



CURRICULUM POLICY

Rookwood School

School Proprietor	Mr A Mehta
Policy Date	Spring Term 2025
Last Review	Spring 2026
Policy Review	Spring Term 2027
Policy Review Period	Annually
Policy Owner	Assistant Head (Academic)

The ‘school’ refers to all staff and pupils of the Prep Department and Senior School, which includes Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), Pre-Prep (Key Stage 1), Prep (Key Stage 2), and Senior School Inc.: 6th Form (Key Stage 3-5)

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).

Rationale

Rookwood School aims to provide all its pupils with a well-rounded curriculum, which considers the ages, aptitudes and needs of all pupils including those with an existing Statement of Educational Needs or an Educational, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). The curriculum will allow pupils to experience linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical, aesthetic and creative education appropriate to their age and ability. The school broadly follows the National Curriculum, whilst enabling subject and departmental staff a degree of professional autonomy in defining content. The principle language of instruction is English and all pupils, including speakers of English as an additional language, are expected to communicate in English during the school day.

The academic curriculum is enriched by a range of extra-curricular activities at all key stages and by a programme for pupils’ personal, social and health education (PSHE) appropriate to their ages. As part of this provision careers preparation and guidance on their choices for further study and future careers are included at appropriate times. A full programme of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) for all year groups is followed. A timetabled enrichment programme is developed for Key Stage 5 pupils.

The School accepts all faiths and none. All staff and pupils are expected to join in assemblies and services which are broadly Christian in nature. 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.

Equal Opportunities

The curriculum has been designed to maximise the opportunity for pupils to learn and make progress. The curriculum and how it is managed will recognise the needs of pupils and can be adapted to balance challenge with the likelihood of success. Therefore, the curriculum may be modified for individuals to consider specific learning needs e.g. dyslexia or EAL or adapted due to pupils’ particular strengths. This will be arranged through discussion with the school’s Head of Learning Support. The curriculum and its delivery will be appropriate to the age and previous experience of the pupils at each stage of their development.

Special Education Needs, EAL and More Able students

As a non-selective school, we recognise that pupils may require additional help and support to make progress, where reasonable adjustments can be made to the curriculum we will adapt accordingly to meet the pupils needs. Please refer to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy for more information. The curriculum has been designed to offer stretch and challenge and opportunities for more able pupils are supported in lessons and through the extra-curricular programme.

Disability

In accordance with statutory requirements the school aim to make the curriculum accessible to all pupils as far as reasonably possible. Please refer to the Accessibility Policy.

EYFS (Nursery and Reception Class)

The Early Years follow the revised (2025) 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, including outdoor learning. 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 mean that the needs of individual pupils are well-catered for.

Preparatory School
Years 1 to 6 (Key Stage 1 and 2)

The Prep School offers a 6 period day of 3 x 55 minute lessons and 3 x 50 minute lessons. The school day starts at 8.35 and ends at 4pm.

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
Outdoor Learning	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 including relationship education 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 Prep 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 prep pupil's support several charities and every class will lead a whole school assembly during the course of the year. Furthermore, pupils are taught about the safe use of the Internet within ICT, PSHE and through targeted assemblies.

Senior School

Years 7, 8 and 9 (Key Stage 3)

The Senior School offers a 6 period day of 55 minute lessons. The school day starts at 8.35 and ends at 4pm.

In Years 7, 8 and 9, pupils follow a common curriculum comprising:

English	Mathematics	Science,
History	Geography	RS
French	German	Spanish
Food	Textiles	Design Technology
ICT	Art	Drama
Music	PE	PSHE

In Year 7 pupils take all three foreign languages. Pupils then select two of these to continue into Years 8 and 9. In the Spring Term of Year 9, pupils select their chosen options to take into Year 10. These choices are supported by departments and our futures advisor, to select the best and most appropriate options for each individual pupil.

Year 10 and 11 (Key Stage 4)

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	Religious Studies	French	German
Spanish	Design Technology	Food Technology	Art	Textiles
Drama	Music	PE	ICT	Business
and Triple Science – extending the Combined Science course to three separate GCSEs).				

Additionally, some pupils may be offered the opportunity to study Further Mathematics as an extracurricular tenth Level 2 Certificate (equivalent to a Level 2 qualification) in Year 11. In the following subjects, pupils study the international GCSE, which is also equivalent to a GCSE: Mathematics, History and ICT.

In Years 10 and 11, PSHE including RSE is provided within workshops distributed across the year and is organised and led by the Deputy Head Pastoral. Where appropriate, external speakers provide further specialist teaching and guidance which complement the work of our PSHE teachers.

Careers Education is provided as part of the PSHE curriculum alongside the work of our Futures and Career Lead. A careers education programme is facilitated across the year, with particular focus events including Ambitions day, National Career and Apprenticeship weeks. Work taster days are also offered in Year 10, for pupils to experience the world of work. 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 Deputy Head Pastoral 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 raises 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

Lower 6th and Upper 6th (Key Stage 5)

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, including RSE: 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		Photography		

Further information about each subject is available in the Sixth Form Prospectus.

In addition, Rookwood offers Level 3 (BTEC equivalent) courses in:
 Food Science and Nutrition
 ICT.

We do not expect to offer Level 2 qualifications to Sixth Form students. 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.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Please refer to the Assessment Policy.

Nursery

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 additional opportunities for children to participate in Sports, Dance, Gymnastics and French with specialist teachers. We have designed a curriculum for the Nursery children that is unique to our setting, providing activities and experiences that deliver all areas of learning. Taking into consideration the cultural capital of the children that attend our setting.

Observations are recorded and shared with parents on a regular basis and formal reports are created termly, these reflect the child and parents voice. Statutory checks are completed as required including 2 year checks and staff work alongside other agency's in completing these.

In Reception Class these are included as part of the standard curriculum, including outdoor learning. Music lessons with a specialist teacher are also introduced in Reception Class.

Prep Department

Reports are issued at the end of each term and reflect both academic achievement and attitude to learning scores, these will be issued via the parent portal. There is one parent consultation evening per year and an opportunity to meet the tutor in September. Individual meetings can be arranged should a specific matter need to be discussed. Details of these events can be found on the school calendar.

Senior Department

Reports are issued at the end of each term and reflect both academic and attitude to learning scores, these will be issued via the parent portal.

In Year 7, parents and carers will get the opportunity to meet their child's tutor in the Autumn term, which is followed by a parent consultation evening in the Spring term.

Years 8, 9 and 10 receive one parent consultation evening, with Year 9 having an additional Options evening to discuss and understand GCSE options in either the Autumn or Spring term.

Year 11 will receive two parent consultation evenings, one in the Autumn term and one in the Spring term following their mock exams. A parent information evening regarding how to support your child during their exams is also held annually.

Information on all of these events will be on the school calendar.

Curriculum Planning

Curriculum planning is overseen by the Deputy Head (academic), who supports the department heads in creating effective schemes of work and lesson plans. Regular meetings within department allows for continuity across the school and within each subject, including areas such as homework, assessment and stretch and challenge.

The Deputy Head (Curriculum) reports to the Head of School and contributes to the Head's report which are shared with the governing board termly, who give recommendations for further improvement.

Relevant policies

Accessibility Policy / Accessibility Plan

Admissions Policy

Assessment Policy

Equality and Diversity Policy

Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy

Policy Control

Reviewed by	ELT & SLT
Authorised by	Board
Effective From	Spring Term / January 2024
Next Review	Spring Term / January 2026