

# Kingswood School Curriculum Policy

## Legal Status:

- This is a Statutory Policy
- Regulatory Requirements, Part 1, paragraph 2(2)(a) to (j) Quality of Education Provided (curriculum) (teaching) of the Education (Independent School Standards) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012, as amended 2013.

## Applies to:

- the whole school including the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), out of school care, the early club, the afterschool clubs, the holiday club and all other activities provided by the School, inclusive of those outside of the normal school hours;
- all staff (teaching and support staff), the proprietor, pupils on placement and volunteers working in the School.

## Appendices to the Teaching and Learning - Curriculum Policy:

- Differentiation Policy
- Assessment and Reporting for Learning Policy
- Special Educational Needs Policy
- Policy for Raising Achievement
- Subject and Aspect Policies including, where relevant, Schemes of Work (Programmes of study)

## Other Related Documents Include:

- EYFS - Curriculum Policy Appendix
- Homework Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy (SEND), Gifted and Talented Policy
- Educational Visits and Off-site Activities Policy
- Appropriate plans, schemes of work and/ or programs of study.

## Availability:

This policy is made available to parents, staff and pupils in the following ways: via the School website <http://www.kingswoodschool.co.uk/>, and on request, a copy may be obtained from the Office.

## Monitoring and Review:

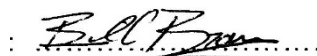
- This policy will be subject to continuous monitoring, refinement and audit by the Headmaster.
- The Assistant Head (Curriculum) together with Subject Co-ordinators is responsible for the day-to-day organisation of the curriculum.
- The Headmaster observes the way that subjects are taught throughout the School. He reviews long-term and medium-term planning, and ensures that appropriate teaching strategies are used.
- It is intended that the review and development of the curriculum will support enthusiastic and inspirational teaching. The process of review plays a key role in the continuing professional development of the teaching staff at Kingswood School.
- The Proprietor and the Headmaster undertake a formal annual review of this policy for the purpose of monitoring and of the efficiency with which the related duties have been discharged, by no later than one year from the date shown below, or earlier if significant changes to the systems and arrangements take place, or if legislation, regulatory requirements or best practice guidelines so require.

Signed:



Headmaster

Signed:



Proprietor's Agent

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017

## Policy Statement

Imagine the joy and excitement of learning in a vibrant, well-structured learning environment where each pupil's individual strengths, talents and aptitudes are nurtured and developed. It is the aim of Kingswood School to provide a broadly-based academic curriculum which will be delivered within the context of the School Ethos, Vision and Mission. The curriculum underpins the fundamental aims of the School. The curriculum must be seen as the major component of the pupils' education which, together with the pastoral care and the extra-curricular activities offered, help pupils to develop a wide range of key and transferable skills so that they leave the School equipped to become valuable members of society. Our planned curriculum activities are organised in order to promote learning and personal growth and development. We aim to provide a challenging and stimulating curriculum which encourages an enthusiasm for learning, intellectual curiosity, creativity, personal growth and development. The School provides an academically challenging environment which is vibrant, happy, creative and stimulating. Our teachers have high expectations but, equally, they foster a nurturing environment in order to promote pupils' academic growth and to provide the support they need in order to make excellent progress in their studies.

With small classes, an enviable ratio of qualified staff to pupils, specialist Dyslexia teachers and access to local authority specialist support services, Kingswood is well placed to respond to the educational needs of children with a wide range of academic ability and potential. Opportunities are provided for all to take part in the performing arts, team games and public speaking. Children learn to present themselves well through sporting, social and cultural activities. These activities are essential ingredients of the "**Kingswood experience**". We have high hopes for all our pupils and we do our best to make sure they leave us as accomplished and caring persons who value themselves and others and are happy and confident to take on the many academic, personal and social challenges which they will undoubtedly encounter as they get older. We therefore foster consideration for others, good manners and opportunities for service both in and out of school.

We employ specialist teachers for Sport, Music, Drama and Ballet and our Special Needs Coordinator uses all available expertise to include and help all children who clearly have tremendous potential to achieve success. We value a blend of traditional and modern teaching styles responding to children's needs and we expect all pupils to take advantage of the continuous educational opportunities the School provides from starting in the Nursery to leaving at the age of eleven. The importance of good examination results is recognised and thorough preparation is given without confining the curriculum to these needs alone. The School has an excellent record of examination successes and many children are destined to enter leading independent or grammar schools. The Kingswood experience is characterised by the intrinsic belief in the importance of moral and spiritual education as well as the personal and social development of each child based on Christian principles. We have an inclusive attitude towards all pupils and welcome children of all faiths. We work in partnership with parents and enjoy close links with families and past pupils.

The educational journey at the School is organised into:

- the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS);
- the Preparatory Department which is formed of Year 1 to Year 6

The School encourages its pupils to develop intellectual independence and an enduring love of learning for its own sake, equipping them for the challenges of a rapidly changing world. The programmes of study at Kingswood School extend beyond the National Curriculum. They include not only the full range of academic subjects but also a wide variety of physical and creative experiences. Pupils benefit from opportunities to exercise initiative, develop team-working skills, and participate in visits beyond the classroom. The curriculum not only supports pupils' academic progress but also fosters in them awareness and understanding of a range of spiritual, moral, cultural and social issues. In this way, it promotes their development into compassionate, empathetic and confident individuals. It includes not only the formal requirements of the National Curriculum, but also the range of extra-curricular activities that the School organises in order to enrich the experience of pupils. It also includes the 'hidden curriculum', or what the pupils learn from the way they are treated and expected to behave. We aim to teach pupils how to grow into positive, responsible people, who can work and co-operate with others while developing knowledge and skills, so that they achieve their true potential. Above all, we believe in making learning fun and engendering in young people a love of lifelong learning. Kingswood School ensures that the

curriculum gives all pupils experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative education.

