

2018-19

Junior School

Curriculum Policy

The Junior School Curriculum 2018-19

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a) Introduction

We believe the curriculum encompasses all activities at Putney High School. It includes not only the requirements of the National Curriculum but also the range of additional activities, which are organised in order to enrich the learning experiences of the pupils. It also incorporates the 'hidden curriculum' where the pupils develop an approach to living and an attitude to learning and reflects the learners' place in their local community of Putney.

One of the aims of Putney High School is 'To promote a love of learning and develop intellectual curiosity.' Clearly this aim begins in the EYFS where we encourage all our pupils to develop an ability to think and learn for themselves. It is our hope that all pupils will progress accordingly and will take full advantage of the educational experiences on offer both on and off site.

b) Values and Characteristics of Putney High School Pupils

Putney High School values provide an environment for pupils to flourish. These include:

- We are a spirited and vibrant school
- We are inquisitive, intellectually curious and love learning
- We act with integrity, kindness and a sense of moral purpose
- We are a collaborative and democratic community
- We are innovative and genuinely open to new ideas
- We are ambitious, bold and unafraid of excellence
- We are down to earth

Characteristics of Learning

These values are supported by a number of 'Characteristic of Learning' we would like the pupils to develop. These are reported on in their annual report. These are:

- Resilience
- Empathy
- Collaboration
- Curiosity
- Imagination
- Independence

c) Implementation

Please refer to the, Lesson Allocation Policy, Planning Policy, Britishness Policy, and Curriculum Guides for further details.

EYFS/ Reception

Pupils follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum which encompasses seven Areas of Learning: three 'prime' areas (Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED), Physical Development and Communication and Language) and four 'specific' areas (Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design). Girls have specialist teaching in Physical

Development, Music and French. Areas of learning are implemented through planned, purposeful play, and through a mix of adult-led and child-initiated activities.

There is a breadth of activities and opportunities within a safe and nurturing environment that encourage all girls to play and explore, be active learners and be creative and think critically. At the start of lessons, a teacher led input focuses on a specific area of learning within a subject area. This learning is continued through a focus activity, led by an adult, which aims to consolidate the key skill being taught. In line with the rest of the school, the focus activities are differentiated three ways in order to ensure each girl successfully meets the success criteria of the activity and the learning objective of the lesson.

Y1-6

Our curriculum is bespoke and individualised to our school, and caters for our own needs and priorities. Lessons are based upon a precise and skill based learning objective. All objectives within a subject can be categorised into a smaller group of Key Subject Skills, which can be found in the Curriculum Guides. These are essential skill sets that are used to help develop girls into master practitioners for each subject. All year groups share these skill sets, where pupils' understanding and ability of these increase in breadth and depth as they get older. These key skills are also reported on at the end of the year.

At the end of each lesson, pupils reflect upon their learning in a variety of ways, evaluating what they have produced and how much they have learnt, based upon the lesson's objective. To encourage pupils to take ownership of their learning, they are given the opportunity to set their own next steps or targets.

d) Digital Learning

As ICT and computing underpins today's modern lifestyle it is essential that all pupils gain the confidence and ability that they need in this subject to prepare them for the challenge of a rapidly developing and changing technological world. The use of ICT enhances and extends children's learning across the whole curriculum whilst developing motivation and social skills. It provides girls with the computational skills necessary to become independent learners who are no longer just consumers of technology, but creators, designing and controlling their own outcomes.

We therefore look to use technology to empower pupils within all subjects, allowing greater personalised learning opportunities to take place. This includes the use of a computer room and personal iPads in years 4 to 6. The pupils also benefit from the teaching of a specialist computer teacher.

e) Challenge for all

Provision for gifted and talented pupils is an integral part of daily school life rather than an add-on. This means that, instead of labelling a small group of pupils as gifted, the school aims to create opportunities for stretch, challenge and engagement both inside and outside the classroom, which will benefit all

pupils. Recent work on motivation and achievement suggests that if it is assumed by pupils that intelligence is fixed, then they seek out relatively simple tasks that validate their intelligence and avoid tasks that are challenging for fear of the risk of failing. Pupils, however, who subscribe to the belief that intelligence is gained through effort and experience do not mind failing in learning situations because the failure is not a reflection of any innate fixed ability, but rather a particular learning strategy that has gone wrong which therefore needs reviewing. Research has shown that the latter pupils become better, more successful learners.

We offer stretch, challenge and engagement in a variety of ways.

Creating opportunities within our Schemes of Work to stretch and challenge all students.

We encourage our teachers in their lessons: to take a problem-posing as well as problem-solving approach; to encourage pupils to move from easy-to-grasp to harder-to grasp concepts; to avoid repetition and excessive note taking; to encourage the pupils to make connections between different subject areas; to encourage questioning as part of everyday learning; and to stimulate thinking and creative problem-solving. All of this is designed to encourage independent learning by all pupils.

Where appropriate, lessons provides at least 3 different tasks for pupils to complete which get progressively more complex. Depth of learning is provided through challenge questioning. These are open questions that enable pupils to utilise high level thinking (creating, evaluating, analysing or applying), moving away from just remembering a process or idea, to engaging critical, creative and reflective thinking and learning during lessons.

Providing Co-Curricular Opportunities

We aim to create an environment where pupils are encouraged to be involved with as many areas of interest as possible. We encourage them to take part in challenges such as the Primary Maths Challenge, the History Project and language competitions; to take intellectual risks by entering public speaking competitions; to embrace new areas of study such as Mandarin and Chess; to participate in learning a new skill, such as sewing, judo and mini-modelling; to participate in team building in gardening, and team sports. The variety of musical and drama opportunities allows students with a broad range of talents to be stretched. Our sports department provides a wide range of opportunities, striving to support and develop the talents of all.

Fostering a Positive Learning Environment

We recognise that pupils engage in their learning where they are praised and encouraged. Not only do we praise when they perform well, but we especially do so when the pupils exert effort, take intellectual risks, seek out new challenges, or try out novel strategies in the face of setbacks. We recognise that hard work underpins all exceptional performances and we strive to motivate all the students to persevere.

Ultimately our success in providing a challenging environment in which all students are fully engaged in a broad range of learning activities is measured by our students' commitment, interest and infectious love for learning.

f) Learning Enrichment (SEND) and Gifted and Talented Provision

It is vitally important that all girls are able to gain full access to the school's curriculum, both for those that are working significantly above their peers and that have difficulty accessing it through individual learning differences. These girls are identified and provision is built into the teacher's planning, with support from specialists where required. See G&T policy and Learning Enrichment Policy for further details. This is supported by our SENDCO.

g) Curriculum Review

As part of any school's self-review investigations, the curriculum, including Learning Enrichment (SEND) and Putney Gifted provision, should form a major part of such explorations. The Junior School must be no exception, we should take advantage of all the new influences and stimuli to scrutinise and improve upon our teaching and learning, which is the essence of what we do. In order to take advantage of the wealth of experience available within the teaching body of Junior School, it would seem sensible to harness that experience and use it to inform the on-going self-review process.

AMR - September 2018