



CURRICULUM POLICY

This is a whole school policy including Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). It is written with due regard to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations (2014), the Equality Act (2010) and the SEND Code (2014, amended 2015).

The policy takes into account the ages, aptitudes and needs of all pupils including those with an existing Statement of Educational Needs or an Educational, Health and Care (EHC) plan. The curriculum at Rookwood School promotes the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. The curriculum aims to effectively prepare the pupils of Rookwood School for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life in British society.

EYFS (Nursery and Reception Class)

The Early Years follow the revised (2021) statutory framework for the EYFS. It takes into account the key features of effective practice including the seven areas of learning:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

In the Nursery, in addition to ensuring that all children access the statutory Early Years framework, we have a full and varied curriculum that meets all of the needs of the children. We also provide optional opportunities for children to participate in Sports, Dance, Gymnastics/Yoga and French with specialist teachers. In Reception Class these are included as part of the standard curriculum. Music lessons with a specialist teacher are also introduced in Reception Class.

Main School (Years 1 to Sixth Form)

Although the curriculum is broadly in line with the National Curriculum, as an independent school, Rookwood School also offers additional opportunities in order to enhance the overall learning experience. The small size of the classes and the availability of Learning Support

Assistants mean that the needs of individual pupils are well-catered for. More Able, Gifted and Talented pupils are encouraged and supported with additional activities, allowing them to learn to a greater depth or a faster pace, compared to their peers. Additional support, particularly in numeracy and literacy is provided for individual pupils with specific learning needs. Pupils with an EHC plan receive the appropriate support. Pupils with English as Additional Language (EAL) receive additional support from an EAL specialist. Where appropriate, following consultation with parents, some pupils may study a reduced curriculum in order to provide additional time for learning support. The school has a Head of Learning Support who works closely with staff, offering advice and guidance so that colleagues may best meet the needs of the pupils.

Lower School (Years 1 to 6)

The curriculum:

Subject	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
English	X	X	X	X	X	X
Mathematics	X	X	X	X	X	X
Science	X	X	X	X	X	X
Humanities (Geography/History)	X	X	X	X	X	X
Religious Studies (RS)	X	X	X	X	X	X
PSHE	X	X	X	X	X	X
PE	X	X	X	X	X	X
Music	X	X	X	X	X	X
Art	X	X	X	X	X	X
ICT	X	X	X	X	X	X
Design Technology			X	X	X	X
Food Technology					X	X
French	X	X	X	X	X	X
German					X	X

Acronyms: PSHEE (Personal, Social and Health Education), PE (Physical Education), ICT (Information Communication Technology)

The pupils' personal development is encouraged in many different ways. The school ethos is one of good behaviour, courtesy and consideration for others and this is addressed through

timetabled lessons (in particular, PSHE and RS), through assemblies, during Form Time with tutors, and in the positive relationships between staff and pupils. Pupils take on positions of responsibility as Lower School Captains, Form Captains, Sports Captains and Librarians. Form Captains are part of the whole School Council. There are a number of off-site visits and, from Year 4, residential visits, which encourage independence and pupils are encouraged to join in activities involving the community outside school. Each year Lower School pupils support several charities and every class will lead a whole school assembly during the course of a year. Furthermore, pupils are taught about the safe use of the Internet within ICT, PSHE and through targeted assemblies.

Senior School (Years 7 to 11)

In Years 7, 8 and 9, pupils follow a common curriculum comprising English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, RS, French, German, Spanish, Technology (Design, Food and Textiles), ICT, Art, Drama, Music, PE and PSHE. In Year 7 pupils take all three foreign languages. Pupils then select two of these to continue into Years 8 and 9.

Year 10 and 11 pupils follow a curriculum resulting in nine GCSEs. All pupils study the core GCSEs of English, English Literature, Mathematics and Combined Science (worth two GCSEs). Pupils then choose four options from a range of subjects (History, Geography, RS, French, German, Spanish, Design Technology, Food Technology, Art, Drama, Music, PE, ICT, Business and Triple Science – extending the Combined Science course to three separate GCSEs). Additionally, pupils may choose to study Further Mathematics as an extracurricular tenth Level 2 Certificate (equivalent to a GCSE). In the following subjects, pupils study the international GCSE, which is also equivalent to a GCSE: Mathematics, History, ICT and Business.

In Years 10 and 11, PSHE is provided within half day sessions distributed across the year and is organised and led by the PSHE coordinator. Where appropriate, external speakers provide further specialist teaching and guidance which complement the work of our PSHE teachers.

Careers guidance is provided both by members of the teaching staff, the school's careers advisor and in conjunction with a local school's careers fair. Year 9 pupils take part in a 'work taster day' and Year 10 pupils have the opportunity to undertake a week's work experience. Pupils preparing for college entry are offered mock interviews by a local employer and the opportunity to apply for, and be interviewed for, positions of responsibility within the school. The Head of the Senior School reviews the careers guidance offered across the Senior School to ensure that it is accurate, up-to-date and presented in an impartial manner that enables pupils to make informed choices about a broad range of career options and helps encourage them to fulfil their potential.

Each form prepares assemblies during the course of the year. Pupils are taught about the safe use of the Internet within ICT lessons, PSHE and through targeted assemblies which raise the awareness of risks and reinforce good practice. Pupils are encouraged to be aware of the needs of others and regularly contribute to fundraising for a number of charities supported by the school. Personal skills are developed by the opportunity to take on positions

of responsibility throughout the Senior School, but especially in Year 11, and by participation in activities outside school such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

The curriculum encourages respect for other people, paying particular attention to the protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation). All pupils are encouraged and expected to be helpful towards and to set an example to the younger members of the community.

Sixth Form

A standard weekly timetable for a Rookwood Sixth Form student is:

- 5 lessons of teaching per A-level subject, typically three subjects studied: 15 lessons
- Sport: 2 lessons
- Enrichment: 2 lessons
- PSHE programme: 1 lesson
- Study Skills, including EPQ preparation: 1 lesson
- Individual EPQ supervision: 1 lesson
- Personal Study: remaining time (typically 8 lessons if following a three subject timetable)

The following A-levels are currently available at Rookwood:

Art: Textiles, Biology, Business, Chemistry, Design Technology, Drama, Economics, English Literature, Fine Art, French, Further Mathematics, Geography, German, History, Mathematics, Music, Philosophy and Ethics (RS), Physical Education, Physics, Politics, Psychology, Spanish. Further information about each subject is available in the Sixth Form Prospectus.

In addition, Rookwood offers Level 3 (BTEC equivalent) courses in Food Science & Nutrition and ICT. We do not expect to offer Level 2 qualifications to Sixth Form students, other than in cases where additional support is needed to allow them to achieve grade 4 or above in GCSE English and/or Maths. All students will be offered the opportunity to complete a Level 3 EPQ qualification, with the taught component delivered through Study Skills lessons.

All Sixth Form students receive explicit teaching of RSE, PSHE, Careers Guidance and British Values, through the PSHE and Enrichment sessions. PSHE topics follow the recommended content from the PSHE Association. Enrichment also provides the opportunity for students to develop their leadership skills and independence in preparation for life beyond school.