



Curriculum Policy

Last Reviewed: July 2021

Next Review: July 2022



1. CURRICULUM INTENT: STATEMENT

At Sandringham School, we aim to provide a curriculum which:

- Is as rich, inspiring and broad as possible to allow students to widen their horizons in each subject.
- Provides the depth that enables students to master the key knowledge and skills essential for each subject.
- Is well designed, inclusive and carefully sequenced to provide all students with a rigorous foundation for future progression.
- Engenders high expectations and challenge in order to build students' perseverance and self-belief.
- Provides students with opportunities to take their curriculum beyond the classroom to develop their love of learning, independence and creative thinking.
- Offers students a wide range of opportunities to own and personalise their curriculum in order to develop existing talents and interests and discover new ones.
- Enables students to maximise their potential, achieving the highest levels of academic success leading to the widest range of pathways.
- Raises students' aspirations and equips them with the knowledge and skills to flourish in their future careers.
- Will support all students to become confident and erudite and are able to lead, persuade and challenge others.
- Fosters the development of students' character, personal development, health and wellbeing preparing them to make a valuable contribution to society.

2. CURRICULUM INTENT: ORGANISATION OF THE CURRICULUM

The school week is divided into 25 sessions. There are 5 sessions per day, with 4 sessions before lunch and 1 session in the afternoon. The school operates a two-week timetable.

At Key Stage 3 (KS3) the curriculum complies with the requirements of the National Curriculum and is currently organised as follows:

Subject	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
English	3	3	3
Mathematics	3	3	3
Science	3	3	3
MFL	3	3*	2*
Second Language / Humanities Carousel	0	1	0
PE including Dance in Year 7 and 8	2	2	2
Technology	2	2	2
Art	1	1	1
Drama	1	1	1
Geography	1	1	1
History	1	1	1
Computer Science	1	1	1
Music	1	1	1
PRE	1	1	1
Personal Development	2	1	1
Modular Curriculum	0	0	2
Total sessions	25	25	25

* A small number of students study Key Skills instead of MFL. This is a legacy provision and from September 2021, all students study at language at Sandringham.

In Year 9, students engage in the modular curriculum which takes place over two sessions a week and is comprised of 4 x 9 week module rotations throughout the year. This has been designed to add further richness to the curriculum, to widen students' horizons, provide opportunities to study subjects in more detail, develop their love of learning and enable them to begin to personalise their own curriculum in advance of taking their GCSE options in Year 10. The modular curriculum also includes an opportunity to study the Higher Project Qualification which offers students further personalisation and independent study. The modular curriculum is reviewed each year and its specific components are on the school website.

Key Stage 4

The KS4 core curriculum is comprised of: English, Maths, Science, PE and Personal Development. In addition, students have 3 option choices. The vast majority of students (at least 80%) are directed to study at least one Modern Foreign Language (French, German or Spanish) as one of their options and students are encouraged to select history or geography as another option in order to achieve the English Baccalaureate. The curriculum is currently organised as follows:

Subject	Year 10	Year 11
English	4	4
Mathematics	4	4
Science (Triple or Combined)	6	6
PE or Dance	2.5	2.5
Personal Development	1	1
Option 1: MFL/Vocational course	2.5	2.5
Option 2	2.5	2.5
Option 3	2.5	2.5
Total sessions	25	25

- The curriculum, including options courses are reviewed in the Autumn Term every year to ensure that the courses offered continue to meet the needs of each particular year group and their successful progression to the next stage of their education.
- The options system is currently organised on a free choice basis, after students have been given guidance on MFL, with blocks constructed to enable the maximum number of pupils to be placed on their preferred courses.
- Subject options will only run if there is sufficient pupil interest to make the groups viable. Should a subject be oversubscribed, the selection process is based around pupils' expressed order of preference i.e. a pupil who ranked a particular subject first will be given a place over a student who ranked it second. Should there be too many first choices for all pupils to be placed, places will be allocated by lottery.
- Selection by prior attainment forms no part of the options placement process at KS4. However, guidance around which pathway is most suitable for students (including, for example, the decision about whether to study Combined or Triple Science) is made in consultation with staff based on student's achievement in that subject area.
- The specific qualifications on offer are available on the school website.

Key Stage 5

- At KS5 the curriculum is currently organised together with Beaumont and Verulam schools (The BeauSandaVer Education Trust) to provide access to the largest possible range of courses.
- Similar to KS4, the availability of courses is dependent on sufficient student interest to make the course viable
- The curriculum across the BSV Education Trust is reviewed annually to ensure that courses remain appropriate and meet the needs and aspirations of students and enable progression to students' destinations.
- Entry to the Sixth Form is dependent on students meeting the entry criteria outlined in the BSV prospectus.
- The core curriculum of 3 (or sometimes 4) A levels or vocational qualifications (e.g. BTEC) is complemented with a compulsory programme of Personal Development, Sixth Form Games and range of optional enrichment courses.
- The KS5 curriculum offer are available on the school website and the BeauSandVer website.

