

Policy A3: Curriculum

Curriculum Policy

This policy has been written in line with:

The Education (Independent Schools Standards) (England) Regulations 2014

ISI Regulatory Handbook Re: Quality of Education (January 2015)

Children and Families Act 2014

SEN and Disability Code of Practice, 0-25 years January 2015

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3.1. Introduction

Queen Margaret's seeks to promote excellence inside and outside the classroom. The Curriculum is regularly reviewed by the Education Committee and endorsed by the Governors' Education Committee. We believe that the girls should receive a core curriculum which provides them with the essential skills for future study and employment whilst proving a wide choice of subjects from which they can select as they discover their passions and seek to achieve their potential. All girls at QM have the opportunity to learn and make excellent progress and the education we provide prepares girls for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life in British society.

As an independent school we are not obliged to follow the National Curriculum (NC). We select the most important and inspiring parts of the NC, upon which we build challenging and enjoyable schemes of work. Subjects are enhanced by practical work, educational visits and visiting experts.

QM provides a full-time supervised mathematical, scientific, linguistic, human, social, aesthetic, creative technological and physical, education for all girls in its care. Subject matter is appropriate for the ages and aptitudes of the girls and does not undermine the fundamental British values (FBV) of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. Further information regarding our promotion of fundamental British values can be found in Policy C48. Suitable Learning Support is available for those identified with a Special Educational Need. Girls acquire speaking, listening, literacy and numeracy skills. The Academic Extension programme covers personal, social and health education appropriate to the girls' age and needs as well as incorporating the key aspects of the SMSC agenda, is reviewed on a regular basis and reflects the School's aims and ethos.

- Policy C48: The promotion of British Values

3.2. Curriculum by Year Group

Year I

In Year I (Year 7) the girls follow a set Curriculum as indicated below (hours per week in brackets):

- Mathematics (3); Science (3); Computer Science (1)
- English (3); Latin (2); Mandarin (2); Spanish (2)
- Geography (1); History (1); Religious Studies (1);
- Art (1); Drama (1); Food Technology (1); Music (1); Textiles (1);
- Academic Extension (1); Sport (5)

Year II

In Year II (Year 8) the girls follow the Curriculum below, with choice between some languages as indicated:

- Mathematics (3); Biology (1); Chemistry (1); Physics (1); Computer Science (1)
- English (3); Latin (2); Mandarin (2); Spanish (2)
- Geography (1); History (1); Religious Studies (1);
- Art (1); Drama (1); Food Technology (1); Music (1); Textiles (1);
- Academic Extension (1); Sport (5)

Year III

In Year III (Year 9) the girls follow the Curriculum below, with choice between some languages as indicated. At Easter girls may reduce their Curriculum by up to three 'Creative and Performing Arts' subjects

- Mathematics (3); Physics (1); Chemistry (1); Biology (1); Computer Science (1)
- English (3)
- Up to **three** languages selected from: Classical Civilisation; French; German; Latin; Mandarin; Spanish (2)
- Geography (1); History (1); Religious Studies (1);
- Art (1); Drama (1); Food Technology (1); Music (1); Textiles (1);
- Academic Extension (1); Sport (4)

The curriculum is modified, on an individual basis, to suit particular needs and permit the development of specific talents.

Years IV and V

In Years IV and V (10 and 11) girls take a core curriculum and make a number of choices as set out below. The study of the Sciences leads to three separate IGCSE Science qualifications **or** GCSE Science plus GCSE Additional Science. More able candidates (as selected by the Science teachers) take the IGCSEs option, but both options receive the same amount of Curriculum time. Girls usually take 9 or 10 GCSE/IGCSEs in total. English leads to English Language and English Literature awards for most candidates.

Core Curriculum

- Mathematics (3); Biology (2) Chemistry (2); Physics (2);
- English (3)
- Academic Extension (1); Sport (4)

Girls select a further four or five subjects, and for most including one Language and one Humanity:

- French (2); German (2); Greek (2); Latin (2); Mandarin (2); Spanish (2)
- Business Studies (2); Classical Civilisation (2); Geography (2); History (2); Religious Studies (2)
- Art (2); Drama (2); Home Economics (2); Music (2); Physical Education (2); Textiles Technology (2)

Sixth Form

In the Sixth Form (Years 12 and 13), girls have a free choice from a very wide range of subjects. From September 2015, as the new A levels are introduced, girls will take 3(new linear) A levels and an enrichment activity or AS in a Legacy subject.

