



Altrincham Grammar School for Girls

Bright Futures EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Name:	Curriculum Policy
Approved by:	Governors – TL, B & S Committee
Policy Created:	2020
Date of review	3 Years
Update Approved:	
All policies are available to stakeholders either on the school website or upon request from the school office.	

PURPOSE

The aims of the curriculum at AGGS are;

- To ensure all students are educated about their choices for the future and are prepared for the challenges of life beyond AGGS.
- To enjoy learning through an academic, broad and balanced curriculum that enables all students to realise their potential.
- To inspire students to become lifelong learners who demonstrate creativity, curiosity and critical thinking.
- To encourage students to develop self-confidence and self-awareness and an appreciation of the impact they can have on members of the school and wider community.
- To present enrichment opportunities for learning and development that promote leadership skills, co-operation and teamwork, and foster cultural knowledge and understanding.
- To uphold the school values of:
 - Unity – embracing of a diverse community
 - Co-operation – working together respectfully and supportively
 - Empowerment – motivating young people to forge their own path
 - Selflessness – celebrating the achievements of their peers
 - Perseverance – using integrity and hard work to overcome challenges
 - Vision – creative and thriving students

POLICY

1.	Curriculum Overview
1.1	The curriculum programme at AGGS for Years 7 to 11 is designed to foster academic excellence, to open students to a broad range of subjects and to enhance their skills through a variety of learning experiences. Personal, social and health education, citizenship and mindfulness programmes enrich the curriculum and support personal and social development. At AGGS we place an emphasis on providing a first class, broad, balanced curriculum which fosters the pursuit of learning for its own sake, whilst ensuring that the students are gaining the skills they need to prepare them for higher education and for the work environment.
1.2	All students are taught in mixed ability groups throughout key stage three. A common curriculum is followed, consisting of English, mathematics, science, geography, history, art, drama, dance, music, PE, design technology, computing, religious studies, citizenship and two MFL subjects from French, German and Spanish. In Year 9, students are taught in the separate disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics for their science lessons.
1.3	Our Key Stage 4 Curriculum is broad so that students can experience a range of opportunities across the curriculum. It is balanced because it is unwise for students to narrow down their options before the age of 16. It is relevant to students' individual needs



	<p>and to the demands of a rapidly-changing world. GCSEs in English language, English literature and mathematics are compulsory for all students. We are committed to an EBacc curriculum and therefore students also study either geography or history, at least one MFL subject and either separate or trilogy award science. All of the other subjects studied at Key Stage 3 are available options for students to pursue at GCSE, as well as business and food preparation & nutrition.</p> <p>The Sixth Form curriculum is built around academic A levels (students study three, with some scope for four A levels). We also offer the Extended Project and Core Mathematics qualifications.</p>
1.4	<p>Form Tutor time and PSHE</p> <p>These are important in every year and aim to encourage personal decision-making skills, confidence to express ideas and an awareness of the individual's responsibility to the community. Pupils/students are also encouraged to develop effective study and revision skills, to review their progress and to assess their skills and qualities.</p>
1.5	<p>Relationships and sex education, and health education are presented within a moral framework, which not only provides information, but also encourages responsible behaviour. See the RSE policy for further details.</p>
1.6	<p>There are regular, timetabled religious studies lessons for Years 7 to 9 and religious studies is an offered option at both GCSE and A Level. Lessons are non-denominational and parents/carers who wish to see the schemes of work or discuss any concerns they may have are invited to contact the school.</p>
1.7	<p>Citizenship has a high priority within the school curriculum. Pupils learn about British Values, develop an understanding of democratic systems, and learn about law and justice, political debate and the importance of volunteering. There is a flourishing elected School Council and there are many opportunities for pupils to contribute to the school community through pupil-led groups such as the Eco-School Committee, Amnesty International and MUN. Citizenship is also offered as a full GCSE course at Key Stage 4.</p>
1.8	<p>We provide a planned and meaningful programme of impartial careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG) and enterprise education for all students. Activities are differentiated and personalised to ensure progression in students' career and enterprise learning and development, and to strengthen their motivation, aspirations and attainment at school. (For further detail see the CEIAG and Enterprise Education Policy and details on AGGS website)</p>
1.9	<p>Equally important to our taught curriculum is the portfolio of experiences to enable personal and social development, develop citizenship and community work and provide additional challenge. These include trips, a wide range of extra-curricular clubs and activities, the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme, fundraising events, supporting others, mentoring and representing the school in sport, dance, drama and academic subjects. All have the aim of helping our student to develop as people so they are ready and equipped to fully engage with life beyond school.</p>
1.10	<p>At Key Stage 4 a programme of enrichment is offered within the curriculum time, which includes PE, study and mindset skills and citizenship.</p>
2.	<p>Curriculum Delivery</p>
2.1	<p>The school day is arranged into five 60 minute lessons and is timetabled over two weeks. There is a 25 minute form tutor period each morning. Subject specialists are deployed in all areas.</p>
2.2	<p>Students are taught in mixed ability form groups in Year 7 and Year 8 and then in mixed ability groupings from Year 9 to Year 13.</p>



