



*respect    resilience    responsibility*

## **CURRICULUM POLICY**

Date:                      September 2018

Review Date:            September 2019

## **Introduction**

At Woodlands we are constantly striving to ensure that our teaching is outstanding and that our curriculum meets the needs of all of our learners.

### **Our curriculum vision:**

Our creative, challenging and inspiring curriculum will build a strong foundation for an ever changing future. We will provide learners with the ability to communicate with others and think for themselves. They will become successful, responsible citizens who actively participate in a wider society.

### **Our curriculum vision recognises that:**

- The pace of change is increasing, hence the importance for flexibility and creativity
- Young people have, and will have increasingly, greater access to information and learning material independently of school
- Learning should be life-long, so fostering a love of learning is crucial
- Mastery of key skills is an essential bedrock to future economic wellbeing

### **Our curriculum is based on the following aims. To:**

- Have students at its heart
- Have a curriculum that is fit for purpose, offering differentiation and personalisation
- Develop a culture in which individuals are encouraged to take risks, and mistakes are recognised as an essential part of the learning process.
- Prepare all students for a successful future in a 21<sup>st</sup> century global society
- Achieve and then exceed national standards in achievement
- Nurture the talents of all and celebrate success
- Build upon prior learning across all phases
- Involve all stakeholders where possible and appropriate
- Ensure that students understand and are able to use high quality skills for life (see Appendix 1)
- Ensure that opportunities to promote an in-depth understanding of British values are maximised (See Appendix 2)
- Consistently optimise opportunities to promote the development of learners' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

### **Our curriculum outcomes**

Our curriculum will:

- Fulfil statutory requirements
- Enable all students to reach and often exceed their potential
- Provide equal access for all students to a full range of learning experiences
- Prepare students to make informed choices at the end of each key stage and beyond
- Help students to develop lively, enquiring minds, an ability to argue and question rationally and an ability to apply themselves to tasks and physical skills

- Develop a culture of growth mind-set in all learners
- Help students use language and number appropriately
- Help students to develop personal moral values, respect for religious values and tolerance of other races' beliefs and ways of life
- Help students to understand the world in which they live

### **Our curriculum offer:**

#### **Key Stage 3 curriculum**

The curriculum at KS3 runs through years 7 and 8 and provides a broad and balanced education in academic, practical and creative subjects.

The daily curriculum is enhanced further through our enrichment opportunities including our creative curriculum days.

#### **Year 7 curriculum**

English Maths and Science

History, Geography and RE

Computing

Design Technology

MFL (Spanish or French)

PE, Art, Music, Dance and Drama

#### **Year 8 curriculum**

English, Maths and Science

Design technology

History, Geography and RE

Computing

MFL (Spanish)

PE, Art, Music, Dance and Drama

#### **Key Stage 4 curriculum 2018-2019**

In Years 9, 10 and 11 students continue with the core offer:

- English Language, English Literature, Maths and Double Science
- PE
- RE

#### **Year 9 curriculum**

**Options:** Students will select 2 two year options from: History, Geography, French, Spanish, Computer Science and CPLD

**Electives:** Students will select 4 elective subjects from an extended list of MFL, CVP and DET subjects.

## **Year 10 and 11 curriculum**

**Options:** Students will select 2 two year options in: History, Geography, French, Spanish, Computer Science and CPLD

Students can then select two one year option subject from a wide range of other courses which may include:

Art	Music
Catering	PE
Computer Science	Photography
Construction	Resistant Materials
Dance	Textiles
Drama	Travel and Tourism

Intervention is provided for those students who are still performing below national averages. Revision opportunities, often personalised, are offered on a timetabled basis over term time afternoons and holidays.

## **Personal Discovery Programme**

In addition to the above curriculum students also follow a programme of personal, social and health education (PSHE). This is delivered through our tutor programme. These are an invaluable part of the curriculum which helps to support our students' development as rounded human beings, able to keep safe and be good citizens in today's complex society.

