



LEIGHTON PARK
FOUNDED 1890

Curriculum Policy

Contents

Philosophy and Aims	3
Curriculum Design	4
Breadth.....	4
Balance	6
Coherence	6
Relevance.....	6
Adaptive Teaching	6
Progression.....	6
Setting.....	7
Private Study.....	7
School Curriculum by Year Group:.....	7
Examinations.....	10
English as an Additional Language (referred to as English as a Second Language, EAL)	10
SEND and More Able.....	10
Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS)	11
PSHE	11
Aims.....	11
Subject content.....	12
Core PSHE themes at Leighton Park include:	12
Equality Act 2010	12
Careers.....	13

Philosophy and Aims

Leighton Park School is committed to providing students with a holistic educational experience: one which inspires achievement with values, character and community. The curriculum is academically rigorous yet strives to achieve greater coherence by making connections between academic subjects and integrating the already strong pastoral and co-curricular programme into the school day. At the core of the curriculum are the Quaker values and testimonies; **respect, equality, integrity, sustainability, truth, peace and simplicity.**

We place high value on the learning which takes place outside of the classroom and encourage all students to participate fully in the extensive co-curricular programme. Our Leighton Park Learner Profile articulates the broader learning characteristics which we seek to develop.



As such, the curriculum enables students to develop their intellectual curiosity whilst becoming **independent, lifelong learners** with the skills to respond positively to the challenges of a **rapidly changing world**. The curriculum framework affords opportunities for creativity, personalisation and independent learning.

The Leighton Park School Curriculum Policy enshrines the academic aims of the school:

- To provide an environment which is academically challenging, vibrant and stimulating.
- To provide appropriate support and challenge to encourage and enable all students to realise their full potential.
- To encourage students to measure achievement by their own potential rather than primarily by the achievements of others.
- To establish good working habits leading to increasing autonomy in learning.
- To prepare students for adult life.

We have high expectations and ensure that all students are entitled to a curriculum which is broad and balanced, and appropriate to their stage of learning. It is characterised by coherence, relevance, differentiation and progression:

Curriculum Design

Breadth

The Curriculum at Leighton Park, and the Schemes of Work which derive from it, give students until the end of Key Stage 4, learning experiences in: Human and social, Linguistic and literary, Mathematical, Moral, Physical, Scientific, Creative, Spiritual and Technological education.

The Curriculum, Schemes of Work and lessons at Leighton Park School actively promotes the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs by:

- i. Enabling students to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence;
- ii. Enabling students to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England;
- iii. Encouraging students to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative and understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the local area and to society more widely;
- iv. Enabling students to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England;
- v. Developing further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling students to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures;
- vi. Encouraging respect for other people;
- vii. Encouraging respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic process, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England.

All curriculum subject matter is appropriate for the age and aptitudes of the students in each school year. Our curriculum provision enables all students to have the opportunity to learn and make progress including those with SEND. All subjects actively develop students' speaking, listening, literacy and numeracy skills, as set out in the schemes of work for each curriculum area.

All students study a core curriculum of Mathematics, English, Physical Education, Science, Philosophy, Religion and Values (PRV), a Modern Language and a wide range of creative arts and humanities-based courses until the end of Key Stage 3 (KS3). There is also the opportunity for students to undertake a suite of technology courses: food technology; textiles; design technology; and computer science. We also run a life skills through a 6-week Rookie Lifeguard course.

Philosophy, Religion and Values (PRV) is delivered as a core subject in KS3 and encompasses the exploration and understanding of a variety of faiths and world religions. This includes a study of Quaker faiths and practices in keeping with the core values of the school

The school chooses each year to construct Year 10 and 11 timetables around students' choices, and not the other way around; thus, there are no predetermined "Option Bands". At both GCSE and Sixth Form, Leighton Park aims to run any course offered in which there is sufficient demand but retains the right to use its judgement not to run a course. We expect numbers in excess of five students to make a course viable.

The curriculum is taught by subject specialists throughout the school ensuring students receive the best possible learning experience. Biology, Chemistry and Physics are taught in specialist laboratories and there are dedicated teaching rooms that are used for Art, Computer Science, Creative Digital Media, Dance, Design Technology, Drama, Engineering, Food Technology, Music and Textiles.

Spanish, French, Mandarin and German are offered at GCSE level and within the IB and are often delivered by native speakers. Mandarin is offered at A Level. There is also provision of individual or small group tuition in languages, other than those taught within the timetable, at GCSE, A level and the IBDP. Initial requests for tuition must come from students in conjunction with their tutors and parents.

