



# Curriculum Policy

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Headteacher: Chris Bishop  
Chair of Governors: Parneet Kang





## Aims of the Policy

The purpose of the curriculum is to help pupils to:

- develop lively, imaginative and enquiring minds
- acquire knowledge and skills relevant to adult life and a world of rapid and continuous technological change
- have sound numeracy, literacy and ICT skills
- develop personal and moral values, respect for shared values and for other cultures, religions and ways of life
- develop an understanding of the communities in which they live-both locally and the wider world
- appreciate human achievements and aspirations
- take their place in society as informed, confident and responsible citizens

## Main Principles

- The curriculum at Finham Park School has the following characteristics: breadth, balance, relevance, differentiation; progression and continuity; coherence.
- The curriculum builds the following skills: reflection, research, problem solving strategies and independent learning.
- The curriculum develops creativity, instilling a sense of wonder in all students
- The curriculum promotes knowledge and understanding; mastery of Intellectual, physical and interpersonal skills and personal qualities, values and attitudes.
- The curriculum provides experiences to reflect on for the future
- The school has a commitment to provide equality of access for all pupils to academic experiences
- We provide appropriate tasks and learning opportunities to support high expectations and appropriate challenge
- All pupils have an entitlement to work related learning at KS4



- Parents are provided with curriculum information relevant to their child
- The curriculum is subject to planned evaluation and review

## Outcomes

The curriculum:

- delivers the current and future statutory requirements
- is broad, balanced, relevant and differentiated
- enable pupils to fulfil their potential
- prepares pupils to make informed and appropriate choices at all relevant stages of their education
- meets the needs of the full range of abilities within the school
- ensures continuity and progression within the school and between phases of education
- fosters teaching styles which will offer and encourage a variety of relevant learning opportunities
- encourages a respect for the school and its environment so that learning is a positive and pleasurable experience for all
- helps pupils develop lively, enquiring minds, an ability to question and argue rationally and an ability to apply themselves to tasks and physical skills
- helps pupils acquire understanding, knowledge and key skills relevant to school, adult life and employment in a fast-changing world
- helps pupils to use language, number and ICT effectively
- helps pupils develop personal moral values, respect for religious values and tolerance of other races, religions and ways of life
- helps pupils understand the community in which they live and also the wider community
- helps pupils to appreciate human achievements and aspirations



The School therefore endeavours to provide:

- an environment in which young people of all abilities are able to develop the skills and attitudes which will facilitate lifelong learning and sustained personal development.

Although nationally the specialist status for any school is no longer funded, Finham Park remains committed to its specialism in mathematics and STEM. As such we are committed to:

- raising standards of achievement, particularly in Mathematics and STEM for our pupils;
- extending the range of opportunities available to children which best meet their needs and interests;
- developing a unique identity which reflects the School's specialist status;
- benefiting other schools in the area, both secondary and primary;
- strengthening the links between schools and the wider community.

Each area of the curriculum is allotted sufficient time to make its specific contribution, but not so much that it squeezes out other essential areas. The amount of time allocated to each subject will be reviewed annually. There are 50 one hour lessons in a two week (10 day) timetable.

Provision is made within the school for all pupils with special needs.

Additional support is provided for pupils within the classroom and within the Special Needs department's own facilities.

The provision of four foreign languages, and the three separate GCSE science subjects, along with the progressive introduction of setting, stretches the brightest children and enables them to achieve in excess of 11 GCSEs by the end of Key Stage 4.



## Year 7

In Year 7, students broadly follow the National Curriculum. The lesson structure is as follows:

- Mathematics, English, Science,
- IT,
- PE,
- Modern Foreign Languages,
- History, Geography RE and PSHE,
- Art, Drama, Music and Technology,
- World Class Studies including Discovery (a combination of Mathematics and Science)

Pupils are taught in mixed ability classes except for Mathematics, where they are set by ability in the October half term.

Discovery has been part of the curriculum for several years and is well established. It links the real world to the Mathematics behind it.

