

Curriculum Policy

Policy Number: HBS003

Governor Committee: T & L

Author: FJM

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Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed in full by the Governing Body no less than annually.

The policy was last reviewed and agreed by the Governing Body on 28/06/2022.
It is due for review in 12 months from the above date.

Signature _____

Date _____

Head Teacher

Signature _____

Date _____

Chair of Governors

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The curriculum at Hitchin Boys' School is planned around four key themes:

- it is ambitious, engaging pupils with the best that has been thought and done.
- it is coherently planned and sequenced, so that both knowledge and skills develop and consequently understanding deepens.
- where necessary it is tailored to fit with the individual learning needs of those with educational challenges.
- The curriculum remains broad and balanced, both in terms of subjects taught and content studied within each subject.

In Key Stage 4 and 5, the subject content is directed by, but not limited to, the exam syllabus. In KS3 subject content is mapped out to fulfil the criteria above. While the KS3 curriculum at HBS does not mirror the National Curriculum exactly, it is designed to be at least as ambitious in terms of scope and depth.

In addition to the subject-based curriculum there are several cross-curricular themes which are covered in more than one subject area — for example, Information Technology, Citizenship, Work Related Learning, Relationships, Sex, Health, Multi-cultural and Environmental Education.

KEY STAGE 3:

In Year 7 all boys study the same broad curriculum, as required by the National Curriculum. Within this, all tutor groups study French. Most teaching is in tutor groups, except for Mathematics, French and Science, where setting by attainment begins in the Spring Term of Year 7. In Key Stage 3, students study Mathematics, English, Science, Design & Technology, French, History, Geography, Religious Education, Music, Art, P.E. & Games, Computer Science, Drama and Personal Development (this covers Personal, Social, Health, Relationships, Citizenship and Economic education).

In Years 8 most of these arrangements continue. Most boys start a second foreign language, either Spanish or German, whilst some are identified to do extra literacy work. The option to continue with a second language is extended in year 9, with single linguists undertaking a rotation of GCSE Taster courses in Business and D&T.

KEY STAGE 4:

In Years 10 and 11 there is still a broad curriculum but an option scheme gives students agency over 3 option choices. All students are expected to take GCSEs in English, Mathematics, Science, and Geography and/or History. All students study at least one Modern Foreign Language to GCSE, except for a small group who can choose a more practical or vocational course instead from the KS4 options.. Students then have a free choice of two additional GCSEs from such subjects as PE, Drama, Art, Business Studies, Computer Science, iMedia, Food technology, Product design and Philosophy and Ethics. All students continue with core PE and there is the opportunity for students to study GCSE PE or BTEC Sport. There is also the opportunity to study GCSE Music as an extra-curricular subject.

The GCSE Options information is issued via our website in the Spring Term of Year 9 and option choices are gathered via an online system.

POST-16:

Students joining the Sixth Form are encouraged to follow a broad, challenging curriculum. There is provision for students to take four A levels, but the normal expectation is that they will take three. In addition, there are other types of courses offered within the Hitchin schools' consortium, such as BTEC Nationals (Certificate/Diploma) or the EPQ qualification. In 2023 we plan to introduce our first T level in Business.

The Hitchin Schools' Sixth Form Consortium Prospectus is issued in the Autumn Term of Year 11 each year.