



PLYMSTOCK SCHOOL

Curriculum Policy

Governors' Committee: Curriculum

Lead Officer: Ms A M Perry, Deputy Headteacher - Curriculum

Review Cycle: Annual

Date for Review: Summer 2017

Introduction: Two of the aims of Plymstock School are:

“We aim to provide all students with a challenging **curriculum** that offers opportunities for intellectual extension beyond the confines of statutory requirements.”

“We **value** every individual, with emphasis on personal achievement, and strive to equip all students with the life skills necessary to succeed as healthy, responsible citizens in the modern world of work.”

This policy gives the details of how these aims are put into practice.

Rationale:

All students in years seven to eleven receive a broad, balanced, relevant and coherent curriculum, which offers opportunities to extend beyond the confines of the National Curriculum. The school regards the education of each child as being of equal value; we strive to equip all students with the necessary intellectual, physical, cultural, emotional and moral skills and attitudes to enable them to face the adult world with confidence, honesty and a sense of purpose.

Implementation, for 2016/17:

At KS3, the curriculum is broad and balanced. Students study a range of subjects including the core of English, Mathematics and Science. Beyond this core, Geography, History, Religious Education are taught as separate humanities. Art, Dance, Drama and Music make up the Expressive Arts curriculum. Either French or German is learnt by all students throughout the Key Stage, with some students studying both. Design Technology is taught as discrete subjects, including Product Design and Food Preparation and Nutrition. Computing is studied as a discrete subject from year 7 to year 9. PE is taught throughout the Key Stage.

At Key Stage 4 the curriculum offers considerable diversity and choice, it covers the full ability range from those who will go on to obtain good university degrees to those who will be seeking a combination of vocational education and training. All students study a core of English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and Science. In Year 10 students also study an IT User Qualification (The Gold Ingot) to ensure that their knowledge and understanding of IT is maintained and improved.

Within the Options structure in Year 11 students are expected to maintain: one Modern Foreign Language and one Humanity subject. Some students were offered one of three vocational courses to replace their MFL; these were Performance Skills, Applied ICT and Leisure & Tourism. Students chose a further two subjects, depending on their individual strengths and tastes. The range of choices includes: Catering, Construction Level 1, Product Design, Art & Design, Dance, Drama, Music, Business Studies, ICT, Computer Science, Media Studies, Physical Education, a second Modern Foreign Language and a second Humanity. Our Foundation Learning embraces many of the elements above.

Within the Options structure in Year 10 students were offered a choice of three subjects. These were broadly arranged as a Humanity subject, a Modern Foreign Language and a free choice. There was the possibility to replace the MFL with an alternative course; students were carefully advised about this choice. Students chose their free choice subject depending on their individual strengths and tastes. The range of choices included: Art & Design, Business Studies, Computer Science, Dance, D&T Food Preparation and Nutrition, D&T Product Design, Drama, Health & Social Care, ICT, Media Studies, Music, Religious Studies, Physical Education, Separate Sciences, a second Modern Foreign Language and a second Humanity. Our Foundation Learning embraces many of the elements above.

Careers guidance is provided to all students, as are RE, PSHEE and PE. All students undertake work experience in Year 10.

At Key Stage 5 a wide range of level 3 subjects are available including Applied ICT, Applied Science, Applied Sport, Art, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Criminology, English Literature, English Language & Literature, French, Further Mathematics, Geography, German, Health & Social Care, History, Mathematics, Media Studies, Music, Photography, Physics, Psychology, Religious Education, Sociology, Sports Studies, Theatre Studies, Travel & Tourism and Public Services. The majority of students choose 3, with some taking 4 or 5. Many students in Key Stage 5 follow a PLT Vocational programme at Levels 1, 2 or 3; the areas of study are extensive and range from Animal Care to Welding. As a result of the new “uncoupled” A level courses, most students will follow two year A Level courses.

GCSE re-sit courses in English and Mathematics are compulsory for those KS5 students who do not yet have level 2 qualifications in these subjects.

PSHEE, Citizenship, Financial Education and Work Related Learning are delivered throughout the school.

The school day is divided into five 60 minutes lessons, making 25 periods per week. Four of these are in the morning and one lesson in the afternoon.

Summary:

In short our curriculum aims to develop students who can think critically, have a set of values to live by and feel that they can make a difference to the world.

A. Perry
May 2016