*Linguistic:* This area is concerned with developing pupils' communication skills and increasing their command of language through listening, speaking, reading (including a phonic screening check in year one) and writing.

*Mathematical* This area helps pupils to make calculations, to understand and appreciate relationships and patterns in number and space and to develop their capacity to think logically and express themselves clearly. Their knowledge and understanding of mathematics is to be developed in a variety of ways, including practical activity, exploration and discussion.

*Scientific* (including General Science which covers aspects of biology, chemistry and physics): This area is concerned with increasing pupils' knowledge and understanding of nature, materials and forces and with developing the skills associated with science as a process of enquiry: for example, observing, forming hypotheses, conducting experiments and recording their findings.

*Technological* (including Art, Design and ICT): Technological skills can include information and communication technology (ICT); developing, planning and communicating ideas; working with tools, equipment, materials and components to produce products which the pupils are proud of; and evaluating processes and products.

*Human and Social* (including Geography, History, PSHE and Religious Studies at a level appropriate to the child's development): This area is concerned with people and with their environment, and how human action, now and in the past, has influenced events and conditions. In our School, the subjects of History and Geography make a strong contribution to this area.

*Physical* (including PE and an extensive extra-curricular programme): This area aims to develop the pupils' physical control and co-ordination as well as their tactical skills and imaginative responses, and to help them to evaluate and improve their performance. Pupils should also acquire knowledge and understanding of the basic principles of fitness and health.

*Aesthetic and Creative* (including Art, Drama and Music): This area is concerned with the processes of making, composing and inventing. There are aesthetic and creating aspects of all subjects, but some make a particularly strong contribution, including ICT and the study of literature, because they call for personal, imaginative, and often practical, responses. We have specialist Music, Dance and Drama teachers who teach from Nursery to Year 6. Opportunities for visits from Drama groups and external agencies are planned as appropriate. Pupils are encouraged to demonstrate their learning in a variety of ways. We have termly musical/ drama events such as a carol concert, harvest festival, a Key Stage Two production and an Easter Concert. In addition to the National Curriculum (September 2000), the curriculum at Key Stage One includes Religious Education and, at Key Stage Two, Religious Education, French and Drama.

### **Aims of the Policy**

The aims of the curriculum at Kingswood School are to enable pupils to:-

- develop lively, imaginative and enquiring minds with the ability to question, solve problems and argue rationally;
- develop a willingness to apply themselves and an aptitude for learning;
- acquire knowledge and skills relevant to adult life and employment in a world of rapid continuous change including technological change;
- develop sound English and Mathematics skills and competence in the use of Information Technology;
- develop creativity, critical awareness, empathy and sensitivity;
- recognise their own and others' achievements and aspirations;
- develop self-esteem, self-worth and self-confidence;
- develop personal and moral values, respect for shared values and for other cultures, religions and ways of life;
- develop skills and ability to work independently and as a member of a group or team;

- develop personal, moral and spiritual values and tolerance of others, to value each individual and learn to live together in an atmosphere of mutual respect;
- develop an awareness of their place in society as informed, confident and responsible citizens with opportunities for service to each other and the community;
- become confident, resourceful, enquiring and independent learners;
- understand their community and help them feel valued as part of this community.

In accordance with best practice and, where appropriate, regulatory requirements, it is our School policy to ensure that we supply:

- Full time supervised education for pupils of compulsory school age (construed in accordance with section 8 of the Education Act 1996, which gives pupils experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical, and aesthetic and creative education;
- Subject matter appropriate for the ages and aptitudes of pupils, including those pupils with a statement.
- Speaking, listening, literacy and numeracy skills;
- Where a pupil has a statement, education which fulfils its requirements;
- Personal, social and health education which reflects the School's aims and ethos;
- All pupils with the opportunity to learn and make progress;
- Adequate preparation of pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

### **Main Principles**

All pupils, regardless of ability, race, cultural background or gender have a right and entitlement to the highest quality of education we can provide. This means that we strive to ensure that:-

- the curriculum has breadth, balance, relevance, differentiation, progression and continuity and coherence;
- the curriculum should promote knowledge and understanding and mastery of intellectual, physical, and interpersonal skills and personal qualities, values and attitudes;
- there is equality of access for all pupils to academic experiences;
- school must provide appropriate tasks and teaching techniques to support high expectations and appropriate challenges;
- all parents are provided with curriculum information relevant to their child and
- the curriculum is subject to planned evaluation and review.

We have a responsibility to adapt our teaching to ensure that all pupils are engaged in their learning, motivated and enabled to succeed. Teachers are expected to ensure that pupils who are experiencing difficulty or becoming demotivated are identified early and given necessary support, encouragement, guidance and, if necessary, different teaching styles and differentiated tasks.

### **Values**

Our School curriculum is underpinned by the values that we hold dear in our School. The curriculum is the means by which the School achieves its objective of educating pupils in the knowledge, skills and understanding that they need in order to lead fulfilling lives. The curriculum seeks to promote the reputation of Kingswood School as a school with excellent standards of study, which prepares pupils for senior school and life-long involvement in learning. Its curriculum prepares pupils to contribute confidently to an ethnically pluralistic society.