All girls still take:

- Academic Extension (1); Sport (3)

Subject Selections (5 hours each)

- Mathematics; Further Mathematics; Biology; Chemistry; Physics
- English Literature; English Language; Greek ; Latin; Classics
- French; German; Mandarin; Spanish
- History; Philosophy & Ethics; Politics & Government
- Business Studies; Economics; Geography; History of Art
- Art Photography; Art Textiles; Fine Art; Art Graphics; Home Economics
- Film Studies; Music; Physical Education; Theatre Studies

3.3. Curriculum Summary (Sept 2015)

Subject	Year I	Year II	Year III	Year IV	Year V	LVI	UVI
Drama	1	1	1				
Computer Science	1	1	1				
Food Technology	1	1	1				
English	3	3	3	3	3		
Private Study	0	0	1 or 3	3 or 5	3 or 5	6	12
Academic Extension	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Sport	5	5	4	4	4	3	3
Mathematics	3	3	3	3	3		
Biology		1	1	2	2		
Chemistry	3	1	1	2	2		
Physics		1	1	2	2		
Art	1	1	1				
Geography	1	1	1				
History	1	1	1				
Music	1	1	1				
Religious Studies	1	1	1				
Textiles	1	1	1	(4 or 5) x 2	(4 or 5) x 2	(3) or (4) x 5 Plus up to 5 enrichment Activities	(3) x 5
Latin	2	2					
Mandarin	2	2	(2 or 3) x 2				
Spanish	2	2					
French							
German							
Business Studies							
Classical Studies							
Greek							
Home Economics							
Physical Education							
Economics							
English Language							
English Literature							
Film Studies							
Further Mathematics							
Government & Politics							
History of Art							
Philosophy & Ethics							
Theatre Studies							

3.4. Academic Extension

Girls in all Years take part in the Academic Extension programme. This is allocated one hour per week in the timetable and is a non-examined compulsory part of the Curriculum. Each year's programme consists of a series of short courses that classes take in a carousel and which is supplemented by a lecture series, extension project or activity. Academic extension enables us to ensure that all the regulatory requirements of the curriculum are fulfilled. Full details of the programme, which includes the required aspects of personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE) and the social, moral, spiritual and cultural (SMSC), are set out in Policy A5. Higher Education advice and Careers talks and seminars also form part of this programme. These aspects are set out in further detail in Policy C8.

- Policy A5: Academic Extension
- Policy C8: Higher Education & Careers

3.5. Sport

Physical exercise is an essential part of our Curriculum. Girls receive tuition and training in team sports and personal fitness. From Year V girls are able to make choices about the sporting disciplines they wish to pursue. A full list of available sports is provided below:

- Hockey
- Lacrosse
- Netball
- Swimming

- Tennis
 - Athletics
 - Badminton
 - Fencing
 - Football
 - Gymnastics
 - Riding
 - Rounders
 - Shooting
 - Squash
 - Table Tennis
 - Volleyball
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3.6. Dance, Music and Sport – Individual Lessons

In addition to the set Curriculum, girls are able to have individual lessons timetabled in the following disciplines. Girls in Years I – III may have to come out of academic lessons (on rotation) to take these lessons unless they are able to be timetabled in Private Study periods or the extended lunchtime.

- Dance (Ballet, Contemporary, Hip-Hop, Modern, Tap)
 - Music (Brass, Keyboard, Percussion, Strings, Voice, Woodwind)
 - Sport (Personal Fitness, Riding, Squash, Tennis)
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3.7. Learning Support and English as an Additional Language (EAL) – Individual Lessons

A number of girls have lessons each week with a teacher from the Learning Support or EAL Departments. These may take place in Private Study periods or lunchtime and, in some cases, a girl's Curriculum may be reduced by one or two subjects to facilitate the additional lessons required. Further information regarding the provision of learning Support and EAL is set out in:

- Policy A2: Individual Plans
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3.8. Curriculum Review

The Curriculum, and accompanying Plan of Day (see Document N1), are kept under regular review by the Education Committee to ensure that we are providing the structure for the best possible educational experience for the girls in the School alongside any changes to the National Curriculum and public Examination structure (made by the DfE and OFQUAL) and requirements from the Higher Education sector. Suggestions and comments on proposed changes are sought from staff, girls and parents and the Governors are kept fully apprised of discussions through the Governors' Education Committee. Final decisions of changes rest with the School's Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and changes are communicated to staff, girls and parents with adequate notice if changes will affect them.

Hayley Atkins
Director of Studies

The curriculum is reviewed in the Autumn Term in preparation for the next academic year.

Date Agreed: September 2015
Review Date: February 2016