



## The Winston Churchill School

### CURRICULUM POLICY

Review by:	SLT
Adopted by Full Governing Body:	May 2017
Next Review:	May 2018

#### **Aims:**

Our curriculum aims to enable all of our students to become:

- successful learners who enjoy learning, make progress and achieve
- confident individuals who are able to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives
- responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to society.

#### **Objectives:**

Our curriculum will be regularly reviewed by staff, parents and students to ensure that we:

- Motivate and engage learners and enable them to succeed
- Provide opportunities for all our students to gain the knowledge and skills in English, Mathematics and ICT they need for future education and employment and for effective participation in society
- Have rigorous systems of assessment which support teaching and learning, providing opportunities for focused support and challenge where needed
- Use AFL strategies which will help learners assess their own knowledge and recognise what steps they need to take to improve and extend their knowledge
- Allow flexibility to personalise learning to meet the needs of all students
- Enable students to make a smooth progression from primary into secondary and from there into higher education or employment

We endeavour to develop and deliver a curriculum which incorporates the best of innovative curriculum design, but also retains the traditional aspects of learning which form an essential part of the ethos of our school.

## Organisation of the Students

The organisation of students is explained in detail in the Curriculum Plan which is updated annually.

### Key Stage 3

On entry to the school all students study the core National Curriculum subjects of English, mathematics, science, computing and PSHCE as well as the foundation subjects of French, German, history, geography, art, music, drama, technology, physical education and religious studies. As they progress through KS3, students who struggle with studying two foreign languages may be recommended to focus on either French or German and will receive additional literacy support.

Students are set into Grammar, Enigma and Aspire streams, where they are given the opportunity in Year 8 to study Latin and Astronomy (in Grammar and Enigma) and are in mixed ability classes in Aspire. In addition, there are also opportunities to study another modern foreign language as part of extra-curricular courses.

If needed, in Year 7 there is a Foundation Group for students who enter the school with very low levels who will need extra support to succeed in the school. These students are taught by one teacher for the majority of their subjects, although they will also go to specialist areas for other teaching.

Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education are taught in discrete lessons in Year 7 and Year 8 and through a range of subjects, tutorial sessions and in assemblies.

### Key Stage 4

All KS4 students must study the core subjects: English, mathematics, science and religious education and must participate in PE. Students will follow one of three possible pathways, decided by the Assistant Head (Curriculum), the Year Leader and the SENCO.

At present, the majority study a modern foreign language (French or German) and a humanity subject (geography or history). A selection of students will be directed towards a more vocational pathway and will choose a combination of GCSE and vocational qualifications.

Students will then choose two “free choice” subjects from the list below:

Art	Geography
Astronomy	History
Business studies (GCSE & BTec)	Health & Social Care
Catering or Food & Nutrition (GCSE, VCert and a Level 1 qualification)	Computer science
Child Development	Media Studies (Film studies)
Design & Technology: Resistant Materials, Textile technology and Technical award	Music GCSE or Music Technology (VCert)
Drama (GCSE and VCert)	PE (GCSE & VCert)
French or German	Statistics
	Latin can be studied as an additional GCSE after school.

Following a review of our curriculum offer there has also been an increase in our vocational offer with the introduction of several new V-cert qualifications such as Business, Health and Nutrition, Music Technology and PE. In Year 10 the school also offers a carousel of extracurricular activities such as Critical thinking, Microsoft academy, Personal finance and careers and aspiration workshops to compliment the normal academic package offered. In special circumstances, students will be invited to study vocational courses on a part-time basis. We also run the in-house Beauty course and have developed links with local providers enabled to deliver a range of level 2 vocational qualifications.

## **Teaching Methods**

Teaching at The Winston Churchill School encompasses a range of methods, both traditional and modern, whole class and small group. The current focus for Winston Churchill School is a move towards student-led learning and the delivery of five competencies (analysis, communication, collaboration, ingenuity and resilience) linked to skilled development. The academic strength of the school is founded on strong, specialist departments and effective monitoring of the quality of learning and progress. Assessment for Learning is a key feature of all lessons with particular emphasis on objective-led lessons and self/peer-assessment. Outside speakers and events form an important part of our learning.

