

BRIGHTON GIRLS POLICY

SENIOR SCHOOL CURRICULUM POLICY

Document Control

Document Owner & Contact Person : Valid as of:

Deputy Head
Academic

September 2023

School: Version: Last Review: Brighton Girls Senior School & Sixth Form September 2023

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1. PURPOSE & APPLICABILITY

This policy provides guidelines for the arrangements that have been made by Brighton Girls in relation to curriculum. This policy is applicable to Brighton Girls Senior & Sixth Form School.

2. LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS & MEANINGS

A-Level Advanced Level Qualification
BGS Brighton Girls' School
BTEC the Bachelor of Technology
EAL English as an Additional Language
EPQ Extended Project Qualification
EYFS Early Years Foundation Stage
GCSE General Certificate of Secondary Education
GDST Girls' Day School Trust
HE/FN Home Economics/Food & Nutrition
HoD Head of Department
ICT Information and Communication Technologies
ILP Individual Learning Plan
ISI Independent Schools Inspectorate
MFL Modern Foreign Languages
PE Physical Education
SEND Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

May / Should Advisory

Shall / Must Mandatory

3. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

3.1. Introduction

At Brighton Girls, students are encouraged to develop the view that learning should be an enjoyable, challenging, rewarding and a confidence-building experience. The curriculum aims to meet the school's aim of being Kind and Bold.

3.2. Curriculum overview

The core subjects of English and Mathematics are taught from years 7 to 11 and all pupils take GCSE examinations in these subjects. Computing is currently taught from years 7 to 9 and reinforced in year 10 for all students with some taking GCSE Computing as an option choice. Science and Modern Foreign Languages also form part of our core curriculum and it is compulsory to take a Modern Foreign Language at GCSE. Physical Education is compulsory for years 7 to 13. The Humanities, creative and technological subjects are taken by all students at Key Stage 3. Students can then opt to carry these on to GCSE and Advanced Level. Setting takes place in MFL and Mathematics from Year 7 and in Science from year 9. The sixth form provides a wide range of courses with most students starting with three subjects at A-Level, a compulsory EPQ and the option of a Liberal Arts course (choices include: MFL or BTEC in Food & Nutrition).

Departmental Handbooks and Subject Overviews are written by the Head of Departments (HoDs) and provide information as to what is taught and when as well as information in regards to supporting those with individual needs. Homework is an integral part of the learning process, helping students to reinforce the work undertaken in class and to develop the skills and practice of independent study.

Students with SEND have an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) developed by the SENCO, students and parents. Students with EAL are also supported through an ILP where necessary and are monitored by the EAL Coordinator. As well as incorporating strategies that help support individual needs within the classroom, departments offer support clinics at lunchtimes and after school for students to attend, should they need further support outside of the classroom.

There is a wealth of co-curricular activities and experiences that are offered to students. This is an important part of the school's ethos and philosophy that each girl should attend at least one co-curricular activity to extend their learning beyond the classroom.

Students experience hearing from outside speakers regarding their careers and work experience in year 11 and the sixth form. Each student is provided with careers advice which is impartial and allows students to make informed decisions about the range of career options available to them. In sixth form, robust guidance is given to students when applying for higher education or employment.

Our curriculum is designed to ensure we teach our students not only about subject specific content but about respect for other people, particularly in regard to the protected characteristics. We recognise the protected characteristics as listed in Section 4 of the Equality Act: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage & civil partnership, pregnancy & maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Our Wellbeing (PSHE) curriculum ensures that students have a firm understanding of these protected characteristics and they are also discussed in assemblies.

With regard to fundamental British Values, our aim is to ensure that lessons actively promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. These topics will also be discussed in assemblies with students and within the Wellbeing (PSHE) curriculum for years 7-13.

The curriculum is constantly under review. We aim to give the students a balanced curriculum to ensure that each student is able to make informed and realistic choices about their education at all stages. We aim to help students develop an informed perspective about the role of the individual in the community, society and the world of work. We hope that their enjoyment of our curriculum will encourage them to take up the challenge of lifelong learning and enable them to cope with future changes in society.