Our World Class studies programme is designed to introduce students into areas that are not normally covered by the National Curriculum. Students opt for the areas they would like to study and are taught in mixed ability groups. Included within these sessions is an emphasis on developing a student's learning skills which should impact upon their progress across all subjects and the opportunity to experience a subject area that they may wish to pursue in their future learning. All year 7 students will study a 12 week module in Mandarin, learning about the culture of China and some simple language skills.

New in September 2016 is From Year 7 – 11 students can choose to opt for Mandarin Chinese instead of French or Spanish. They will receive 8 hours contact time every two weeks as well as a series of extra-curricular enhancement opportunities funded by an external grant.

The World Class Studies programme includes:

- Drama – Theatre in Education
- Microbit Programming
- Mandarin



- Media – Film and Video Making
- Music – The Power to Change
- Philosophy for Children
- Psychology

## Year 8

This year students study:

- Mathematics, English, Science,
- IT, PE,
- Modern Foreign Languages,
- History, Geography, RS, PSHE, Art,
- Drama, Music, Technology.

All subjects are taught in mixed ability groups except for Mathematics.

## Year 9 - 11

This year begins the KS4 GCSE Programmes of study. Students follow:

Core - examined:

- Mathematics, English,
- Either Biology, Chemistry and Physics or Combined Science
- Modern Foreign Languages, (French, German, Spanish or Mandarin)
- History / Geography
- Religious Studies

Optional – examined:

- IT
- Computing
- Business Studies
- Drama



- Film Studies
- Art – Fine
- Art – Graphic Communication
- Art – Photography
- Food and Nutrition
- Engineering
- Product Design
- Music
- History
- Geography
- Sports Studies
- Spanish / French / German

Core – non-examined

- PE
- PSHE

Students are taught in ability sets in Mathematics and Science and in mixed ability groupings in all other areas.

## Alternative Routes

Students have access to a wide range of vocational courses as well.

Some students have a bespoke pathway constructed to support them in fewer GCSE subjects, giving them access to curriculum tutorial time with staff. We have string partnerships with local colleges. They attend these courses one day per week and work towards recognised qualification.

## Courses at KS4

Course	Qualification
Art - Fine Art	GCSE



Art - Graphics	GCSE
Art - Photography	GCSE
Biology	GCSE
Business	GCSE
Chemistry	GCSE
Computing	GCSE
Drama	GCSE
Engineering	BTEC
English	GCSE
English Literature	GCSE
Film Studies	GCSE
French	GCSE
Geography	GCSE
History	GCSE
ICT – Interactive Media	Cambridge Technical
Mandarin	GCSE
Mathematics	GCSE
Media Studies	GCSE
Music	GCSE
Philosophy and Ethics (Religious Studies)	GCSE
Physics	GCSE
Product Design	GCSE
Science (double)	GCSE
Spanish	GCSE
Sport	GCSE



PHSE	Not assessed
Core PE	Not assessed

## Post 16 Curriculum

Students either follow the A level route or the A level and BTEC route. The decision about the programme of study in year 12 will be dependent on the wishes of the student and prior academic achievement (ie GCSE point score). It will be overseen by the Head of the Sixth-form in consultation with Subject Leaders and will be conditional upon meeting entry requirements.

### 1) A level

In year 12 students are expected to choose a minimum of 3 A levels and an enrichment course. Students have access to a broad range of A levels delivered here on site but also to all A levels offered across the Federation (and sometimes across Coventry). The advantage of working within Coventry is that students have relatively easy access to all Coventry schools so that compromises can be kept to a minimum.

### 2) Applied A Levels and/or BTEC Route

Some students wish to follow a more vocational route and can combine the level 3 BTEC courses with an A level programme. The expectation is that students will follow the equivalent of 3 A level subjects in year 12 and 13.

All students follow the Enrichment programme which offers a wide range of opportunities to ensure they have a broad range of experiences to take to the next stage of their career. This will include re-sitting GCSE Mathematics or English for those students who did not achieve a grade C or higher in year 11.



Written by V Maginnis

September 2016

Reviewed by A Ditch

September 2018

Next review date:

September 2020

Signed:

CHRIS BISHOP  
Headteacher

Date: 27 Nov 2018

Signed:

PARNEET KANG  
Chair of Governors

Date: 27 Nov 2018