





Respect – Commitment – Success

CURRICULUM POLICY

Document Version Control

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Chair of Governors	
Headteacher	

Introduction

All students at Radyr have a right to a curriculum that maximises learning outcomes. We aim to give students both academic outcomes and the opportunity to develop as “well rounded” individuals who play an active part in society.

The introduction of the New Curriculum for Wales in 2022 (for Year 7) will align itself to the four purposes. The four purposes are that all children and young people will be:

- ambitious, capable learners who are ready to learn throughout their lives;
- enterprising, creative contributors who are ready to play a full part in life and work;
- ethical, informed citizens who are ready to be citizens of Wales and the world;
- healthy, confident individuals who are ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

Principles

The purpose of this policy is:

- to provide a broad, balanced, coherent, differentiated and relevant curriculum that meets all statutory requirements, enriched by a wide range of additional opportunities for learning and personal development;
- to provide a curriculum that supports all students to enjoy learning and perceive education as a lifelong process;
- to provide a curriculum that ensures continuity and progression within and between Key Stages;
- to provide equal access to the curriculum for all students;
- to provide appropriate learning pathways, from Year 7 through to Year 13 and beyond;
- to provide a curriculum that draws appropriately upon the Welsh Language and Culture;
- to develop in students the concept of Lifelong Learning;
- to support governor accountability in meeting Welsh Government targets of improving standards;
- to introduce the new Curriculum for September 2022 in Year 7 and ensure progression into Year 8 and beyond.

Aims

The school will ensure that:

- all students follow a common curriculum in Year 7, which will build on work covered in Year 6;
- from 2022, all Year 7 students will study subjects from each of the six areas of learning;
- all other students study the core subjects of English, Mathematics, Science, Physical Education, PSE, Welsh and the National Challenge Certificate at Key Stage 4, and will be encouraged to study subjects from a range of curriculum areas;
- the curriculum meets the statutory requirements with regard to Religion Values and Ethics Education;
- at Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5, students follow courses at a level recommended by the school, after consultation with students and parents/carers;

- all courses are available to both boys and girls;
- all courses take careful account of the additional learning needs of students, including those that are more able and talented;
- links with industry, commerce and the community are developed to enrich the curriculum whenever and wherever possible;
- students have access to information regarding future careers from Year 9 onwards;
- all students are provided with the opportunity to participate in a period of work experience during year 10 and year 12;
- all students are offered a wide range of courses at 13-19, the delivery of which will be supported by collaborative partnerships;
- the delivery of the curriculum is monitored by the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team through regular faculty reviews and line management meetings;
- all departments will produce a departmental handbook detailing all departmental documentation and schemes of work;
- any proposals regarding curriculum change will be discussed initially at Senior Leadership Team level with the Headteacher providing a briefing to the Full Governing Body via the Development Committee.

Curriculum Structure

At Radyr, the timetable cycle consists of 50 one-hour lessons across a fortnight. For curriculum purposes, Key Stage 3 includes year 7* and 8, Key Stage 4 includes year 9, 10 and 11.

*The New Curriculum for Wales will move away from key stages towards stages of progression:

'While the learning continuum is the same for each learner, the pace of progress through it will differ. As a result, the progression steps can only broadly correspond to expectations at ages 5, 8, 11, 14 and 16'.

Welsh Government

Year 7 (2023/24)

In year 7, students are taught in mixed ability tutor groups for most of their lessons. In January, students are placed in ability sets for Mathematics.

Area of Learning Experience	Curriculum Subject	Lessons per cycle
Expressive Arts	Art & Design	2
	Drama	1
	Music	2
Health and Wellbeing	Physical Education	4
	Food & Nutrition	1
	Health & Wellbeing	1
Humanities	History	3
	Geography	3
	Religion, Values and Ethics	2
Languages, Literacy and Communication	English	6
	Welsh	4
	French	4
Mathematics and Numeracy	Mathematics	6
Science & Technology	Science	6
	Design & Technology	2
	Textiles	1
	Information Technology	2
		50

Year 8 (2023/24)

Along with Mathematics, English, Science, Languages are given the opportunity to set. There are 2 learning pathways students can pursue in year 8:

Learning Pathway 1 – students do a second modern foreign language – German. Students with an aptitude for languages will be selected for this pathway.

Area of Learning Experience	Curriculum Subject	Lessons per cycle
Expressive Arts	Art & Design	2
	Drama	1
	Music	2
Health and Wellbeing	Physical Education	3
	Food & Nutrition	1
	Health & Wellbeing	1
Humanities	History	3
	Geography	3
	Religion, Values and Ethics	2
Languages, Literacy and Communication	English	6
	Welsh	3
	French	3
	German	3
Mathematics and Numeracy	Mathematics	6
Science & Technology	Science	6
	Design & Technology	2
	Textiles	1
	Information Technology	2
		50

Learning Pathway 2 – students who do not study a second modern foreign language, have an additional lesson in French and Physical Education.