We value the way in which all pupils are unique, and our curriculum promotes respect for the views of each individual pupil, as well as for people of all cultures. We value the spiritual and moral development of each person, as well as their intellectual and physical growth.

We value the importance of each person in our community. We organise our curriculum so that we promote co-operation and understanding between all members of our community.

We value the rights enjoyed by each person in our society. We respect each pupil in our School for who he/she is, and we treat all of them with fairness and honesty. We aim to enable each person to be successful, and we provide equal opportunities for all the pupils in our School.

We value our environment, and we aim, through our curriculum, to teach respect for our world, and how we should care for it for future generations, as well as our own.

Entry to all programmes of study is based on academic suitability and appropriateness, regardless of gender, race, disability, sexual orientation, religion or belief. In accordance with statutory requirements the School aims to make the curriculum accessible to all pupils as far as is reasonably practicable. The School has a policy for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, and an Accessibility Plan both of which are available to parents on request. In order to achieve these values, the curriculum will seek to reinforce the following features of Kingswood School:

- the confidence, talent and high aspirations of its pupils;
- the enquiring atmosphere and enjoyment of discourse which are a prominent feature of Kingswood School;
- the support given to pupils in and outside the classroom by well-qualified, enthusiastic and knowledgeable staff.

The pupils are encouraged to:

- have confidence in who they are as individuals, identifying courage as a worthy attribute;
- stand up for the positive values that engender meaningful loyalties and strong communities. These include: humility, dignity, compassion and integrity;
- promote supportive relationships, and a respect for diversity and difference;
- be self-disciplined, self-directed, and demonstrate self-control and
- participate in the transformation of their society through reflection, sensitivity and action.

### **Standards of attainment**

We carry out data analysis each year and use the data provided to find out how well pupils in our School are achieving, compared with pupils in similar schools. We analyse the statistics to help answer the following questions:

- Do pupils perform better in some subjects than others?
- Are there significant differences between boys' and girls' performances?
- How well are the more able pupils doing, and do enough pupils achieve the higher levels?
- Can we identify any groups of pupils who may be underperforming?
- Can we identify any groups of pupils who are gifted and talented?
- Comparing expectations and estimates with final results.

### **The Learning Environment**

We believe that a purposeful and structured learning environment is essential in promoting high standards. A positive caring environment and culture will promote positive self-esteem and confidence. Organised resources, displays of pupil's work, stimulating materials and bright, colourful language enriched and interactive displays all help to provide the Optimal Learning Environment. We ensure that all tasks and activities that the pupils perform are safe. When we plan to take pupils out of school, we follow a strict set of procedures to ensure safety: where applicable the venue is visited, risk assessments are completed, and various permissions are obtained. Parents/guardians are informed, and their permission obtained before the visit takes place.

Teaching and learning support assistants and other adult helpers are deployed as effectively as possible. Sometimes they work with individual pupils and sometimes they work with small groups. Our School is an attractive learning environment. We ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to display their best work at some time during the year. We believe that a stimulating environment sets the climate for learning, and an exciting classroom promotes independent use of resources and high-quality work by the pupils. All our teachers reflect on their strengths and weaknesses and plan their professional development needs accordingly. We do all we can to support our teachers in developing their skills, so that they can continually improve their practice. We conduct all our teaching in an atmosphere of trust and respect for all.

### **Effective learning**

We acknowledge that people learn in many different ways, and respond best to different types of input (visual, auditory and kinaesthetic); we must therefore deliver teaching in different ways to address the needs of all our learners. We ensure the best possible environment for learning by developing a positive atmosphere in which pupils feel safe and feel they belong, in which they enjoy being challenged, but in which they enjoy learning, and know that they will succeed (because they know the challenge will have been set at the right level). All teaching is

structured to maximise learning opportunities and lessons are planned in accordance with the following principles:

- The teaching should build on previous learning.
- It should give pupils the 'big picture' of the lesson.
- The teacher should explain the learning objectives, and why the lesson is important.
- The lesson should be presented in a range of styles.
- It should allow opportunities for the pupils to build up their own understanding through various activities.
- It should allow opportunities for the pupils to review what has been learned.
- It should have built-in opportunities for feedback to the pupils, celebrating success and reviewing learning strategies.
- The teaching should indicate what the next step in the learning will be.

We offer opportunities for pupils to learn in different ways. These include:

- investigation and problem solving;
- research and finding out;
- group work;
- pair work;
- independent work;
- whole-class work;
- asking and answering questions;
- use of ICT;
- fieldwork and visits to places of educational interest;
- the use of guest speakers and parents talking about current events, cultural or religious celebrations and their careers or interests
- watching television, film and responding to musical or tape-recorded material and
- debates, role-plays and oral presentations.

We encourage pupils to take responsibility for their own learning, to be involved as far as possible in reviewing the way they learn, and to reflect on how they learn – what helps them learn and what makes it difficult for them to learn. Assessment and marking are an integral part of the teaching and learning process. As outlined in the Assessment and Marking Policy, informal formative assessment (Assessment for Learning or AfL) takes place continuously in the classroom and comprises of:

- effective teacher questioning;
- observations of learning;
- analysing and interpreting evidence of learning to inform future planning;
- sensitive and positive feedback to pupils;
- individual target setting: SMART (specific, measureable, assessable, realistic and given in time);
- pupils understanding how well they are doing and how they can improve.