## **Student Support**

We ensure that the needs of all students are being met. Students with Special Educational Needs are supported effectively throughout the school, usually in their teaching group although they are sometimes withdrawn from appropriate lessons. Students with English as an Additional Language (EAL) are supported and those who speak a language other than English are encouraged to take a GCSE in that subject by Year 10. Gifted and Talented students are identified and supported in a range of ways both within subject areas and through specialist activities.

## **Tutor Programme, Academic and Pastoral Support and Guidance**

Effective tutoring is central to raising standards of attainment and achievement and supporting students in their personal development. The form tutor will monitor the academic and social progress of students in their care, provide essential information and guidance specific to that student and year cohort and deliver a quality, structured tutor time programme, the quality of which will be closely monitored to ensure students are provided with a high quality tutor time experience. A focus on Options in Year 9 via packages such as Fast Tomato and U-explore, Work Experience preparation in Year 10 and post 16 transition in Year 11, as well as a comprehensive revision and study skills programme for all years are key components of the tutor schedule.

## **Post 16**

The school has developed excellent links with local Sixth Form and FE colleges and with Surrey University through programmes which encourage student aspirations. Our curriculum will ensure that students have opportunities to develop leadership qualities and independent learning skills for the future.

## **Outcomes**

As a result of continued development and evaluation of the curriculum offer we will measure its success by

- meeting the needs of all learners across the school
- ensuring that assessment is a key part of curriculum planning
- evaluating the changes made as part of our implementation process
- ensuring that developments are secure and make an impact on learner success

As national ideas on curriculum are in a state of change the school will review its Curriculum offer annually. We will strive to ensure that our students will experience a curriculum that is relevant and rewarding, provides them with appropriate support and challenge and inspires them to achieve. It will encourage them to participate fully in all aspects of school life and there will be a positive impact on behaviour and attendance. Our students will leave the school equipped for the challenges and rewards that life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century offers.

## **APPENDIX 1 - POLICY FOR CAREERS EDUCATION AND GUIDANCE**

### **GENERAL STATEMENT**

The Winston Churchill School is committed to providing a planned, progressive programme of activities to which all students are entitled and will have access. Careers Guidance and Inspiration is designed to help students prepare themselves for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life, ensuring that, wherever possible, students' progress to an opportunity in further education, training or employment.

Careers Guidance and Inspiration supports and is underpinned by the school's policies for Teaching and Learning, Assessment, recording, reporting and target setting, PSHCE, Enterprise and work related learning, Equal opportunities, Health and safety, and Special needs. A member of SLT oversees the programme.

### **AIMS**

In particular, the programme aims to help students:

- develop their knowledge and understanding of the changing nature of work, learning and careers
- extend their understanding of opportunities in learning and work
- make good use of information and guidance
- develop and use their self- knowledge when thinking about, and making course and other choices
- develop and use the skills they need to review achievements, plan future actions and make decisions,
- present themselves well and cope with change and transition

### **OBJECTIVES**

- To enable all students to develop the knowledge and skills that they need to take charge of their personal and career development
- To understand the importance of 'lifelong career development' and 'lifelong learning' throughout their working life
- To investigate careers and opportunities in learning, work and leisure, at home and abroad
- To know where and how to access appropriate information, resources, help and guidance
- To be an integral part of the school curriculum
  
- To contribute to wider school action to raise aspirations, improve motivation, develop key and other employability skills and illustrate the relevance of subject studies in future life
- To promote equal opportunities and to challenge stereotypical thinking and attitudes
- To help students overcome any overt and hidden barriers to progress that they may encounter and raise their aspirations
- To enable students to understand that a career is a personal journey that includes learning, work and career breaks (both planned and unplanned), and that all career decisions involve making choices about learning and lifestyles
- To ensure that students receive appropriate, impartial information and guidance, especially at key decision and transition points.