The use of a digital device for all students ensures that IT is closely connected to the curriculum. Online awareness and safety is embedded into the school's ethos and delivered through the curriculum. The Curriculum at Leighton Park ensures that the school meets its obligation to 'consider how children may be taught about safeguarding, including online, through teaching and learning opportunities' which include online trends and risks, the safe use of the internet, and enables students to feel confident in reporting any concerns. Prep is set and recorded on Google Classroom and digital devices enable all students to develop their skills in digital literacy and to support core aspects of teaching and learning. In addition, the school curriculum is designed to work with students to ensure we are doing all we reasonably can to limit the risk from the IT systems they use and to 'ensure appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place'. For further details refer to the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, Online Safety Policy and the IT and Communications Acceptable User Policy.

In KS4 all students undertake a GCSE in Global Perspectives which is a stimulating course that stretches across traditional subject boundaries and develops transferable skills – including presentations, projects and working with other learners around the world. The course enables students to think critically about a range of global issues from a range of different perspectives. It is the foundation upon which our future Changemakers can build.

The curriculum provides for the teaching of PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education) which is taught to tutor groups as a timetabled discrete subject, working concurrently with the PSHE schemes of work where further details can be found. The PSHE curriculum reflects the schools' aims and ethos and encourages students to show respect for themselves and other people. It is delivered by tutors, specialist teachers and outside speakers throughout the school (KS3, KS4 and Sixth Form) in a dedicated period once a week. More detail on this programme can be found at the end of this document. The programme is coordinated by a Head of PSHE.

Physical Education is a core subject throughout the school and a wide range of indoor, outdoor, team and individual sports are taught with a philosophy of 'sport for all' and an emphasis on personal health and fitness. In addition to core PE, taught in KS3 and in Year 10, all students participate in two timetabled games afternoons each week.

The School also has an extensive programme of co-curricular activities which extend and compliment the timetabled curriculum. Subject departments run clubs in either a lunch time or co-curricular slot after school and there is an especially wide variety of drama, music, sport and STEAM activities available.

Balance

Each area of learning is given appropriate attention in relation to others and to the whole curriculum. This is addressed directly through the roles of: Deputy Head, Academic; Director of Studies; Assistant Head, Teaching and Learning; the Leadership Team; Heads of Department; and special groups formed from time to time to bring issues to the attention of the staff, Governors and Heads of Department.

Coherence

The different areas of learning and experience contribute to the overall progress and achievement of students by planned opportunities and schemes of work in subjects, which show connections within that subject and across subjects.

Relevance

The curriculum builds on the past, present and anticipated future experience of students. This includes, but does not solely comprise, their experience at other schools, at home, within the broader life of the school and increasingly with the world outside school and aims to prepare all students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. All students participate in a PSHE programme, which reflects the aims and ethos of the school. A programme of activities is provided to enhance the curriculum for post-16 students (Oakleaf Diploma) in addition to the co-curricular activities programme.

Adaptive Teaching

As part of our Quaker ethos, equality underpins the principle of adaptive teaching. We acknowledge that all students are different and have different educational needs in every learning context. As such, it is the desire of the school to address the needs of each student in terms of ability, need and aptitude. The curriculum plan and schemes of work takes this fully into account.

Progression

All students have the opportunity to learn and make progress. Students' progression is both enabled and monitored by at least the following opportunities at the school:

- Accurately recording indicators of progress
- Internal examinations which are at least annual for all academic departments
- CEM data (Yellis/Alis) and GL Assessment (CAT 4 and Progress tests) in Years, 7, 8 & 9
- Consistent marking procedures within departments and which comply with the school's marking policy
- Consultations with parents
- Departmental meetings on a regular basis
- Grades and reports
- Guidance in careers, appropriate to age and experience
- Progress testing
- Rewards and sanctions
- Schemes of work
- Special educational needs diagnosis and assistance, including -EAL
- Tutorial discussion and counselling
- Year group staff discussions

Staff development and progress are encouraged to promote better teaching and learning at the school through INSET, Teachmeets, Staff Development Groups,

appraisal by area curriculum meetings and training and by a range of outside courses which staff may attend. This is described in the appropriate policy document in detail.

Setting

Students are taught mainly in mixed ability classes throughout the school, or in Years 7, 8 and 9 they are taught in mixed ability Form groups. There is whole year setting in Maths throughout KS3 and 4 and in Modern Foreign languages in KS3. Partial setting takes place in English and Combined Science in KS4. Setting is predominantly based upon ability, however, there will always be an element of mixed ability within each class.