Curriculum Mapping

Directors of Learning (DoLS) have mapped the curriculum for their subject at all key stages to ensure that it is coherently planned. It is mapped to embody our school's curriculum intent statement so that students have opportunities to study topics in depth so that knowledge and skills are mastered. Furthermore, it is sequenced to enable students to learn the curriculum well, providing a foundation for future learning and progression. Subject curriculum maps are available on the school's website. In addition, it is mapped to literacy, numeracy, character and SMSC aspects of the curriculum.

Curriculum Enrichment

At Sandringham, we strive for every student to be involved in extra curricular activities and there is a rich offer for students at all key stages. The specific offer is available on the school website. Participation is monitored to enable review of the effectiveness of the provision.

As Sandringham, we have developed a super curriculum for each taught subject. This comprises activities that students can undertake to take their learning further and beyond the taught curriculum. Each subject's super curriculum is available on each subject page on the school website.

3. LEADERSHIP OF THE CURRICULUM

- Specified members of the Leadership Group (LG) have responsibility for oversight of the intent, implementation and impact of the curriculum.
- In relation to curriculum intent, this includes reviewing the curriculum offer, the organisation of the timetable, placement of students, delivery of CEIAG, viability of courses and making recommendations as to new courses
- In relation to implementation, this includes supporting the development of subject knowledge and effective long term learning strategies in line with the school's Teaching and Learning policy.
- In relation to impact, this involves students' knowledge of the curriculum, achievement and outcomes in national assessments as well as their progression to future pathways.
- Directors of Learning (DoLS) have responsibility for strategic leadership and direction of specific subject areas. These responsibilities include: curriculum mapping, organisation and regular review of schemes of learning, monitoring and evaluating the work of the subject area, supporting any non-specialist teachers, providing efficient resource management for the area and ensuring that the subject curriculum meets the needs of all pupils. Each DoL is line managed by a member of LG.

4. GROUPING ARRANGEMENTS

- Sandringham School believes that individual faculties should have discretion choose their grouping arrangements so long as all students' progress in their learning is a priority and that the whole school value of *Everybody can be Somebody' and the school's curriculum intent* is maintained.
- The majority of subjects are taught in mixed prior attainment groups at all key stages. Where subjects employ some grouping by prior attainment, for example in Mathematics and MFL and PE, subjects must have clear procedures for placing students in different groups and must review student placement regularly. Any changes to groups made throughout the academic year should be communicated to parents in writing.
- Selection of groups is based on a variety of sources, including:
 - Prior and current attainment
 - External assessment data
 - Teacher assessment
- Student behaviour is not a criterion for selection. Requests for students to be moved "down" groups should be thoroughly discussed and focus on the impact on the student's motivation and learning. All teaching groups must be designed to maximise learning outcomes.
- All stakeholders: students, teachers, and TAs should be involved in the process determining effective groupings where they exist. Consultation should also include the Performance Director (PD).
- While numerical codes (e.g. Set 1 - Set 8) are attached to groups for purposes of timetabling, to aid motivation it is preferable that they are not referred to as 'top' or 'bottom' sets.
- Higher groups should never be full and should have space for students 'moving up'.
- Higher groups will invariably have larger numbers of students than lower groups.

- Ideally, teachers should teach a balance of 'sets' and no single teacher should have a timetable skewed with either 'higher' groups or "lower" groups.
- When teaching 'set' groups all teaching will be guided by the principles and strands of Assessment for Learning and include 'core' and 'extension' work.
- It is permissible for faculties to have single sex groups provided it can be justified that, in doing so, it is going to raise standards of attainment for both genders.
- Teachers should recognise that 'set' groups are not homogeneous and still remain mixed prior attainment groups. Differentiation remains crucial if learners are to maximise their potential and differentiation must also occur by task and not solely by outcome. This occurs by using:
 - A range of teaching strategies based on knowledge of students' prior learning, with reference to the Inclusion Directory and use of Circles of Inclusion
 - A range of inclusion strategies such as differentiated resources, within class groupings, in-class support, extension activities for all students including High Starters
- It must be remembered that students gain a sense of personal improvement by being exposed to regular formative feedback within the same group rather than by moving sets. In light of the fact that Sandringham hopes to develop both self-esteem and attainment of all students, Faculties will:
 - Review their teaching groups on a termly basis (particularly after end of unit assessments have been recorded), taking action to support groups or individuals if attainment is below expectations.
 - Plan opportunities for students to move sets, informing parents / carers in order to strengthen the home-school partnership as well as other appropriate external agencies who may be supporting a student.

5. MONITORING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CURRICULUM

- The DH i/c curriculum is responsible for monitoring how the curriculum is implemented across the school and its impact on students.
- The link LG member is responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of the curriculum in the areas for which they are responsible.
- Monitoring of the curriculum and its effectiveness on pupil learning takes place throughout the year using a variety of self-evaluation tools such as lesson observations, internal and external progress data and book looks.
- The Curriculum and Welfare Committee of the Governing Body monitors the effectiveness of the Curriculum.