### **Effective Ethos and Classroom Environment**

Each of our teachers makes a special effort to establish good working relationships with all pupils in the class. We treat the pupils with kindness and respect. We recognise that they are all individuals with different needs, but we treat them fairly and give them equal opportunity to take part in class activities. All our teachers follow the School policy with regard to discipline and classroom management. We set and agree with pupils the class code of conduct. We expect all pupils to comply with these rules that we jointly devise to promote the best learning opportunities for all. We praise pupils for their efforts and, by so doing, we help to build positive attitudes towards the School and learning in general. We insist on good order and behaviour at all times. When pupils misbehave we follow the guidelines for sanctions as outlined in our School behaviour policy. We aim to provide a learning environment which:

- is challenging and stimulating;
- is peaceful and calm;
- is happy and caring;
- is organised and well-resourced;
- makes learning accessible;

- is encouraging and appreciative;
- is welcoming;
- provides equal access and inclusion;
- provides a professional working atmosphere.

### **Enrichment opportunities**

All pupils have the opportunity to develop existing interests and nurture new ones through a variety of clubs and enrichment activities, which operate after school. These reflect the talents and interests of the staff and pupils. The extra-curricular clubs range from drama and chess, to gardening and a variety of sporting activities.

### **The Quality of Teaching**

The Headmaster and Senior Management Team carry out book appraisals, whereby books are checked for consistency of marking and being up to date. Planning appraisals are carried out by the Headmaster who checks planning is up to date and evaluated. All teachers are observed working with classes once or twice a year, and Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs) are observed each half term. The criteria that we use have been agreed by all teachers, and are part of our teaching and learning policy. The teacher and the observer follow the observation with a discussion. The observer notes the strengths and areas for development, and gives a copy of this information to the teacher. The Headmaster uses the information gained from this monitoring process to help identify common development points which can be addressed in the School's training programme for continuing professional development. The rationale of the teaching at Kingswood School is that it:

- enables pupils to acquire new knowledge and make progress according to their ability so that they increase their understanding and develop their skills in the subjects taught;
- fosters in pupils the application of intellectual, physical or creative effort, interest in their work, and the ability to think and learn for themselves;
- involves well planned lessons and effective teaching methods, activities and management of class time;
- shows a good understanding of the aptitudes, needs and prior attainments of the pupils, and ensures that these are taken into account in the planning of lessons;
- demonstrates appropriate knowledge and understanding of the subject-matter being taught;
- utilises effectively classroom resources of an adequate quality, quantity and range;
- demonstrates that a framework is in place to assess pupils' work regularly and thoroughly and use information from that assessment to plan teaching so that pupils can progress;
- utilises effective strategies for managing behaviour and encouraging pupils to act responsibly.

### **Assessment (see our Assessment Policy)**

At Kingswood School we have an effective framework in place to assess pupils' work both regularly and thoroughly. This includes the use, each term, of standardised tests in English and Mathematics which inform us as to the NC levels attained by each child in Key Stage One and Key Stage Two. We use the information gathered through our range of assessment methods (both summative and formative) to inform our planning and in modifying our teaching so that pupils can make progress. We also have a framework for evaluative pupil performance through the use of the summative assessments. We also ensure that our framework for pupil performance is evaluated, by reference to our own school aims as provided to parents.

### **Organisation and planning**

We plan our curriculum in three phases. We agree a long-term plan for each year group. This indicates what topics are to be taught in each term, and to which groups of pupils. We review our long-term plan on an annual basis. With our medium-term plans, we give clear guidance on the objectives and teaching strategies that we use when teaching each topic. Our short-term plans are those that our teachers write on a weekly basis not only for Maths and English but also for all other subjects. We use these to set out the learning objectives for each session, and to identify what resources and activities we are going to use in the lesson. We plan the curriculum carefully, so that there is coherence and full coverage of all aspects of the National Curriculum and early learning goals, and in order that there is planned progression in all curriculum areas. At Key Stage 2 the core and foundation subjects are taught separately. From Year 2 onwards, children work in ability groups for Mathematics and for English and we use the information gained from the termly assessments in these subjects to assist in identifying the appropriate teaching group for each child.

Over the three terms of the academic year, each child has the opportunity to experience the full range of National Curriculum subjects. In our curriculum planning we highlight these areas, so that the pupil's progress can be identified and monitored. All subject areas contribute to a child's progress in these skills. Our School believes that all pupils need to make good progress in these skill areas in order to develop to their true potential.

*Long-term plans* Our schemes of work give an annual overview of what content of the curriculum will be taught with teachers extracting from the appropriate year group's curriculum that which they aim to cover. Subject Co-ordinators are responsible for ensuring that long-term and medium-term plans are in place and enable pupil's skills, knowledge and understanding to develop progressively. Teachers plan individual lessons and include the learning intention; WALT and/or success criteria.

*Medium-term planning.* These indicate WHEN the material will be delivered and are prepared on a half-termly or termly basis from the Scheme of Work in response to individual group needs. They include teaching objectives and resources. Additionally we notify parents of upcoming topics at the start of each term via the class newsletter, as they may wish to prepare their child for the upcoming topics.