Private Study

Sixth Form students have provision for Private Study which includes use of the School Library and Sixth Form Centre.

School Curriculum by Year Group:

Details of our current curriculum are as follows:

Fryer

Year 7:

All students follow the same course, at the heart of which, are the Quaker Values and the Learner Profile. The curriculum comprises of the core themes: Approaches to Learning (Study and critical thinking skills), Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS). Students also study the curriculum areas: English; Science; Mathematics; Creative Arts (art, drama, music); Technology (design technology, textile design); Humanities (Geography, History, Religious Education (Beliefs and Values); four Modern Foreign Languages (Spanish throughout the year and Mandarin, German and French on a termly rotation), Sport and Physical Education and PSHE. Computer Science is delivered in timetabled lessons and is also integrated and delivered within all curriculum areas. In addition, they all have sessions of Games. Students may be set according to aptitude in mathematics.

Year 8:

In Year 8, all students follow the curriculum as outlined above although the expectation is that all students will study Spanish with either French, German or Mandarin as a second MFL.

Middle School

Year 9:

The curriculum comprises the same subjects as for Years 7 and 8. All students will study the full range of technology subjects (The Technology Suite includes Food Technology, Textiles, Design Technology and Computer Science). Students continue with the two Modern Foreign Languages selected in Year 8. Sciences are taught separately as Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Students also complete a 6-week life skills course- Rookie Lifeguarding.

KS3 Curriculum Plan: Lessons taught per subject

Subject	Y7	Y8	Y9
English	5	5	6
Maths	7	7	6
Science	7	7	9

MFL 1/EAL	5	4	4
MFL 2/EAL	2 + 1 Glob Com	4	4
ATL	2	2	-
Art	2	2	3
BV	2	2	2
CAS	2	2	-
Computer Sci	1	1	(4) Carousel
Dance	1	1	1
Drama	2	2	2
DT/Textiles	2	2	(4) Carousel
Food Science	-	-	(4) Carousel
Geography	2	3	3
History	3	2	3
Music	2	2	3
PE/Games	9	9	8
PSHE/Tutor	3	3	2
Total	60	60	60

Years 10 & 11:

All students follow ten (or 9 where Approaches to Learning is selected) two-year linear **GCSE** (or IGCSE/BTech Level 2) examined courses. All students sit their examinations at the end of Year 11. All students study the Core Subjects of, English Language and English Literature (IGCSE), Mathematics (IGCSE) and Global Perspectives (IGCSE). Students also choose six additional subjects (which can include Approaches to Learning which is not examined). Students are strongly encouraged to choose at least one modern foreign language and are recommended to take either Combined Science or Triple Science. All options have an allocation of 5 periods of teaching.

Physical Education, Games and PSHE are provided for all. All students are supported with Careers advice through their Morrisby tests and there is a substantial study-skills programme (the Exams Expert) to support independent learning and examination preparation. In addition, all students in Years 10 participate in the CAS (Creativity, Action and Service) programme.

KS4 (Years 10 & 11) Curriculum Plan: Lessons taught per subject

Subject	Y10	Y11
English	8	8
Maths	7	7
Global Perspectives	3	5
CAS	2	-
PSHE	2	2
Games	8	8
Option 1	5	5
Option 2	5	5
Option 3	5	5
Option 4	5	5
Option 5	5	5
Option 6	5	5
Total	60	60

Pre-Sixth:

A compact and intensive course of study, in order to prepare overseas students for Sixth Form study in one year, or to return to their country of origin. Students sit a minimum of 6 GCSEs, including English, Mathematics, another language, a Humanities subject and Combined Science (equal amounts of Biology, Chemistry and Physics). For some

lessons, students are integrated into mainstream classes, but many classes are separate, in order to provide the necessary support in a small group environment and to ensure the course specifications are covered. Other subjects and language exams are also available, according to previous skills and experience. Additional EAL provision is also available for those students who need it.

Sixth Form: In the Sixth Form we offer students the choice of following the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme or A Levels. Those who wish to specialise in subjects may choose to study A Levels; those who prefer to keep a broader range of subjects through the Sixth Form may opt for the IB Diploma.

Students may choose IB and **A Levels** from a wide range of subjects as detailed in the Sixth Form brochure/school website. The range of subjects is kept under review and others may be added. All A Level/IB courses are offered subject to demand and numbers. If the demand is very small (less than 5 students) the subject may be withdrawn in order to facilitate the availability of courses where the demand is greater.