### **RESOURCES**

The school provides up-to-date information in a range of media, formats and languages. Students have supervised access to IT facilities, including careers software, information on Frog Learn and the internet. Specialist equipment, programmes of study and support are available for all, including individuals with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Additional information sources include participation in our own careers fair, Winston Extra sessions for a large selection of year 10 events, careers interviews for all (priority given to year 11, 10 and 9), activities, work with sixth form

colleges, links with partnerships such as Wellington College, Woking Borough Council, Oxford University, the University of Surrey, employers, businesses, ALPS (Association of Learning Providers in Surrey, focussing on apprenticeships) and other organisations. College prospectuses are available in the LRC (students are invited to sessions where these are used) and careers resources can be accessed through FROG Learn, in school or at home. Year 12 choices are followed up to ensure that all students are making the most of the RPA. Students who are thought of 'at being at risk of not being in education, employment or training' (NEET) are identified by the January of Year 11 and receive external supported until the December of that year.

## **STAFFING**

Two assistant Head teachers coordinate the careers programme, including the delivery of the Winston Extra sessions; Year Leaders ensure that tutors deliver teaching resources appropriate to students' needs; a local careers specialist is available throughout the week to support students and lessons and the Library assistant coordinates the Frog Site and library resources. All staff are expected to contribute to the careers education and guidance programme through their roles as tutors and subject teachers and when approached by students, respond with appropriate guidance and support. All guidance aims to be impartial, confidential and responsive to students' needs and based on the principle of equality. Administration time is provided by the school to support Careers education, including Work Experience.

## **ORGANISATION**

The careers programme includes careers education lessons within PSHCE lessons (Year 7 and 8), tutor time careers activities (Years 7-11), information and research activities, work-related learning (including 3 days of Enterprise Education), The Young Enterprise Scheme, Business Mentoring and one week work experience in Year 10, action planning and recording achievement from Year 7-11. Other focused events including work experience preparation and evaluation take place during tutor time and other appropriate parts of the curriculum. Tracking and intervention (RONI) with potential NEETS is carried out through Surrey. Connexions interviews take place in Y11 for a small number of selected students. Students, staff and parents use the U-Explore computer careers package which forms part of the comprehensive tutor programme and students in Year 9 use Fast Tomato, as part of the options programme. Students from Year 8 onwards participate in an annual discussion with their parents and tutors to identify their Careers Aspirations. This helps identify student for further opportunities, support and intervention. This is supplemented by mentoring and follow-up for all students at risk of becoming NEETS in Year 11 through to the Autumn Term of Year 12. This comprehensive programme helps to raise student awareness, focus and aspirations.

## **MONITORING, REVIEW & EVALUATION**

All programme activities including work experience and enterprise events are monitored, reviewed and evaluated. The findings are discussed and the development priorities identified forming the basis of the Careers Development Plan which is the responsibility of the Assistant Head.

## **APPENDIX 2 - POLICY FOR PERSONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH, ECONOMIC AND CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION**

### **AIMS**

- To provide students with the knowledge, understanding, attitudes, values and skills they need in order to reach their potential as individuals and within the community.
- To promote and embed in students an understanding and respect for common humanity, diversity and differences so that they can go on to form the effective, fulfilling relationships that are an essential part of life and learning.

### **OBJECTIVES**

The PSHCE programme supports the development of the skills, attitudes, values and patterns of behaviour, which enable students to:

- Have a sense of purpose
- Value self and others
- Form relationships
- Make and act on informed decisions
- Communicate effectively
- Work with others
- Respond to challenge
- Be an active partner in their own learning
- Be active citizens within the local community
- Explore issues related to living in a democratic society
- Become healthy and fulfilled individuals

### **GENERAL STATEMENT**

Students are encouraged to take part in a wide range of activities and experiences across and beyond the curriculum, contributing fully to the life of our school and communities. In doing so they learn to recognise their own worth, work well with others and become increasingly responsible for their own learning. They reflect on

their experiences and understand how they are developing personally and socially, tackling many of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues that are part of growing up.

### **ORGANISATION**

PSHCE is overseen by two Assistant Head teachers and is timetabled fortnightly for each Year 7 and 8 class and for six lessons in Year 9 classes. Specific elements are also taught through cross-curricular opportunities in subjects such as PE, Maths, Science and RE. In addition, we provide enrichment activities to support the curriculum, during tutor time and through sessions such as Be Smart Be Safe Day (Yr 9), Personal Hygiene (Yr 8), Drug Awareness (Yr 8), The Teenage Pregnancy Project (Yr 9), Domestic Violence (Yr 9), Wasted – Drug Awareness (Yr 9) and Surrey Drive Smart (Yr 7 & 11).

