

FRIENDS' SCHOOL LISBURN



CURRICULUM POLICY

Friends' School seeks to provide an environment in which pupils, staff and parents are committed to the idea of excellence within a caring, supportive community.

Friends' School aims to give access to a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum which is suited to the abilities and aptitudes of each pupil.

Through the opportunities offered to pupils within the classroom and beyond:

- Skills and interests are developed in order that pupils might respond effectively to social, economic and political changes and to changing patterns of work and that they might gain personal satisfaction in the use of their leisure
- Knowledge is valued and acquired for its own sake, as a means of understanding reality and to help pupils to know more about themselves and the society in which they live
- Individual autonomy is fostered and individual aptitudes are developed in an environment in which there is equal opportunity in order that the pupils might be capable of independent thought and that their self respect may be enhanced
- Moral standards are encouraged so that pupils have a respect for others and become responsible members of their community

Curriculum

The curriculum at Key Stages 3 and 4 meets the present statutory requirements set down in the Education Reform Order (NI) 1989 and the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1993.

Key Stage 3: all pupils follow a broad common curriculum which covers the six Areas of Study: English, Mathematics, Science and Technology, Environment and Society, Creative and Expressive and Languages.

Key Stage 4: all pupils take subjects from each of the statutory Areas of Study and are given flexibility in selecting further GCSE options.

The curriculum offered across Key Stages 3 and 4 also includes Personal, Social and Health Education, Citizenship, Careers and Employability, Drama and ICT.

Sixth Form: pupils are given as much choice as possible in selecting subject options at AS and Advanced level. Sixth Formers have the opportunity to

extend their studies through enrichment courses and, in common with all pupils, take Physical Education and Games.

Religious Education is provided for all pupils.

A broad range of extra curricular activities and educational visits extends and enriches the taught curriculum.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Principal reports to the Board of Governors through the Education Committee on all matters related to the curriculum.

The Vice Principal (Curriculum) has responsibility for curriculum matters in School and serves on the Education Committee of the Board of Governors.

The curriculum co-ordinators work with Heads of Department and subject co-ordinators to ensure coherence across different areas of the curriculum. Heads of Departments have responsibility for the curriculum in their subject departments.

The Curriculum Committee, with representatives drawn from all subject areas, is engaged in the review and development of the curriculum. Recommendations from the Committee are put forward to meetings of Heads of Department and the Leadership Team.

Priorities for the monitoring and evaluation of teaching and learning are set down in the School Development Plan and in each Department's Development Plan. Whole school policies on assessment and reporting link in with the Curriculum Policy.

The New Curriculum at Key Stages 3 and 4

A priority in the Friends' School Development Plan is preparation for the revised curriculum and assessment arrangements in Key Stages 3 and 4 which will become statutory in a rolling programme from 2006. (See Annex 2)

The School Development Plan also prioritises planning for the introduction of the Entitlement Framework (*Department of Education Circular 2005 / 18 Entitlement Framework - Initial Guidance*) which it is expected will become a statutory requirement from September 2009.

The implementation of the new curriculum will take place within the context of the aims of the Friends' School Curriculum Policy.

August 2005

Annex 1

Complaints Procedure in relation to the Curriculum

In the event of a complaint concerning the curriculum, parents should in the first instance write to the Principal. The Principal, in liaison with the Vice Principal (Curriculum), will seek to bring about a resolution of the matter.

If such a resolution does not emerge, parents should write to the Chairman who will raise the matter at the next meeting of the Board of Governors.

If a resolution has still not been arrived at, parents may write to the Chief Executive of the South Eastern Education and Library Board, who has the power to invoke a Tribunal.

August 2005

Annex 2

POST PRIMARY CURRICULUM (Key Stage 3)

LEARNING FOR LIFE AND WORK: Education for Employability
Local and Global Citizenship
PSHE
Home Economics

GENERAL LEARNING AREAS:

The Arts including Art and Design, Drama,
Music
English including Media Education
Environment and Society including Geography and History
Modern Languages (currently) French, Spanish, German,
Italian or Irish
Mathematics including Financial Capability
Science and Technology including Science, Technology and
Design
Physical Education
Religious Education

Developing Skills and Competences in:

- Personal and Interpersonal Skills
- Critical and Creative Thinking Skills
- Communication
- Using Mathematics
- Information and Communication Technology

POST PRIMARY CURRICULUM (Key Stage 4)

LEARNING FOR LIFE AND WORK: Education for Employability
Local and Global Citizenship
PSHE

Physical Education
Religious Education
Skills and Capabilities

Annex 2 (cont)

CCEA SCHEDULE FOR THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT AT KEY STAGES 3 AND 4

	KEY STAGE 3	KEY STAGE 4
2005 - 06	No statutory change Preparation for Whole Curriculum Pilot KS3	Disapplication continues
2006 - 07	Whole Curriculum Pilot Year 8 Planning / Training KS3	<i>New Legislation</i> <i>Flexibility for all schools</i> Planning / Training for LLW Year 11
2007 - 08	Whole Curriculum Pilot Year 9 <i>General Learning Areas and LLW Statutory Year 8</i> Planning / Training KS3 Teachers	<i>New Requirements</i> <i>Statutory Year 11</i> Planning / Training for Learning for Life and Work Year 12
2008 - 09	Whole Curriculum Pilot Year 10 <i>General Learning Areas and LLW Statutory Year 9</i> Planning / Training KS3 Teachers <i>Pupil Profile Statutory Years 8 / 9</i>	<i>New Requirements</i> <i>Statutory Year 12</i> Planning / Training
2009 - 10	<i>General Learning Areas and LLW Statutory Years 8 - 10</i> Planning / Training KS3 Teachers <i>Pupil Profile Statutory Year 10</i>	Follow up Training