*Short-term planning* Short-term plans are on a weekly basis which detail the learning objectives, strategies, activities and identify the resources we are going to use in the lesson. These plans are concerned with HOW material is taught and with the details of delivery. Some year groups may additionally do daily planning.

Teachers teach the same objectives, and may use the same resources. However, teachers will select activities and approaches which are appropriate to their class. When teaching we focus on motivating the pupils and building on their skills, knowledge and understanding of the curriculum, so that they reach the highest level of personal achievement. We use the School curriculum plan to guide our teaching. This sets out the aims, objectives and values of the School and details what is to be taught to each year group. These are reviewed annually and may be subject to change.

We base our teaching on our knowledge of the pupils' levels of attainment. Teachers make ongoing assessments of each pupil's progress, and they use this information when planning their lessons. It enables them to take into account the abilities of all their pupils. Our prime focus is to develop further the knowledge and skills of the pupils. We strive to ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to each pupil's level of ability. When planning work for pupils with special educational needs we give due regard to information and targets contained in the pupils' Individual Education Plans (IEPs). Teachers modify teaching and learning as appropriate for pupils with disabilities. We value each child as a unique individual, and teachers are familiar with the relevant equal opportunities legislation covering race, gender and disability. We strive to meet the needs of all our pupils, and to ensure that we meet all statutory requirements related to matters of inclusion. We have high expectations of our pupils, and we believe that their work here at Kingswood School is of the highest possible standard.

### **The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)**

The Foundation Stage curriculum is organised into seven areas of learning:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Physical Development
- Expressive Arts

We believe learning is holistic and none of the mentioned areas of learning can be delivered in isolation from the others. All areas are delivered through a balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities. One experience may provide children with opportunities to develop a range of competencies, skills and concepts across several areas of learning. Each area of learning works towards a number of relevant Early Learning Goals, which most children are expected to achieve by the end of the Foundation Stage.



## **Time allocation**

- The timetable is constantly under review and is subject to changes in staff and in staff responsibilities. The aims of our timetabling policy are to ensure that every pupil has access to all areas of the timetable.
- The time allocation for ICT is incorporated into the planning for other areas of the curriculum.

## **Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development (SMSC)**

In our School we plan and provide effectively in order to develop pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness. Pupils of all faiths and belief systems are encouraged to strive for academic excellence and a spirit of open and shared enquiry, whilst developing their individual potential and qualities of character so they can make a positive contribution to the world. Whilst SMSC is integral to all aspects of our curriculum, PSHEE and religious education make a strong contribution. Pupils are led towards distinguishing right from wrong, to respect the law and towards acting consistently with their beliefs and with a view to the consequences of their own and others' actions. In addition, our School:

- Leads pupils towards becoming confident and positive contributors to their community and effective users of its services and facilities according to their maturity;
- Enables pupils to gain insights into the origins and practices of their own cultures and into those of the wider community;
- Takes steps to ensure that the pupils appreciate racial and cultural diversity and avoid and resist racism;
- Ensures that pupils are able to understand and respond to risk, for example risks associated with extremism, new technology, substance misuse and personal safety;
- Enables pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence;
- Encourages pupils to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative and understand how they can contribute to community life;
- Provides pupils with a broad general knowledge of public institutions and services in England;
- Assists pupils to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures in a way that promotes tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions;
- Encourages pupils to respect the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs;
- Precludes the promotion of partisan political views in the teaching of any subject in the School.

We also take such steps as are reasonably practicable to ensure that, when political issues are brought to attention of pupils while they are in attendance at the School or while they are taking part in extra-curricular activities which are provided or organized by or on behalf of the School, they are offered a balanced presentation of opposing views.

## **Personal, Social, Health & Economic Education (PSHEE) and Citizenship**

Kingswood School is committed to providing a comprehensive programme of PSHEE for all its pupils, which is appropriate to their age and needs. Responsibility for developing and implementing this programme rests with the Headmaster. Each child's PSHEE and Citizenship education informs all aspects of the School day. We have a cross-curricular approach to PSHEE, and its associated objectives may be addressed in RE, Circle Time, Drama, Assemblies or other curriculum areas. Our structured play sessions are specifically tailored to the needs of the group, from working with a child coping with parallel play to facilitating turn-taking and initiation. We 'help pupils achieve more' by ensuring that all pupils are given the opportunity to be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution and achieve economic well-being.

We provide positive experiences through planned and coherent opportunities in the curriculum, extra-curricular activities and through interactions with teachers and other adults for our pupils. Our range of artistic, sporting and other cultural opportunities is available to pupils through the curricular and extra-curricular programme, and their participation in these opportunities. We plan our, personal, social and health education and citizenship through, assemblies and 'circle time' to help our pupils acquire values and skills to enable them to develop independence and choose their path in life. Kingswood School seeks to:

- develop an ethos and environment which encourages a healthy lifestyle for pupils;
- use the full capacity and flexibility of the curriculum to help pupils to achieve safe and healthy lifestyles;
- ensure that food and drink available across the School day, reinforces the healthy lifestyle message;

- provide high quality Physical Education and sport to promote physical activity;
- promote an understanding of the full range of issues and behaviours which impact upon lifelong health and well-being.

We aim for our pupils to understand and appreciate the range of different cultures and faiths in modern democratic Britain. We use our schemes of work and other plans which enable pupils to develop an understanding of public services and institutions and to take their place in modern democratic British society. We provide a range of quality opportunities for pupils to take on responsibility in school and make a positive contribution to the School, local and wider communities.