School trip experiences and extra-curricular activities make an important contribution to the students' social, emotional and citizenship development. Assemblies support the delivery of PSHCE through planned themes and are used to launch specific themes, such as diversity, being healthy and anti-bullying.

### **CONTENT**

The Winston Churchill School's PSHCE programme is divided into three Programmes of Study: Health and well-being; Relationships; Living in the wider world.

## **PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**

The school believes that it is important to have the support of parents and the wider community for the PSHCE programme. Parents are given the opportunity to find out about and discuss the schools' programme through

- FROG
- specific parents evenings
- involvement in policy development
- involvement in curriculum development (Parents Forum)
- information leaflets/displays

## **INVOLVEMENT OF VISITING SPEAKERS**

Visiting speakers from the community, e.g. health promotion specialists, the school nurse and community, make a valuable contribution to the PSHCE programme. Their input is carefully planned and monitored so as to fit into and complement the programme. Teachers are always present during these sessions and remain responsible for the delivery of the PSHCE/ programme.

(Ref. 'The Effective Use of Visiting Speakers: A Good Practice Guide' - Surrey Healthy Schools publication)

## **TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS**

Active engagement in learning, is most effective in teaching PSHCE. Students need opportunities to clarify their values and beliefs and rehearse and develop enquiry and interpersonal skills. Students enjoy a comprehensive, balanced and relevant body of factual information to inform their present and future risk assessment, decision-making and management.

A variety of teaching and learning strategies are used to deliver PSHCE which take into account students' age, development, understanding and needs. Students need to work in a safe, secure climate to be able to explore their own and others' attitudes, values and skills. Effective PSHCE lessons involve a high level of interaction where each student has planned opportunities for learning through:

- The development of a trusting relationship between the teacher and the students enabling the consideration of sensitive issues to take place
- Collaborative work
- Opportunities for reflection
- Challenge within a safe environment
- Respect for each genuinely made contribution
- Negotiation
- Accommodating new information and skills
- Building on current experience and use of first-hand learning to achieve positive ends

## **ASSESSMENT**

As with any other subject, assessment in PSHCE education focuses on the learning that is taking place. The evidence in Years 7 & 8 PSHCE passport which allows students and staff to assess how much progress has been made within each unit of work. However it is important to note that PSHCE education alone is not, and cannot be, responsible for students' future lifestyle choices.

It is also important that students are helped to make connections between the learning they receive in PSHCE education and their current and future 'real life' experiences. The skill of critical reflection is therefore at the heart of assessment for learning in PSHCE education.

## **SAFEGUARDING**

Due to the nature of PSHCE education, students' learning may result in them seeking advice or support on a specific personal issue. No teacher can offer complete confidentiality, and it is important for everyone's safety that teachers and students are clear about what can and cannot be kept confidential. It is also very important for external contributors, including school nurses, to be clear about these rules and that whilst working in the classroom, they are bound by The Winston Churchill School's Safeguarding Policy.

## **TRAINING AND SUPPORT FOR STAFF**

All staff benefit from PSHCE training in order to enhance their PSHCE delivery skills. Opportunities are provided for staff to identify individual training needs on a yearly basis and relevant support is provided. In addition to this, support for teaching and understanding PSHCE issues is incorporated in our staff INSET programme, drawing on staff expertise and/or a range of external agencies.

## **MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

The delivery of the programme is monitored in PSHCE department meetings through observation and discussion with teaching staff to ensure consistent and coherent curriculum provision.

An evaluation of the programme's effectiveness will be conducted on the basis of:

- student and teacher evaluation of the content and learning processes
- staff meetings to review and share experience
- an assessment of student learning objectives

## **LINKS WITH OTHER POLICIES**

We recognise the clear link between PSHCE and the following policies and staff are aware of the need to refer to these policies when appropriate

- Sex and Relationship Education
- Drugs Education and other Substances
- Teaching and Learning
- Equal Opportunities
- Safeguarding
- Anti-bullying

Signed: Chair of Committee:.....Date:.....