3.3. Curriculum Organisation

The curriculum and timetable are revised each year. The Senior School works a 2-week timetable of 5 x 1 hour Lessons each day and 2 registration periods. Mixed ability registration groups are established from entrance tests, interviews and other application data. At Key Stage 4, students have the opportunity to study 9 GCSEs. At sixth form, students are expected to study 3 A-Levels, with some students studying 4.

3.4. KEY STAGE 3

The Key stage 3 curriculum follows the National Curriculum and beyond. Students study one Modern Foreign Language (French or Spanish) and Latin in Years 7 and 8 and at the end of Year 8 they have an option to choose between Latin or Classical Civilisation. Science is taught as a whole in Year 7 then as separate Sciences from Year 8.

3.5. Subject Number of Lessons

Subject	Year: 7 8 9
English	6 6 6
Maths	6 6 6
Science	6 0 0
Biology	0 2 3
Chemistry	0 2 3
Physics	0 2 3
MFL - French or Spanish	5 5 5
Geography	2 2 2
History	2 2 2
Religious Studies	2 2 2
Computer Science	2 2 2

Latin (or Classical Civilisation in Year 9)	2 3 2**
Art	2 2 2
Drama	2 2 2
Music	2 2 2
Food & Nutrition/Design Thinking (on rotation)	2* 2* 2*
PE	6 5 3
Dance	1 1 1
Classical Civilisation (or Latin in Year 9)	0 0 2**
Wellbeing (PSHE)	2 2 2
Physical Education	6 5 3

3.6. Key Stage 4

The Key stage 4 curriculum follows the National Curriculum and beyond. Students will study for 9 GCSEs. The compulsory subjects are: English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, MFL and Science (Combined Science or Triple Science). Students are encouraged to study a Humanities subject and have a choice of two other options (Triple Science would be an option). All students have a timetabled Wellbeing and PE lessons.

Subject hours per fortnight	Years: 10 11
English language and Literature	7 7
Mathematics	7 7

Combined Science	10 10
Triple Science (option)	15 15
Options	5 5
Wellbeing	2 2
PE	4 4

Study Skills is offered to students in Key Stage 3 and 4 to a small minority who need time to develop bespoke skills with a small group and a teacher.

3.7. Key Stage 5

At Key Stage 5, students study 3 subjects, an EPQ and a Liberal Arts (for example: Language Diploma or Food & Nutrition course or PE). In general each A-Level subject is taught between 6-9 hours per fortnight. All students have a timetabled Wellbeing and PE lessons. In addition, there is one afternoon double lesson each fortnight which is an assessment slot teachers can book their students into which means that students do not lose lesson time by completing assessments. In Year 12 EPQ is assigned 3 hours a fortnight throughout the year and 1 hour in the autumn term of Year 13 to support students to complete the course. The EPQ is compulsory for all students in Year 12 unless students are studying 4 A Levels or have other appropriate circumstances which will be reviewed by the Head of Sixth Form.

4. DOCUMENT HISTORY

Document Title	Version	Date of Issue Change	Updated by Status
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BHHS Curriculum Policy	01	September 2016	Heidi Boyes Expired
BHHS Curriculum Policy	01	June 2017	Heidi Boyes Expired
BHHS Curriculum Policy	02	November 2017	Paul Fairhurst Expired
BRIGHTON GIRLS SENIOR SCHOOL CURRICULUM POLICY	03	September 2019	Kate Ashdown
BRIGHTON GIRLS SENIOR SCHOOL CURRICULUM POLICY	04	August 2020 Covid-19	Kate Ashdown
BRIGHTON GIRLS SENIOR SCHOOL CURRICULUM POLICY	05	August 2021	Kate Ashdown

BRIGHTON GIRLS SENIOR SCHOOL CURRICULUM POLICY	06	August 2022	Kate Ashdown
BRIGHTON GIRLS SENIOR SCHOOL CURRICULUM POLICY	07	September 2023	Mel English

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