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ Level 3) is offered to the Lower Sixth and involves a full course of training and support. All students are encouraged to embark on the extended project as it is a university-style piece of independent study.

Students may choose 3 subjects in the A Level programme (or 4 if studying Further Mathematics). In the **International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP)**, 3 subjects are chosen at Higher (HL) and 3 subjects are chosen at Standard (SL) Level. They must include a range of subjects and at least 1 subject from Groups 1-5 and then either an elective or an additional subject from Groups 1-5. All IB students will also take the core elements of the IBDP: Theory of Knowledge; Creativity, Action, Service; and complete an extended essay.

A Level Curriculum Plan:

3 A Levels	10/11 periods per fortnight
Games	8 periods per fortnight
PSHE	2 periods per fortnight
Private study	16 periods per fortnight

IB Curriculum Plan:

3 at Higher Level	8/9 periods per fortnight (9 for Maths/Physics)
3 at Standard Level	5/6 periods per fortnight (6 for Maths)
Theory of Knowledge	4 periods per fortnight
CAS	1 period per fortnight
Games	8 periods per fortnight
PSHE	2 periods per fortnight

PSHE education and Careers guidance play a major role in the Sixth Form. Our 'Aspiring High' programme is designed to support those

students seeking entry to Cambridge or Oxford or for competitive courses in Law and Medicine. All Sixth Formers are involved with games and community service and are expected to participate fully in the programme of extra-curricular activities and take on leadership roles as Prefects, Peer Mentors and within the Houses.

Examinations

Internal examinations take place in the Summer Term for Years 7-10 and the Lower Sixth (IB/A Level). These examinations are undertaken in a formal examination week (off-timetable). An Assessment week for Years 7-10 and Year 13 also takes place in the Autumn Term. These are undertaken within timetable lessons.

Mock Examinations are also undertaken for students in Year 11 (January) and for the Upper Sixth (IB/A Level) after February Long Leave (Half term), with their final public examinations taken in every chosen subject in the May or June of Year 11 or the Upper Sixth.

English as an Additional Language (referred to as English as a Second Language, EAL)

For those students for whom English is a second or additional language, specialist tuition in English and a range of qualifications is available. In order to identify EAL students who require support, screening is undertaken. This includes an initial admissions test (Password Knowledge) and a series of Placement Tests. EAL students in Years 7-9 receive between four and eight lessons per fortnight, based on individual need. These lessons aim to develop the student's English language skills and communicative ability and to build the students confidence to succeed in an English-speaking environment. This is an addition to their main English classes. Students in Years 10 and 11 follow the iGCSE English (First) Language course, in addition to the IGCSE English Second Language (ESL). Most overseas students have EAL lessons to supplement their A Level or IB programme, and to allow them to access the IELTS examinations, essential for admission to UK universities. All EAL students are encouraged to enter for the appropriate Cambridge ESOL exam.

SEND and More Able

At Leighton Park we act upon any information provided by the student's previous school or information from qualified professionals in this area. We also strive to screen new students during the first half term after their entry to school. The screening tests highlight those students who are gifted and those who have potential specific learning difficulties. They also provide information on each students' learning profile. Teaching staff are well informed, have up to date knowledge of effective learning and teaching strategies and are skilled at teaching all students to meet their individual needs.

More Able children are provided with opportunities to extend their knowledge, skills and talents in extension work in the classroom or small group activities and opportunities to participate and progress. There are also a number of clubs and societies that stretch and challenge, together with enrichment classes: Aspiring High for Sixth Form and a comprehensive Scholars Programme. Scholarships are also available in academic subjects, Music, Art, Drama, STEAM, Ethical Changemakers and Sport to recognise and encourage particular ability, skills and talents.

Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS)

Is embedded into the taught curriculum and through the co-curricular programme of hobbies and activities. It enables students to take seriously the importance of life outside of scholarship. Participation in CAS encourages students to share their energies and special talents while developing awareness, concern and the ability to work collaboratively with others. It is underpinned by the IBO's goal of educating the whole person and fostering more caring and socially responsible attitudes which benefit the school and wider community. The programme is provided within the curriculum for students in Year 7, 8 and 10 and offers students the chance to participate in Sports Leadership, Creative Arts, Change Maker/Champions (Environmental and Sustainability initiatives), Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

PSHE

PSHE education is a planned, developmental programme of learning through which our students acquire the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to manage their lives now and in the future. As part of a whole-school approach, including Tutor time and Collects, PSHE education develops the qualities and attributes students need to thrive as individuals, family members and members of society.

