



# Curriculum Policy (KS3-5)

SMT Owner	Deputy Head Academic
Reviewed by SMT	April 2025
Effective From	September 2025
Next Review	April 2026
Governor approval (Y/N? Approved by Board of Governors (if Y)	Y

## 1. Academic Management

The Deputy Head Academic is responsible to the Head for the academic management of the school. He is assisted in this by the Lead Academic Innovation & Performance, Lead Academic Systems and the iSAMS & Examinations Officer.

Departments are grouped into 6 faculties.

Faculty	HOF	Departments
Maths	LCA	Maths, IT
Languages	AEML	Spanish, French, Welsh, Latin, EAL, Chinese
Science	MJC	Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Junior science PE, Psychology
English	GIE	English
Humanities	BJG	Geography, History, RS, BS, Economics
Creative Arts	REA	Art and Design, Photography, Music, Drama

Heads of faculty meet seven times a year following each grade review to discuss whole school academic issues. More specific subject related issues are discussed with Subject Leaders or in discrete faculty meetings.

All teachers are required to adhere to official academic policy as detailed in this policy and those found within the Teaching and Learning area. The Deputy Head Academic in consultation with the Heads of Faculty, subject leaders and SMT provides an annual Academic Development Plan. Each faculty is responsible for producing self-evaluations covering the common inspection framework. Faculty SER's are used to form the basis of the academic sections of the annual College Development Plan. Subject leaders are responsible for referring to relevant Estyn standards within their department self-evaluations. Development plans must reflect and make reference to the whole school development themes for 2022-23.

The Head Teaching & Learning (SNH) is responsible to the Deputy Head Academic for the academic programme of pupils in Key Stages 1 and 2.

## **2. CURRICULUM**

The curriculum at Christ College fulfils the requirement to provide education in the following areas of learning: linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical, and aesthetic and creative. Subjects such as PSE, RS and ICT are compulsory subjects in years 7-11 in order to ensure development of values and key skills. The curriculum at Christ College is designed to meet the needs of all learners regardless of gender, race and seeks to take account of additional learning needs at all times.

Pupils in forms years 7-11 study a wide range of subjects to the end of Key Stage 3 before choosing GCSE options. Pupils are able to study two languages, separate sciences and a range of technological or creative options. A modern foreign language is encouraged but not required to GCSE. Pupils also study Drama, Music, Art and Design throughout Key Stage 3. The school curriculum policy works in conjunction with the additional learning needs policy.

In addition to this basic provision, Christ College, in its curriculum design aims to:

- provide a balance between core and optional choices to meet individual interests and skills;
- develop academic excellence and the opportunity to develop high level subject specialism;

- provide the foundation for lifelong learning and promote independent learning;
- be inclusive and accessible to pupils with EAL and ALN or want to study Welsh as a second language;
- provide continuity, progression and appropriate degrees of breadth, depth and balance for each learner; and
- be supported by assessment that is fit for purpose.

We are preparing our pupils for linear examination with most exam boards following the English pathway qualifications at GCSE and A level. We seek to develop a curriculum which takes the best features of a knowledge based and skills-based curriculum model.

### Years 7 - 8

Pupils study 41 35 or 40 minute lessons per week including 2 lessons of integrated games. The only option is Spanish or Welsh as a second language. Science is taught as one subject in years 7 and 8. Pupils are placed in balanced mixed ability groups. Emphasis on pupil wellbeing is encouraged through the provision of a double period in PSE. Outdoor and enrichment opportunities for pupils are provided regularly throughout the academic year.

### Year 9

Pupils study 41 35 or 40 minute lessons and are streamed into 3 groups. The basis of this setting takes into account the spread of ability in the year group but there is no creation of a bottom set. Integrated games continues for 4 lessons per week. Pupils study Art and Photography, Music on a half termly carousel arrangement.

In year 9 Science is taught as 3 discrete subjects each for 3 lessons per week.

### GCSE

The main GCSE options are selected at the end of Year 9. The groupings of subjects are shown below. Pupils select one subject from each block to complement the core programme of English, Maths and Science. Pupils select on subject from each block. All pupils study PSE in Key Stage 4.

### Sixth Form

In the sixth form options are grouped into blocks but there are two sets in many subjects to provide choice and flexibility. The blocking allows pupils to study a combination of subjects of different types. The curriculum offer meets the aspirations of our students to go on to a wide range of university courses.

