the time. These help children to see connections and make learning relevant and meaningful.

This follows several principles:

- **Learning is progressive** Planning, with reference to the Curriculum for Wales ensures children make progress in key knowledge and skills as they move through each stage.
- **Pupil voice and choice is at the heart** Children are consulted on what they want to learn, building on their interests and prior knowledge and skills:

What do they already know?
What will their next steps be?
What do they want to learn and find out?
What new learning will they experience?
How would they like to present their work?

- **Time is given to ensure depth of learning**

Lessons are planned to ensure enough time is given to explore and deepen key learning.

- **Learning in enriched**

Learning is made memorable and engaging through first hand experiences and at OutdoorSchool.

- **Information Technology is used to personalise and engage learning**

Information Technology is used as a tool to engage, motivate and personalise learning, in addition to the teaching and learning of computer knowledge and skills.

- **Learning is inclusive** The curriculum provides relevant and challenging learning to *all* children by:

- Setting suitable learning challenges.
- Overcoming potential barriers to learning for individuals and groups of pupils.
- Responding to pupils' diverse learning needs.

Reading, writing and aspects of maths are learnt across the whole curriculum.

This provides an engaging context to practise and consolidate key knowledge and skills in reading, writing and maths.

How we know we are being successful Children are assessed against “key milestones” in each area of learning. The main source of evidence for achievement is pupils’ work, in addition to outcomes from tests in reading and maths. For further information see Assessment Policy.

Key knowledge, understanding and skills covered by the curriculum at Westward House:

Speaking/Listening
Reading/Writing
Maths
Science
Art and design
Computer Science
Design and technology

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Geography
History
RE
Music
Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural development
Financial / Entrepreneurial literacy
Physical education
Personal, Social, Health education / Sex and Relationship education
Social Responsibility

Thinking and Learning Skills

- Metacognition (Learning to learn)
- Questioning
- Information skills
- Critical thinking
- Creative thinking
- Decision Making
- Memory skills
- Communication

Active thinking and learning *dispositions*

Courage, Concentration, Co-operation, Collaboration, Curiosity, Enthusiasm, Empathy, Flexibility, Humility, Humour, Imagination, Independence, Open-minded, Perseverance, Reflectiveness, Resilience, Responsibility, Risk taking, Self-discipline, Self belief, Good judgement

Information, Media and Technology Skills

Create, Manipulate, Process, Collaborate, Communicate, Share, Edit