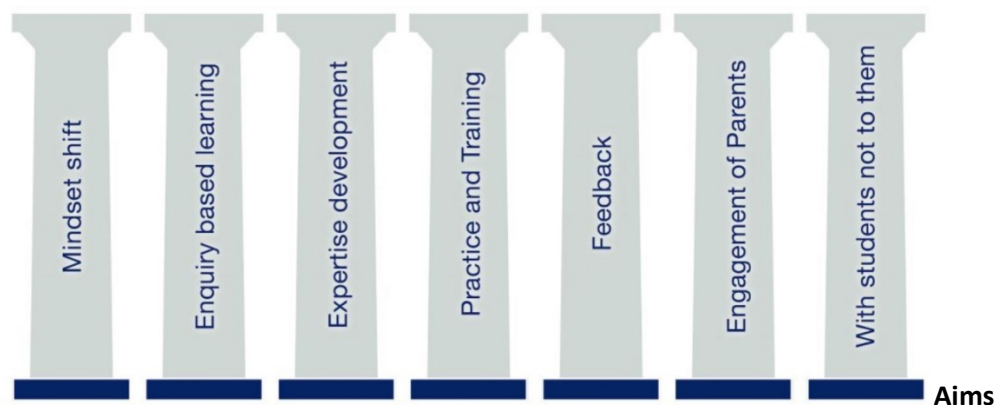


## Curriculum Policy

Ellesmere College aims to provide a rich curriculum for all pupils that provides breadth and depth, is enquiry-led, and links with the enrichment offer. The curriculum is designed to create the opportunity for pupils to experience the areas of linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human, social, physical, aesthetic and creative education.

Underpinning this policy is the High-Performance Learning (HPL) philosophy to engage the learner in the belief they can learn, progress, achieve and see obstacles as stepping stones. Learning to perform 'highly' is about acquiring skills and attitudes where the learner is resilient, believes that challenges in their learning can be overcome, a rejection of 'can't' to a 'not there yet' belief.



The school aims to:

- Ensure that pupils develop the essential literacy and numeracy skills.
- Provide pupils with a full and rounded entitlement to learning.
- Foster pupils' creativity and develop essential skills, including learning skills.
- Promote a healthy lifestyle.
- Inspire pupils to a commitment to learning that will last a lifetime.
- Promote high standards and expectations in all learning and teaching activity.

The school's curriculum follows statutory requirements and is mindful of the guidance given in the National Curriculum.

It is balanced and broadly based, and promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of our pupils and of society and prepares our pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

Pupils are expected to acquire skills in speaking and listening, literacy and numeracy skills. They will acquire knowledge and understanding of the advanced cognitive performance characteristics (ACPs) and the values, attitudes and attributes (VAAs) that are essential to developing as a curious, resilient, agile life long learner.

### **Subjects offered**

The following subjects are compulsory in years 3 to 8;

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ English</li><li>▪ Science</li><li>▪ Geography</li><li>▪ Design &amp; IT (KS3) CS (Years 7/8)</li><li>▪ Religious Studies</li><li>▪ PHSE</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Maths</li><li>▪ French</li><li>▪ History</li><li>▪ Music</li><li>▪ PE &amp; Games</li></ul>
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In addition, Latin and Spanish are taught in year 7/8. Some pupils may be withdrawn from a subject, usually French or Latin; for Learning Support/EAL lessons. This is only done in negotiation with parents.

Pupils do English Speaking Board in year 6,8,10 and 12. Science is taught combined in years 3 to 7, but separately from year 8.

In year 9 the pupils have the opportunity to choose subjects to allow a pre-GCSE taster course, but the majority of subjects remain compulsory.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ English</li> <li>▪ Biology,</li> <li>▪ Chemistry</li> <li>▪ Physics</li> <li>▪ Religious Studies</li> <li>▪ Maths</li> <li>▪ History</li> <li>▪ Geography</li> <li>▪ PE &amp; Games</li> <li>▪ PSHE &amp; Careers</li> </ul>	<p>Pre-GCSE Introduction year (four options)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Art</li> <li>▪ Business</li> <li>▪ Computer Science</li> <li>▪ Design Technology</li> <li>▪ Drama</li> <li>▪ French</li> <li>▪ Latin</li> <li>▪ Media</li> <li>▪ Music</li> <li>▪ Spanish</li> <li>▪ P.E.Theory</li> </ul>
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Pupils are encouraged to continue with MFL although some may chose not to continue with a language other than English.

- In years 10 and 11 all pupils study English, English Literature, Mathematics. Science is offered as individual separate subjects and pupils can opt to study all three or select two sciences as two or three of their six option choices. All pupils will follow a programme in PSHE, Careers, PE & Games
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Art &amp; Design</li> <li>▪ Biology,</li> <li>▪ Business studies</li> <li>▪ Chemistry</li> <li>▪ Computer Science</li> <li>▪ Design Technology</li> <li>▪ Drama</li> <li>▪ French</li> <li>▪ Geography</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ History</li> <li>▪ Latin</li> <li>▪ Media</li> <li>▪ Music</li> <li>▪ Spanish</li> <li>▪ P.E.Theory</li> <li>▪ Physics</li> <li>▪ Religious Studies</li> <li>▪ Spanish</li> </ul>
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Personal, social, health and citizenship education (PSHE) reflecting the College’s aims and ethos, careers guidance is planned within the PHSE programme and through specific careers events. All pupils have access to the online Xello Careers programme.