The PSHE education programme makes a significant contribution to students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development, their behaviour and safety, and the school's responsibility to promote students' wellbeing. In addition, the learning provided through a comprehensive PSHE education provision is an important means of safeguarding our students.

PSHE education equips students with the knowledge, understanding, skills and strategies required to live healthy, safe, productive, capable, responsible and balanced lives. It encourages them to be enterprising and supports them in making effective transitions, positive learning and career choices and in achieving economic wellbeing. A critical component of PSHE education is providing opportunities for students to reflect on and clarify their own values and attitudes and to explore the complex and sometimes conflicting range of values and attitudes they encounter now and in the future.

PSHE enables students to recognise, accept and shape their identities, to understand and accommodate difference and change, to manage emotions and to communicate constructively in a variety of settings. Developing an understanding of themselves, empathy and the ability to work with others will help students to form and maintain good relationships, develop the essential skills for future employability and better enjoy and manage their lives.

Aims

The aim for PSHE education is to provide students with:

- accurate, balanced and relevant knowledge
- opportunities to turn that knowledge into personal understanding
- opportunities to explore, clarify and if necessary, challenge their own and appreciate others' values, attitudes, beliefs, rights and responsibilities
- the skills, language and strategies they need in order to live healthy, safe, fulfilling, responsible and balanced lives

- opportunities to develop positive personal attributes such as resilience, self-confidence, self-esteem, and empathy
- Information to support students with the next steps of their academic journey.

Subject content

Leighton Park School follows the PSHE Association programme of Study for Key Stages 3,4 and 5. and the Gatsby Benchmarks for careers education.

PSHE education respects and take account of students' prior learning and experiences using a spiral programme, revisiting themes whilst increasing the challenge, broadening the scope, and deepening students' thinking each year.

The topics in the PSHE scheme of work provide a context to expand and enrich the following overarching concepts and transferable skills:

1. Personal identity (personal qualities, attitudes, skills, attributes and achievements and what influences these)
2. Relationships (including different types and in different settings)
3. A physically, emotionally and socially healthy balanced lifestyle
4. Personal safety (including risk identification, assessment and management)
5. Diversity and equality
6. Rights and responsibilities
7. Resilience (the skills, strategies and 'inner resources') and managing change
8. Power (how it is used and encountered in a variety of contexts including persuasion, bullying, negotiation and 'win-win' outcomes)
9. Careers Education

Core PSHE themes at Leighton Park include:

- Safety
- Health and Well-being
- Relationships
- Living in the Wider World

Equality Act 2010

PSHE lessons encourage respect for other people, with particular regard to protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010. The protected characteristics as listed in section 4 of the equality act are;

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation.

All of the above characteristics will not be addressed to every year group. The age and ability of the pupils will be taken into account when covering the above characteristics in an appropriate manner.

Careers

Students are provided with access to accurate, up-to-date careers guidance which enables them to make informed choices about a broad range of career options. Careers guidance is delivered through the 'PSHE Programme', organised interview programmes and through informal and impartial advice by the Head of Careers to students at different ages within the school to ensure that they have an understanding of the different career options available to them to enable them to succeed in adult life. In both Years 9 and 11, Morrisby profiling and interviews take place and support the 'Options process' for both GCSE and Sixth Form subject choices. The vast majority of Leighton Park students move on to the Sixth Form to study (IB or A Level) and subsequently onto Higher Education; thus, Careers education and guidance focuses on graduate career areas, university guidance and degree related apprenticeships as well as gap years and internships. The department is able to offer advice about careers open to those with only GCSE or higher-level qualifications as required.

The school supports an annual Careers Conference. Additional visits by outside agencies, speakers and advisers are also organised by the Careers Department which also helps to facilitate work experience placements for Lower Sixth students. For University application, there is a rigorous process which is organised by the Head of Sixth Form and Head of Careers.

Author:	Alex Wallace, Deputy Head, Academic
Reviewed:	Alex Wallace, Deputy Head, Academic
Sign off:	Matthew Judd, Head
Sign off:	Education Committee and Board
Date of last review:	January 2023
Date of next review:	June 2023
Publication :	Z:\Policies\Current Policies\Curriculum Policy V:\School Policies\Curriculum Policy http://www.leightonpark.com/About/Policies