### **The Role of the Senior Management Team**

The Senior Management Team (SMT) determines, supports, monitors and reviews the School policies on teaching and learning. In particular, the SMT:

- monitors how effective teaching and learning strategies are in terms of raising pupil attainment through assessments;
- monitors the teaching and learning through lesson observations;
- ensures that staff development and performance management policies promote good quality teaching;
- monitors long and medium-term planning;
- monitors the effectiveness of the School's teaching and learning policies through the School self-review processes, which include reports from Subject Coordinators;
- promotes and develops the process of school development planning.

### **The Role of the Subject / Key Stage Co-ordinator**

Kingswood School wishes to involve all staff in planning and developing all areas of the curriculum. In their specific areas, staff must:

- provide a strategic lead and direction;
- support and offer advice to colleagues;
- monitor child progress in that subject area;
- provide efficient resource management;
- reviewing planning: meet NC Programmes of Study where applicable;
- learning scrutiny: consider standards across all abilities and ages (with colleagues);
- resourcing: ensure resources are appropriate/suitable stored/labelled etc;
- identify shortfalls in resources: gaps in provision, ensuring resources in school are used;
- evaluate value for money when resources are purchased and deployed;
- be responsible for informal monitoring during year – displays, use of resources, photographs, pupils interviews and feedback
- review and update Scheme of Work for the subject, if necessary;
- arrange school-based training, or team teaching, if needed;
- attend at local conferences and courses, if appropriate;
- disseminate from courses/action research/newsletters, where appropriate;
- commit to personal professional development in the area of responsibility;
- establishes links with Leadership Team annually to discuss provision;
- annually evaluate their subject – identify subject priorities for future development in line with a 3 year vision for improvement and report to the Leadership Team (LT).

Each co-ordinator reviews the curriculum plans for their area ensuring that progression is planned into schemes of work. The co-ordinators also keep a portfolio of pupil's work, which is used to show the achievement of pupils at each key stage and to give examples of expectation of attainment.

### **Educational journeys**

The curriculum offers a series of educational journeys that deepen the pupils' understanding of the world around them. Our experience is that pupils forge strong bonds of friendship during the trips, and their respect for one another grows as a result of sharing the experiences. Two night residential trips which alternate biannually take place for Year 4,5 and 6 pupils, who visit a PGL activity centre approximately one hour's travelling time away.

## **Pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)**

Our curriculum is designed to provide access and opportunity for all pupils in Kingswood School. We comply with the Special Education Needs Code of Practice (2001). If we think it necessary to adapt the curriculum to meet the needs of individual pupils, then we do so only after parents have been consulted. If a child has a special need, our School complies with all legislative and best practice requirements to meet these individual needs. If a child displays signs of having special needs, the teacher makes an assessment of this need and in most instances is able to provide resources and educational opportunities which meet the child's needs within the teaching group. If a child's need is more severe, consideration is given to involving appropriate external agencies. We always provide additional resources and support for pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. This includes providing an individual learning programme (IEP) which is reviewed on a regular basis. The provision in this respect is coordinated by the SENCO.

The School provides an Individual Educational Plan (IEP) for each of the pupils who are on the special needs register. This sets out the nature of the special need, and outlines how the Schools will aim to address the need. It also sets out targets for improvement, so that we can review and monitor the progress of each child at regular intervals. Where a pupil has a statement, the SENCO liaises with the child's teachers to ensure that the education the pupil receives fulfils the requirements of the Statement along with enabling the pupil to participate fully in the annual review for the Local Authority. Should a pupil be in receipt of a statement of special educational needs, we will endeavour to give the pupil an education which meets his/her needs as specified by the statement. We ensure that our admissions, discipline and other procedures take account of pupils' additional needs. It is likely that some pupils in possession of a statement cannot be accommodated at Kingswood School due to their needs being beyond the resources available, requiring greater readjustment than is possible. Where possible, this will form part of discussions during the admissions process.

## **English as an Additional Language (EAL)**

We are committed to providing the necessary support and teaching to pupils who require English as an additional language. Where this is required an appropriate programme will be implemented.

## **The Curriculum and Staff**

Members of staff ensure that the learning outcomes required to achieve the goals in the foregoing paragraphs are embodied in the teaching that implements the curriculum. Teachers ensure that an appropriate level and standard of homework is regularly set and marked so that learning outcomes may be consolidated and the needs of individual pupils identified and met.

Our curriculum is well planned for each age group and key stage and ensures that pupils of all abilities, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities are able to acquire knowledge and understanding, develop and practise new skills, and make progress in a range of areas of learning. Where a pupil has a statement of special educational needs we make provision to meet the requirements set out in the statement. We design our curriculum to ensure that it is broad and well-balanced and covers all the required areas of learning. We modify our curriculum and teaching to meet the needs of individuals and groups of pupils including our gifted and talented and disabled pupils or those with a special educational need.

## **Auditing our curriculum: teaching and learning**

We ask ourselves the following questions when auditing our current performance:

- How well are we doing?
- How do we compare with similar schools?
- What more should we aim to achieve?
- What must we do to make it happen?