Religious education is provided for all pupils up to year 9 and is available as an option at KS4. As a Woodard school, all pupils attend Christian chapel services.

The College offers an appropriate programme of extra-curricular activity for all pupils.

**Equal opportunities**

Entry to all programmes of study is based on academic suitability and appropriateness, regardless of sex, race, disability, religion or belief.

Disabilities: In accordance with the statutory requirements the school aims to make the curriculum accessible to all pupils as far as is reasonably practicable.

## **Differentiation**

*'More pupils than we previously thought have the potential to perform at the highest levels. Gifted education tells us exactly how to achieve this. There really is 'Room at the Top' if we systematically nurture more children to get there.'* (Professor D Eyre, 2010)

A variety of differing teaching and learning methods and materials are used in all courses to suit pupils' different needs from the point they are on at entry. We do not decide their future for them but believe that every child can realise their potential if given the right tools. As a HPL school we believe that we can systematically teach students how to be 'intelligent' and how to succeed in school. World class schools produce students that are intellectually and socially confident, work-place and life-ready with a global outlook and a concern for others.

As children journey down this path some may need more individual support or challenge dependent on the point there are at. The Learning Support department provides IEPs for all pupils identified with specific learning needs and liaise with the subject teachers, sharing information and agreeing areas to focus on for development. Pupils moving at a faster pace and needing stretch and challenge are offered additional investigative and research work and are expected to participate in our Academic Enrichment events, which are open to all and mandatory to those in receipt of an academic award.

## **Disapplication**

The College has the right to respond to individual needs by modifying the Curriculum programmes for the duration of Key Stage 4, to;

- Allow a pupil with individual strengths to emphasise a particular curriculum area; and
- Allow a pupil making significantly less progress than other pupils of his/her age to consolidate his/her learning and progress across the curriculum.

Decisions about any of the above will only be made after discussion with the parent and pupil.

## **Religious Education**

Religious Education is compulsory for all pupils in years 3 to 9. As a Woodard School the curriculum emphasises Christianity in years 3 to 7 although other religions are included in part of the scheme of work. Year 8 pupils are provided with a programme of study of World Religions and year 9 explore religions alongside moral and ethical issues.

### Collective worship

All pupils are expected to take part in collective worship. The school has a programme of collective worship involving weekly chapel services. School assemblies focus on the celebration of achievements and usually include a music or drama contribution by pupils.

## **Relationships and Sex Education**

The school provides relationships and sex education in the core curriculum for all pupils, in which pupils are encouraged and guided by moral principles and taught to recognise the value of family life. The science-based aspects are taught through biology lessons and the wider aspects including relationships and respect are delivered through the PHSE programme. In accordance with the law the biological aspects of human reproduction remain compulsory for all pupils, but parents may withdraw their children from any other part of the sex education provided without giving reasons. The PHSE programme includes topics on developing healthy and respectful relationships that are revisited in an age appropriate manner each year as pupils move through the school.

A full statement of the school's Relationships and Sex Education policy is available to parents. It has been drawn up in consultation with staff, pupils and parents, and takes in to account the views of representatives from the community.

### **Political Education**

The promotion of partisan political views in the teaching of any subject in the school is forbidden by law. Political issues are introduced in a number of courses and are presented in a balanced manner.

### **PE and Games**

All pupils are expected to take part in the school's Physical Education and Games programme. Pupils can only be excused from PE and Games lessons for medical reasons, for which a note from a parent will suffice, or other reasons agreed with the school.

### **Extra-Curricular activities**

The school has a wide and varied programme of cultural and sporting activities which take place outside the formal curriculum. All pupils are expected to take part in the programme and participate in the expeditions that are scheduled through the year.

### **Prep**

The school expects prep to be set as appropriate and there is a separate policy and schedule as an appendix.

### **Special Educational Needs**

The school has a special educational needs policy for statemented and non-statemented pupils. The school will determine the appropriate courses in consultation with parents.

### **Supervision**

Proper supervision of pupils is ensured through appropriate allocation of teaching staff to deliver the curriculum. Supervision of extra curriculum and prep sessions is conducted by teaching staff and/or appropriately trained other adults such as coaches.

Younger pupils are supervised during breaks by use of a staff rota. Middle School and Sixth Form benefit from House Staff (Housemothers) and Tutors being visible during break and lunchtimes. All have access to the library at these times, should they require it, which is staffed by a librarian throughout the day.

### **Concerns and Complaints**

Parents who have concerns about any aspect of the curriculum should discuss these in the first instance with the pupil's tutor.

### **References**

[Welcome to High Performance Learning - High Performance Learning \(HPL\) - Prof. Deborah Eyre](#)

[Information for Parents - High Performance Learning \(HPL\) - Prof. Deborah Eyre](#)