Area of Learning Experience	Curriculum Subject	Lessons per cycle
Expressive Arts	Art & Design	2
	Drama	1
	Music	2
Health and Wellbeing	Physical Education	4
	Food & Nutrition	1
	Health & Wellbeing	1
Humanities	History	3
	Geography	3
	Religion, Values and Ethics	2
Languages, Literacy and Communication	English	6
	Welsh	4
	French	4
Mathematics and Numeracy	Mathematics	6
Science & Technology	Science	6
	Design & Technology	2
	Textiles	1
	Information Technology	2
		50

Year 9 (2023/24)

Year 9 is seen as a transition year in terms of the Key Stage 4 curriculum. Students embark on their chosen options whilst still retaining compulsory aspects associated with Key Stage 3.

Year 9		Year 10		Year 11	
Subject	Lessons per cycle	Subject	Lessons per cycle	Subject	Lessons per cycle
English Language & English Literature	7	English Language & English Literature	7	English Language & English Literature	7
Mathematics & Numeracy	7	Mathematics & Numeracy	7	Mathematics & Numeracy	7
Science	9	Science	9	Science	9
Welsh	5	Welsh	4	Welsh	4
Ethics & Philosophy	1	Ethics & Philosophy	1	Ethics & Philosophy	1
Skills	3	Skills	4		
Core Physical Education	2	Core Physical Education	2	Core Physical Education	2
Option A	4	Option A	4	Option A	5
Option B	4	Option B	4	Option B	5
Option C	4	Option C	4	Option C	5
Option D	4	Option D	4	Option D	5
Total	50	Total	50	Total	50

The majority of students will take at least 10 GCSEs or vocational equivalents comprising of a core curriculum including English, Mathematics, Science, Ethics & Philosophy* and Skills**, Welsh (2nd Language) and Physical Education.

* This is used to deliver statutory Religion, Values and Ethics and PSE.

** In Skills, students prepare and undertake the National Skills Challenge Certificate in Year 10 and Year 11. There are four lessons in Year 9, five lessons in Year 10 and one lesson in Year 11.

Students also choose 4 additional option subjects. A Qualifications Plus course has been developed to allow students to access support, whilst undertaking a suite of vocational qualifications including SWEET, Financial Capability and Princess Trust suite of qualifications. The suite of qualifications is tailored to the needs of the individual cohorts.

Students initially have a free choice of option subjects. Once option blocks have been created around pupil choices, a small number of students may need, after discussion with the Senior Leadership Team and their parents/carers, to re-consider their option choices. The model below shows the current Year 9 and 10 progression into Year 11 (2022/23)

Revolve Provision

The School has developed its own 'in-house' provision to support those students who find the regular timetabled curriculum (as highlighted above) a challenge. Lessons in Revolve include core subjects such as Mathematics, English and Science. Additional qualifications such as those delivered through the Princes Trust or other vocational providers can be accessed if appropriate. This is regularly reviewed.

Year 12 and 13 (2023/24)

Students study a variety of courses to AS level leading to a full A level at the end of Year 13, in addition to studying for the Welsh Baccaulaureate, which is compulsory. At present, we have a combined 6th Form of approximately 280 students. The entry requirements and courses offered to students are set out in more detail in the 6th Form General Information Booklet and 6th Form Course Details Booklet which can be found on our website.

Since 2009/2010, years 12/13 students have taken the Welsh Baccaulaureate Advanced Diploma at Radyr. The current year 12 and 13 are now on the new programme which grades the Welsh Baccaulaureate in the same way as other A Levels. Students gain the Welsh Baccaulaureate Qualification in combination with 2 grades at A2 levels.

Along with the Welsh Baccaulaureate, students usually study 4 subjects in Year 12 at AS level and 3 subjects in Year 13 at A2 level. Some subjects are delivered in some of our partnership schools in order to offer more choice to students. Students initially, have a free choice of option subjects. Once option blocks have been created around pupil option choices, a small number of students may need, after discussion with the Assistant Headteacher/Director of Sixth Form and their parents/carers, to re-consider their option choices.

Subject	Year 12 Periods/cycle	Subject	Year 13 Periods/cycle
Option 1	8	Option 1	8
Option 2	8	Option 2	8
Option 3	8	Option 3	8
Option 4	8	Option 4	8
Welsh Baccaulaureate	5	Welsh Baccaulaureate	3

Disapplication

In accordance with the law, the school has the right to respond to individual needs by modifying the National Curriculum programmes, or disapplying the National Curriculum for the duration of KS4 in order to:

- allow a pupil to participate in extended work-related learning;
- allow a pupil with individual strengths to focus in a particular curriculum area;
- allow a pupil to consolidate his/her learning and progress in other areas of the curriculum;

Decisions about any of the above will only be made after discussion with the pupil and parent.