The topics covered are:

- Sex and Relationship Education
- Addiction
- Healthy Minds
- Careers
- Financial Capability
- Citizenship

## **Literacy & Numeracy**

At Woodlands Community College we believe that being able to read with confidence is very important in order to function well in daily life. For this reason all of our community take part in DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) for 20 minutes on Mondays to Thursdays as part of the basic curriculum. The library really is at the heart of our school community.

We are also committed to our school community being numerate. To this end, every week one Year 7 registration period is dedicated to is Times table rock stars where time is spent focusing on developing numeracy skills of Year 7 students

## **Extra-curricular opportunities**

We value the benefits that an effective extra-curricular programme can offer students and therefore actively encourage all students to participate in an extra-curricular activity. In order to broaden the menu of extra-curricular opportunities offered to students, staff directed time has been allocated to ensuring that the opportunities offered outside of the classroom are broad, balanced and engaging for all students. Attendance at extra-curricular clubs is incentivised for students through the period 6 stamp and this contributes to their in-school reward system.

## **Appendix 1**

### **Skills for life**

Effective participator

Team worker

Independent learner

Reflective learner

Creative thinker

Self manager

# Woodlands Community College

## BRITISH VALUES

### A STATEMENT OF INTENT

#### Definition

British values are defined as democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths, cultures and beliefs. At Woodlands Community College we recognise the need to promote the fundamental principles of British Values as part of our general approach to outstanding provision of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC).

#### Philosophy

We understand that life in the 21st century will be strongly dependent on social interaction, locally and globally. We believe that the ability to form excellent relationships will be critical to our students' learning and success in the future. We aim to maximise the chances of such relationships. Central to this is the need to ensure that British values are recognized and embedded in the school community.

#### At Woodlands Community College we promote principles of:

- democracy
- the rule of Law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect and tolerance.

The principle of democracy is consistently reinforced, with the democratic process being employed for important decisions within the school community, for instance, elections being held for the School Council, and for other leadership roles for students. National opportunities for voting are replicated in school as appropriate, the most recent example being the Woodlands general elections. The principle of democracy is explored particularly in curriculum subjects such as PSHE, History, Religious Education, English, as well as in tutor time, most recently with voting voice, and assemblies.

#### The Rule of Law

The importance of civil/or criminal, state or religious laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout the ethos of every school day, when dealing with learning behaviours and through SMSC provision. Students are taught the values and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from authorities such as the Police (our attached Police Community Support Officers) and Fire

Service help reinforce this message. In addition 'Rights and Responsibilities' are an integral element of both our RE and PSHE curricula.

### **Individual Liberty**

Students are actively encouraged to make independent choices knowing that they are in a safe, secure and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for students to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and an education that encourages independence and empowerment. Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights, responsibilities and personal freedoms and receive advice about how to exercise these safely, for example through our exploration of E-Safety in computing and their tutor time activities. Human rights are also explicitly covered as part of the RE syllabus.

### **Mutual Respect**

Respect, personal behaviour and self-discipline are at the core of our school ethos and these are modelled by students and staff alike. The school promotes respect for others and this is reiterated through our classroom and learning environments. Aligned to our commitment to democracy, students at Woodlands Community College are able to voice their opinions and we foster an environment where students are safe to disagree with each other. Mutual respect is embraced throughout the curriculum from the concept of 'fair play' in PE, to the student 'buddy' programme which promotes mutual respect and support between students across different year groups.

### **Tolerance of those of different Faiths and Beliefs**

At Woodlands Community College we are inclusive of all faiths and those with no specific faith and we promote a strong sense of community. This is achieved by equipping students with the ability to understand their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity within the school community. Students are offered a number of trips both at home and abroad throughout the academic year, enabling our students to gain valuable experience of other cultures and languages. Our Religious Education and assembly curriculums demonstrate examples of a broad and balanced education on a range of faiths, religions and cultures.

### **Guidance**

The Department for Education published guidance in November 2014 on promoting British Values in schools as part of SMSC to ensure young people leave school prepared for life in modern Britain.