When evaluating the quality of the curriculum, we consider:

- the impact of the curriculum on pupils' academic and personal development and in preparing them for the opportunities, choices, responsibilities and experiences of adult life;
- the contribution of the curriculum to the School's particular ethos and aims and the impact on pupils' academic and personal development and well-being;

- how well curriculum planning is supported by appropriate schemes of work, builds systematically upon pupils' prior experience and plans for progression;
- the extent to which the curriculum is enriched by extra-curricular opportunities and through collaboration with other schools and organisations;
- the views of our pupils, parents and staff.

### **Expectations of Staff**

Staff are expected to promote the curriculum aims actively by:-

- having high expectation of pupils;
- employing a variety of learning and teaching methods;
- having appropriate knowledge and understanding of the subject matter being taught;
- ensuring that pupils are enabled to access the curriculum and given opportunities to be successful;
- having a good understanding of the aptitude, needs and prior attainments, of the pupils and ensuring that these are taken into account in the planning of these lessons;
- delivering lessons which build upon previous experience, providing continuity and progressions;
- providing learning opportunities which offer depth and challenge and motivate and inspire pupils;
- utilising effective classroom resources of a high quality, quantity and range appropriate to the learners needs;
- involving pupils in the process of learning, by discussing work, giving regular formative feedback through discussion, assessment and marking, negotiating targets and encouraging pupils to evaluate their personal achievements;
- developing pupil's skills to become independent learners;
- encouraging, rewarding and valuing achievement and effort, both formally and informally, through praise in the learning environment;
- working in partnership with pupils, staff and parents to achieve shared goals;
- keeping parents/carers regularly and fully informed about the progress and achievements of their children through reports and parents evenings.

In our School the most important role of teaching is to promote learning in order to raise pupils' achievement. For us, teaching includes lesson planning, the implementation of plans, as well as marking, assessment and feedback. It also includes support and intervention strategies. In assessing the quality of the teaching in our School we take account of the evidence of pupils' learning, achievements and progress over time. When evaluating the quality of teaching in our School, we consider how successful the teaching is in promoting the learning, progress and personal development for every pupil by:

- extending the previous knowledge, skills and understanding of all pupils in a range of lessons and activities over time;
- enabling pupils to develop skills in reading, writing, communication and mathematics ;
- enthusing, engaging and motivating pupils to learn;
- using assessment and feedback to support learning and to help pupils know how to improve their work;
- differentiating teaching, by setting suitably challenging activities and providing support for pupils of different abilities, including the most able and disabled pupils and those who have special educational needs, so that they can all learn well and make progress;
- enabling pupils to apply intellectual, physical or creative efforts and develop the skills to learn for themselves and setting high expectations;
- setting appropriate homework ;
- using well-judged and effective planning and teaching methods, deploying appropriate resources, managing class time and drawing on good subject knowledge and expertise to encourage pupils to make good progress;
- using effective strategies for managing behaviour and encouraging pupils to act responsibly.

We use lesson observations by colleagues and teacher self-evaluation which takes account of:

- how well challenging tasks are matched to pupils' learning needs and successfully engage all pupils in their learning;
- how well pupils understand how to improve their learning as a result of frequent, detailed and accurate feedback from teachers following assessment of their learning ;

- pupils' attitudes to learning, behaviour and relationships in the classroom;
- the promotion of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Direct observation **must** be supplemented by a range of other evidence to enable inspectors to evaluate the impact that teaching has had on pupils' learning. Such additional evidence should include:

- observing some lessons jointly with senior staff before discussing them also with the teacher who has been observed;
- discussing with pupils the work they have done and their experience of teaching and learning over longer periods;
- discussing teaching and learning with staff;
- taking account of the views of pupils, parents and carers, staff and placing authorities, where appropriate;
- taking account of the School's own evaluations of the quality of teaching and its impact on learning;
- scrutinising the standard of pupils' work, noting how well and frequently marking and assessment are used to help pupils to improve their learning;
- the level of challenge provided.

### **Subjects offered**

In Key Stage 1 and 2 the following subjects are offered:

English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, (sometimes referred to as Humanities), Religious Education (RE), Physical Education (PE), Art and Design, Design and Technology (DT), Music and Drama.

### **Disapplication**

In accordance with the law Kingswood School has the right to respond to individual needs by modifying the curriculum programmes. It will allow a pupil to participate in extended work-related learning, allow a pupil with individual strengths to emphasise a particular curriculum area, allow a pupil making significantly less progress than other pupils of his/her age to consolidate his/her learning and progress across the curriculum. Decisions will only be made after discussion with the parents.

### **Religious Education**

Religious Education is incorporated into distinct lessons available to all pupils. We also celebrate Christianity during our assemblies. Other religions are also taught, so pupils have a broader understanding of the diverse world that they are living in.

### **Cultural Education and appreciation of diversity**

Kingswood School includes aspects of cultural education in many specific and cross-curricular ways. All pupils are encouraged to develop an awareness of equality of opportunity.

### **Sex and relationships education**

Kingswood School provides Sex and Relationships education in the basic curriculum in which pupils are encouraged and guided by moral principles and taught to recognise the value of family life. The syllabus for the School's Sex and Relationships Education is available to parents. It has regard for the government's guidance in *Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (0116/2000)*. In accordance with the law the biological aspects of human reproduction remain compulsory for all pupils, but parents may withdraw their pupils from any other part of the sex education provided without giving reasons.

### **Political Education**

The promotion of partisan political views in the teaching of any subject in Kingswood School is forbidden by law. Political issues are introduced through current affairs, and are presented in a balanced manner.