Religion Values and Ethics (RVE) and Religious Education

In Key Stage 3, Religion Values and Ethics (RVE) is compulsory. From September 2022, there is no right to withdraw from RVE in Year 7. At Key Stage 4, Ethics and Philosophy contains statutory Religious Education and PSE. Religious Studies is also offered as a full course GCSE option. In years 12 and 13, Religious Studies is offered as an option at AS/A2 level. Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their children from Religious Education.

Relationships Sexuality Education (RSE)

The school provides RSE in the basic curriculum for all students, in which students are encouraged and guided by moral principles and taught to recognise the value of family life. A full statement of the school's sex education policy is available to parents/carers. It has been drawn up in consultation with staff, students and parents/carers, and the views of representatives from the community. It has regard for the government's guidance in *Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) Code (WG21-92)*. From September 2022, parents cannot withdraw their child from RSE. RSE is being taught appropriately to the age of the child and is delivered through Health and Wellbeing. In years 9, 10 & 11, RSE provision is delivered during Ethics and Philosophy in the Summer term. The fortnightly pastoral timetable will also be used to deliver aspects, as appropriate throughout the year.

Political Education

The promotion of partisan political views in the teaching of any subject in the school is forbidden by law. Political issues are introduced in a number of courses and are presented in a balanced manner. WJEC Politics is offered as an option in KS5.

Physical Education and Games

Students are expected to take part in the school's Physical Education and Games programme. Students can only be excused from PE and Games lessons for medical reasons. For a short period, a note from a parent will suffice. For a prolonged period of non-participation, a medical certificate will be required. Physical Education and vocational Sport qualifications are offered at KS4 and KS5.

Wider curriculum activities (extra-curricular)

The school has a wide and varied programme of cultural and sporting activities that take place outside the formal curriculum. All students are encouraged to take part in the programme. There is an annual audit of extra-curricular activities which is then made available to all students.

Cwricwlwm Cymreig

The Cwricwlwm Cymreig is developed within the whole school curriculum to help promote a sense of Welsh identity within our students. Welsh is taught as a second language to all students to the end of KS4. For details on Welsh provision, please refer to separate policy. There is a school Eisteddfod each year on Saint David's Day, when students compete in a wide range of events for their school houses. In addition, students follow the Cwricwlwm Cymreig in each subject, where appropriate. This is available in more detail in schemes of work.

Homework

The school expects homework to be set and completed as appropriate and a separate homework policy has been produced. As guidance, the school expects students to spend the following times on homework:

- Years 7 and 8 – 45 to 90 minutes per day;
- Year 9 – 1 to 2 hours per day;
- Years 10 and 11 – 1 to 2 hours per day;
- Years 12 and 13 – this is subject specific.

Show My Homework is used to communicate homework to students. Teaching staff will mark and feedback on homework.

Additional Learning Needs

The school has an additional learning needs policy for statemented and non-statemented students, which is available separately. The school will determine the appropriate courses in consultation with the parents/carers.

Concerns and Complaints

Parents/carers who have concerns about any aspect of the curriculum should discuss these in the first instance with the relevant Director of School. This may then be referred to the Senior Teacher with responsibility for the curriculum – Mr Richard Jenkins (Assistant Headteacher – Curriculum).

Blended Learning

During periods when students are unable to attend school due to changing conditions such as COVID-19 and its 'variants of concern', students will be taught online, following the timetable published at the time. The school recognises the need to adapt provision in accordance to the changing situation. Parents/carers will be informed via the school website and Parentmail.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Body

The Governing Body is responsible for:

- regularly reviewing and approving the Curriculum Policy in conjunction with the Headteacher/Assistant Headteacher (Curriculum);
- making any recommendations about curriculum change which, if approved by the Governing Body are incorporated into the School Development Plan.

The Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team and Heads of Faculty

The Headteacher:

- is responsible for reviewing and approving this Curriculum Policy in conjunction with the Governing Body and monitoring its effectiveness;

The Assistant Headteacher (Curriculum):

- will implement the curriculum, through effective timetabling to ensure resources are placed where required by students and teachers;

Heads of Faculty/Heads of Department:

- will ensure that the subjects delivered through the school curriculum best cater to the needs of our students;
- will provide information to parents about the curriculum, this will be done through the publication of Curriculum Letters;
- will provide materials to ensure students make appropriate option choices in Year 8 and Year 11;
- will work with the Assistant Headteacher (Teaching and Learning) and Directors of Learning in the development of the new curriculum.

Staff

All staff are responsible for:

- delivery of the curriculum, through effective line management of departments and faculties;
- keeping up to date with curriculum reform and all the requirements this will bring.

Parents/Carers

Parents/Carers are expected to:

- provide their child, where appropriate with additional support with homework;
- support their child when making option choices;
- engage with teachers at appropriate times throughout the year i.e. year group information evenings, PCEs etc.

Students

Students are expected to:

- attend classes on time and regularly;
- be prepared for all classes;
- complete all homework assignments;
- organise their time well;
- respect themselves and others;
- always do their best.