2.3	Allocated curriculum hours for students across the key stages can be found in the appendices.
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3	Community and Enrichment
3.1	The school seeks to provide an environment where the contribution and achievement of every individual, irrespective of aptitude and ability, are valued. Participation in lessons, assemblies, performances and other special events, producing work for display and undertaking responsibilities, all increase self-confidence and self-respect. Achievement is celebrated through merits, special awards, and information publicised in assemblies and newsletters.
3.2	Subject schemes of work, for instance in languages, geography and religious education, reinforce and add to knowledge and understanding of other cultures and lifestyles. The wide range of opportunities for foreign visits enhance these.
3.4	Students are encouraged to undertake community service, in school or in the local community either on a regular basis, or on special projects as part of citizenship. Whole school fundraising and special events to support a variety of charities are co-ordinated by the Year 11 Charity Committee.
3.5	Enrichment and extra-curricular activities form a key part of the curriculum at AGGS and students are encouraged to engage in the wide variety of opportunities available to them. Students can benefit from: sport, music and drama; taking part in charity events, community work or enterprise challenges; social activities; playing and having fun together. Curricular and extra-curricular trips and visits also add to the students' wider learning and offer exciting opportunities for personal development.
3.6	Student leadership opportunities are many and varied, enabling students to use and develop their leadership skills: there are student leaders in the sixth form, prefects in Year 11, a peer mentoring programme, digital leaders, antibullying ambassadors, wellbeing ambassadors, sports ambassadors and a charity committee. In addition, each year group has a school council and there is an executive school council with representatives from every year group, which serve as the link between the students and the leadership of the school. These opportunities allow the students to learn that they can effect positive change and take on roles of responsibility which prepare them for life beyond school.

4	Curriculum Guidance
4.1	The school seeks to provide information to students, parents and carers about the curriculum offer across all key stages. The school website offers information including the KS3 curriculum guide, KS3 curriculum maps, KS4 curriculum information booklet and the Sixth Form prospectus.

5.	Monitoring and Evaluation
5.1	<p>The Leadership Team continuously monitor the implementation of the curriculum to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The curriculum is appropriate, challenging and relevant;• The curriculum is delivered successfully through the monitoring and development of outstanding teaching and learning and student outcomes;• The teaching standards are used to ensure that all areas of this policy are implemented to a high level;• National guidance on aspects of the curriculum (eg relationships and sex education) are reflected in relevant policies.



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Responsible Staff	Mr Copestake
Approving body	TL, B & S Committee



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Appendix One: Curriculum Hours for Year 7 and Year 8

Subject	Year 7 Curriculum Hours	Year 8 Curriculum Hours
Mathematics	5	6
English	6	5
Science	5	5
MFL 1	4	3
MFL 2	3	4
Physical Education	3	3
History	3	2
Geography	3	2
Religious Education	2	3
Computer Science	2	3
Drama	2	2
Art	3	2
Music	3	3
Citizenship	2	2
Design Technology	2	3
Dance	2	2

Appendix Two: Curriculum Hours for Year 9

Subject	Year 9 Curriculum Hours
Mathematics	5
English	5
Biology	2
Chemistry	2
Physics	2
MFL 1	3
MFL 2	3
Physical Education	3
History	3
Geography	3
Religious Education	3
Computer Science	2
Drama	2
Art	3
Music	2
Citizenship	2
Design Technology	3
Dance	2



Appendix Three: Curriculum Hours for Year 10 & Year 11

Subject	Route A (Separate Science)	Route B (Trilogy Science)
Mathematics	7	7
English	8	8
Biology	5	3
Chemistry	5	3
Physics	5	3
Humanity (Geography or History)	Hours are dependent on timetabling blocks and construction.	Hours are dependent on timetabling blocks and construction.
MFL (French, German or Spanish)		
Option 1*		
Option 2*		
PE (non-examined)	2	2
Citizenship (non-examined)	1	1
Enrichment (non-Examined)	1	Year 10 only

*GCSE option subjects are computer science, PE, RS, art, business, drama, music, design technology, food preparation and nutrition, dance, French, German, Spanish, history, geography.

Students who take Route A have one option choice, student who choose Route B have two further choices.

Hours for these subjects depend on the timetable blocks and construction each year.

Appendix Four: Curriculum Hours for Year 12 & Year 13

Subject	Curriculum Hours
Option 1	10
Option 2	10
Option 3	10
Option 4 (if appropriate)	10
EPQ*	1
Core Mathematics*	3

*EPQ and Core Mathematics are optional courses. The EPQ course is completed during Year 12 only.