



## **Curriculum Policy**

### **Rationale**

To provide a deep, rich and relevant curriculum that enables pupils to excel academically; whilst developing into socially and emotionally aware, confident young people.

### **Our Curriculum Priorities are to develop the following:**

Attitudes and Values: acceptance and tolerance, respect, excellence, aspiration

Skills: resilient, independent, creative, reflective

Knowledge: breadth of opportunity, depth of understanding

At Parkside, our School Curriculum promotes a positive attitude towards learning, so that children enjoy coming to school in an exciting and stimulating environment. We have designed and implemented our curriculum to offer a range of experiences that challenge and inspire learning; which teach the necessary skills to be successful in the modern day world and workplace, and which contribute to every young person achieving their full potential. At the core of our curriculum is the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. We actively promote engagement with British values and this is woven into the ethos of our school.

We place high priority on ensuring that pupils' physical and mental wellbeing are met through our Thrive approach. We understand that our young people will not be successful learners unless they are emotionally secure; therefore, we carefully design our curriculum and adopt a flexible approach. Our pupils' physical and mental wellbeing are as valued and important as academic development.

Standards of excellence and high aspirations are embedded into the culture of our school. The curriculum design meets statutory requirements, and its delivery facilitates pupils to not merely cover content, but achieve a depth to their learning; this enables them to use their skills and understanding in all areas of the curriculum, to achieve academically. It provides a broad and balanced education that caters for the needs of individual children, of both sexes, from all ethnic and social groups - for all abilities and learning styles.

Our curriculum is tailored to capitalise on the experiences and needs of our young people, as well as providing them with relevant new opportunities through a broad range of inspiration days, residential trips, educational visits, visitors to the school, business links and extra-curricular clubs. Home-learning is used to

further enhance pupils' independence, deepen and give breadth to their understanding and consolidate their knowledge and skills.

We ensure that each child's education has continuity and progression through close liaison with feeder First and High Schools. We recognise the crucial role which parents play in their child's education and encourage parental involvement in the educational process.

## **Key Stage 2**

Maths, English, Science, PE, ICT, French, RE and PSHE, are taught as separate subjects. With the exception of Literacy and Numeracy, lessons are taught in mixed ability class groups. Settings and groupings for Literacy and Numeracy are determined by the needs of each cohort. Pupils reading skills are further developed through the implementation of Accelerated Reader, an online reading programme. The application of Maths in a real life context is strengthened through additional Practical Maths lessons. History, Geography, Citizenship, Art, Design and Technology and Music are taught as cross-curricular Learning Journeys.

## **Key Stage 3**

All subjects are taught separately, although cross-curricular links are made wherever possible. To enable pupils to receive high-quality secondary education, we pride ourselves on having subject specialist teachers in Key Stage Three. To enable this, pupils are taught in a carousel for Arts and Computing, and Humanities: pupils have a ten-week cycle of three lessons a week, in which they will be fully immersed in one of the Arts and Computing subjects (Art, Music, Computing, Design and Technology) and Humanities (History, Geography, RE and Citizenship). This allows pupils to fully engage and build a secure rapport with their subject teachers, whilst being encouraged to build cross-curricular skills. With the exception of English and Mathematics, lessons are taught in mixed ability class groups. Settings and groupings for English and Mathematics are determined by the needs of each cohort. Pupils' reading skills are further developed through the implementation of Accelerated Reader, an online reading programme. The application of Maths in a real life context is strengthened through additional Practical Maths projects.

## **Thrive**

The school adopts the 'Thrive' approach to teaching and supporting pupils' social and emotional development. This programme is embedded into the culture of the school and is planned and implemented through careful analysis of class and individual needs.