

## Curriculum Policy

This policy has been written in line with:

- The Education (Independent Schools Standards) (England) Regulations 2014
- ISI Regulatory Handbook
- 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 SLT, the Academic Leadership Team 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 providing 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, enjoyable and engaging schemes of work. Subjects are enhanced by practical work, educational visits and visiting experts.

QM provides a full-time supervised education for all girls in its care. This is mathematical, scientific, linguistic, human, social, aesthetic, creative, technological and physical. Subject matter is appropriate for the ages and aptitudes of the girls and does not undermine the fundamental British values (BV) 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 SMSC and the Promotion of British Values Policy. Suitable Learning Support is available for those identified with a Special Educational Need. The PSHE 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, it is reviewed on a regular basis and reflects the school's aims and ethos.

- SMSC and the Promotion of British Values

### 3.2. Curriculum by Year Group

#### Years I and II

In Year I and II the girls follow a set curriculum as indicated below (hours per week are given in brackets):

- English (3), Mathematics (3), Science (3)
- French (1.5), Spanish (1.5)
- Latin (1.5)
- Geography (1), History (1), Religious Studies (1)
- Art (1), Drama (1), Music (1)
- Computer Science (1), Food Technology (1), Textiles (1)
- Sport (5)
- PSHE (1)
- Study Period (1.5)

#### Year III

In Year III the girls follow the curriculum below:

- English (3.5), Mathematics (4), Biology (1.5), Chemistry (1.5), Physics (1.5)
- Spanish (1.5), French (1.5)
- Latin/Classics (1.5)
- Geography (1), History (1), Religious Studies (1)
- Art (1), Drama (1), Music (1)
- Computer Science (0.5), Food Technology (1)\*, Textiles (1)\*
- Sport (3.5)
- PSHE (1)
- Study Period (1.5)

\*subjects taught on a carousel

Where possible, the curriculum is modified, on an individual basis, to suit particular needs and nurture the development of specific talents.

#### Years IV and V

In Years IV and V girls take a core curriculum and make a number of choices as set out below. The study of the Sciences leads to three separate Science qualifications **or** two qualifications that incorporate Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The English qualification leads to both English Language and English Literature awards for most candidates. The English as a Second Language IGCSE is offered as an alternative to English where appropriate. PSHE is also an important part of the curriculum and all girls have timetabled lessons each week.

Core Curriculum:

- English (3.5)
- Mathematics (3)
- Biology (2.5), Chemistry (2.5), Physics (2.5)
- Sport (3.5)

Girls can select a further four subjects:

- French (2.5), Latin (2.5), Spanish (2.5), Classical Greek (2.5)
- Business (2.5), Classical Civilisation (2.5), Geography (2.5), History (2.5), Religious Studies (2.5)
- Art Textiles (2.5), Drama (2.5), Fine Art (2.5), Music (2.5)
- Computer Science (2.5), Food Preparation and Nutrition (2.5), Physical Education (2.5)

In Year IV all girls will also have:

- PSHE (1)
- Study Periods (1.5)

In Year V all girls will also have:

- PSHE (0.5)
- Study Periods (2)

In Year IV the Higher Project Qualification is also available to all girls and is the equivalent to half a GCSE. Where possible Higher Project Qualification contact hours are built into the timetable. In Year V Further Mathematics is also offered as a GCSE subject outside of timetabled lessons. Where there is sufficient demand for Mandarin, the school will look to provide provision where possible.

### **One-Year GCSE Course:**

We are able to offer an exciting programme that has been designed as an opportunity for international girls to join Year V. Girls will be integrated into mainstream curriculum and will typically study between five and seven GCSE courses. This programme will run for three terms in Year V and can include:

Core Curriculum:

- English Language/English as a Second Language
- Mathematics
- Biology, Chemistry, Physics

Option subjects include:

- French, Latin, Spanish
- Business, Classical Civilisation, History, Religious Studies
- Art Textiles, Fine Art, Music
- Computer Science, Food Preparation and Nutrition, Physical Education

Not all subjects are available to study as part of the One-Year GCSE programme due to coursework and fieldwork elements which may have been missed in Year IV. Furthermore, some subjects may require students to have a strong background or a portfolio of work to help support their studies.

The One-Year GCSE Programme also includes:

- PSHE programme
- Extracurricular opportunities
- Timetabled study periods
- Additional lessons to support the curriculum
- A minimum of two PE lessons
- EAL support

### **Sixth Form**

In the Sixth Form, girls have a free choice from 30 subjects.

**All girls take:**

- Sport (3.5)
- PSHE (0.5)
- Life Skills (0.5)

**Subject Selections (5 hours each)**

- English Literature, English Language and Literature
- Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physical Education, Psychology, Computer Science
- French, Spanish, Latin
- Classical Greek, Classical Civilisation, History, Business, Economics, Geography, Politics,
- Art (Photography, Textile Design, Fine Art, Graphic Communication), Drama and Theatre, Music
- Food Science and Nutrition (Level 3 Certificate)

In the LVI we also offer the Extended Project Qualification which is an invaluable part of the curriculum and does carry time on the timetable. IELTS is also offered to those wishing to study it. Chinese is also available for native speakers and again this carries time on the timetable.

**Enrichment**

- LAMDA, Vocational Dance Qualifications, National Pool Lifeguard Qualification.

\* The Sixth Form courses outlined above will run providing there is sufficient demand.

**3.3. PSHE**

All girls take part in the PSHE programme. It is a non-examined compulsory part of the Curriculum. PSHE is provided through timetabled lessons as well as an RSE drop-down day. Full details of the programme can be found in these policies:

- PSHE & RSE
- Careers

**3.4. 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    | • Football   |
| • Lacrosse  | • Rugby      |
| • Netball   | • Riding     |
| • Swimming  | • Rounders   |
| • Tennis    | • Squash     |
| • Athletics | • Volleyball |
| • Badminton | • Omnikin    |
| • Cricket   |              |

### 3.5. Dance, Music and Sport – Individual Lessons

In addition to the set curriculum, girls are able to have individual lessons timetabled in the following disciplines:

- Dance (Classical Ballet, Contemporary, Hip-Hop, Modern Jazz, Tap)
- Drama (Speaking Verse and Prose, Solo/Duologue Acting, Reading for Performance and Speaking in Public)
- Music (Brass, Keyboard, Percussion, Strings, Voice, Woodwind)
- Sport (Personal Fitness, Riding, Squash, Tennis).

### 3.6. Progress, Achievement and Student Support (PASS) and English as an Additional Language (EAL) – Individual Lessons

A number of girls have lessons each week with a teacher from the PASS or EAL Departments. These may take place in 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 PASS and EAL is set out in the following policy:

- SEND & EAL

### 3.7. Curriculum Review

The Curriculum is 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 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.

**David Free**  
**Director of Academic Administration**

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

**Date Agreed: September 2024**  
**Review Date: September 2025**