### **PE and Swimming**

All pupils are expected to take part in the School's Physical Education programme. Pupils can only be excused from PE and Swimming lessons for medical reasons, for which a note from a parent will suffice, or other reasons agreed with the School.

## **Extra-curricular Activities**

Kingswood School has an extensive programme of activities that take place outside the formal curriculum.

## **Learning outside the classroom - educational visits/off-site activities**

Integral to our curriculum is a wide range of educational experiences that extend beyond the classroom door. Kingswood School curriculum offers a series of educational journeys that deepen the pupils' understanding of the world around them. Trips extend pupils' knowledge of past and present. In Key Stage Two, pupils have the opportunity to go on residential trips. Our experience is that pupils forge strong bonds of friendship during the trips, and their respect for one another grows as a result of sharing the experiences.

## **Homework**

Homework is given to pupils at different stages of their development.

**Reception** - In Reception, English and Maths homework is given every Friday to be completed by Monday, so that each child has plenty of time to complete it over the weekend. Each piece of work supports the learning that has been happening in the classroom that week and usually pertains to the relevant sound/number of the week. The homework allows parents to support their child with their learning. Reading homework is given every day. In Reception we follow the Jolly Phonics reading scheme where pupils first learn all their letters and corresponding sounds and will work on one sound per evening for 10 minutes. The learning of sounds is then followed by Word boxes – which are sets of 12 words which they learn to blend. Each child takes one Word box (set of words) home each evening. They then move onto reading books and read for 10 minutes every evening. We always encourage each pupil to progress at their own rate.

**Year One** - Every night pupils are expected to read in Year 1. In addition to this, there is a small piece of homework each night which could be Spelling, Maths, English or Topic Homework. Year 1 homework is expected to take 20 minutes.

**Year Two** - In Year 2, pupils have reading, spellings and mental maths homework each week, plus additional work from English, Maths or a foundation subject on Mondays and Fridays. Year 2 homework is expected to take 25 minutes.

**Year Three to Year 6** – Homework is given every day and should take between 25 and 50 minutes to complete. Each week, there will be two literacy and two maths homeworks. At weekends, children will be expected to work on exam prep and Science or Humanities. All children are expected to read for at least 15 minutes on a daily basis. There will also be weekly spelling tests and frequent tables tests; the children are expected to practise for these in addition to other homework.

## **Inclusion and homework**

We recognise the importance and value of homework as an extension and consolidation of classwork. We have a separate Homework Policy and parents receive a homework timetable. Homework assignments can be varied in line with the competency of the pupil. However, scope for this is limited by the nature of the courses in which outcomes are similar for all members of a class.

## **Transition Support**

We ensure all pupils are prepared for their transition from EYFS into Key Stage 1, the next academic year and Key Stage 2. We have a transition morning each end of year, where pupils spend the morning with their new teacher. Parents have the opportunity to meet with new teachers at informal parent-teacher meetings early in the Autumn Term.

## **Senior School guidance**

Pupils at Kingswood School are supported in their preparation for formal examinations at various stages of their education. They receive specific lessons in Study Skills, which include guidance on revision techniques, making notes, examination techniques and management of stress. Pupils are encouraged to learn about their own academic strengths and weaknesses, and the type of learning method that best suits them as an individual. Pupils receive interview training prior to attending selection assessments at senior schools. These are all ways in which they are prepared for the future beyond Kingswood School.

## **Concerns**

Parents who have concerns about any aspect of the curriculum should discuss these in the first instance with the Class Teacher and/or Deputy Head. If the issue is not resolved parents should contact the Headmaster.

## **Academic Excellence and Public Examinations**

Whilst accepting the need to prepare its pupils for their Senior School education, we also strive to ensure that the pursuit of these goals is consistent with achieving the other goals set out in this policy.

## **Communication with Parents and Guardians**

We believe that parents and guardians have a fundamental role to play in helping pupils to learn. We do all we can to inform parents and guardians about what and how their pupils are learning by:

- holding parents' evenings to explain our School strategies;
- holding an informal parents' evening in the Autumn term and more formal parents' evenings in the Spring and Summer terms.
- sending information to parents and guardians, through a termly newsletter, in which we outline the topics that the pupils will be studying during the upcoming term;
- sending information to parents and guardians, including a Headmaster's newsletter and diary of upcoming events, in the form of a termly Parent Handbook;
- sending regular reports to parents and guardians in which we explain the progress made by each child and indicate how the child can improve further;
- explaining to parents and guardians how they can support their pupils with homework. We suggest support for older pupils with their projects and investigative work;
- being available – the Headmaster greets parents and children as they arrive on most mornings and makes himself available to parents at that time for ad hoc meetings/discussions; other staff make themselves available for quick discussions before lessons start and longer meetings at the end of the school day.

We believe that parents and guardians have the responsibility to support their pupils and the School in implementing school policies. We would like parents and guardians to:

- ensure that their child has the best attendance and punctuality record possible;
- do their best to keep their child healthy and fit to attend school;
- inform the School if there are matters outside of school that are likely to affect a child's performance or behaviour at school;
- promote a positive attitude towards school, staff and learning in general;
- fulfil the requirements set out in the homework agreement.

## **In Summary**

Kingswood School is characterised by academic excellence, expert pastoral care and inspiring education. We enable pupils at a formative stage in their development to experience the joy and excitement of learning in an environment which celebrates individual strengths and talents and allow pupils to develop the confidence, motivation and ambition that are the hallmarks of our School.