

CURRICULUM POLICY

Contents

[Arnold Aim](#)

[Policy Statement \(1\)](#)

[Policy Statement \(2\)](#)

[Key Personnel](#)

[Introduction to the Arnold Curriculum](#)

[The Foundation Stage Curriculum](#)

[The Key Stage 1 Curriculum](#)

[The Key Stage 2 Curriculum](#)

[The Senior School Curriculum - Key Stages 3 & 4 plus Sixth Form](#)

[Senior School Curriculum Options](#)

[Senior School Lesson Length](#)

[Senior School Examination Boards](#)

[Curriculum Planning](#)

[Homework](#)

[Equality of Opportunity/Inclusion](#)

[Careers & Further Education Guidance](#)

[Personal, Social & Health Education](#)

[Political Education](#)

[Religious Education](#)

[PE & Games](#)

[Extra-curricular Activities](#)

Arnold Aim

- 1) Arnold pupils will experience a balanced academic curriculum and a rich extra-curricular programme, which together promote spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development, thereby preparing pupils for the opportunities, uncertainties and responsibilities of adult life.

Policy Statement (1)

The school's curriculum provides for:

- 1) full-time supervised education for pupils of compulsory school age, which gives pupils experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical, and aesthetic and creative education;
- 2) subject matter appropriate for the ages and aptitudes of pupils, including those pupils with a statement;
- 3) pupils to acquire skills in speaking and listening, literacy and numeracy;
- 4) where the principal language of instruction is a language other than English, lessons in written and spoken English, except that this requirement shall not apply in respect of a school which provides education for pupils who are all temporarily resident in England and which follows the curriculum of another country;
- 5) where a pupil has a statement, education which fulfils its requirements;
- 6) personal, social and health education which reflects the school's aims and ethos;
- 7) appropriate careers guidance for pupils receiving secondary education;
- 8) where the school has pupils above or below compulsory school age, a programme of activities which is appropriate to their needs;
- 9) all pupils to have the opportunity to learn and make progress;
- 10) adequate preparation of pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life

Arnold School is fully committed to ensuring that the application of this policy is non-discriminatory in line with the UK Equality Act (2010). Further details are available in the school's *Equal Opportunity* policy document.

The following whole school policies establish practice in support of the above, in addition to documentation for respective departments and key stages:

- a) Mission, Aims & Ethos Statement
- b) Teaching & Learning
- c) Gifted & Talented
- d) Assessment, Recording & Reporting
- e) PSHE Policy & Schemes of Work

- f) Special Educational Needs
- g) Extra-Curricular
- h) Careers (SS)
- i) Cross-Curricular Literacy & Numeracy (SS)

Policy Statement (2)

- 1) This policy applies to all members of the Arnold school community, including those in our EYFS setting.
- 2) Arnold implements this policy through adherence to the procedures set out in the rest of this document.
- 3) This policy is made available to all interested parties in accordance with our *Provision of Information* policy.
- 4) This policy is reviewed at least annually by the Deputy Head and the Head of the Junior School, who will report to the Headmaster and Local Governing Body on its implementation on a regular basis.

Key Personnel

- 1) Craig Jenkinson: Deputy Head
- 2) Katy Wright: Head of the Junior School
- 3) Jane Allen: Head of Foundation Stage

Introduction to the Arnold Curriculum

- 1) The curriculum supports continuity of learning between Key Stages and respective academic years.
- 2) The curriculum in Key Stages 1 to 4 broadly follows the National Curriculum.
- 3) Each curriculum area/area of learning in AJS is coordinated by a Subject Manager. The Subject Manager is responsible for maintaining an up to date policy document and development plan for their subject area and are directly responsible to the Heads of Key Stage. Full details may be found on the network in the Subject Managers area or in the Subject Manager's Booklet (hard copy) held in the Junior School Office.
- 4) The Senior School sets its own standards for learning and progress, managed principally by respective Heads of Department. While the school is aware of national examination requirements and expectations, these will inform, but may not necessarily determine the curriculum.
- 5) Entry to all programmes of study is based upon academic suitability and appropriateness, regardless of gender, race, disability, religion or belief.
- 6) Individual academic suitability is determined in the Senior School, for most pupils, by the Arnold Entrance Examination (*Ref: Admissions Policy*).

The Foundation Stage Curriculum

- 1) All pupils study for 1390 minutes per week.
- 2) The curriculum follows the EYFS guidance and its six areas of learning:
 - a. Personal, Social and Emotional Development,
 - b. Communication, Language and Literacy (including MFL),
 - c. Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy,
 - d. Knowledge and Understanding of the World (including ICT),
 - e. Physical Development
 - f. Creative Development.
- 3) As continuous provision is a significant element of EYFS, actual minutes per area of learning are not possible and will be dependent on the educational needs of the individual pupils.

The Key Stage 1 Curriculum

- 1) Pupils in Year 1 study for 1390 minutes per week and pupils in Year 2 for 1410 minutes per week; lessons vary between 25 and 70 minutes.
- 2) The main subjects taught are:
 - English
 - Mathematics
 - Science
 - ICT
 - Geography/History/RE
 - MFL
 - Music
 - Art
 - DT
 - PSHE
 - PE & Games
 - Creative
- 3) Creative time is may be relevant to any subjects studied.

- 4) The allocation of time per subject and the overall percentage of teaching time for each subject taught in Year 1 are:

	Minutes per Subject	% of Total Time (approx.)
English	325	23
Maths	255	18
Science/topic	150	10
ICT	145	10
Geog/Hist/RE	135	10
MFL	25	2
Music	80	6
Art/DT	155	11
PSHE	40	3
PE	80	6
Creative	(60)	

- 5) The allocation of time per subject and the overall percentage of teaching time for each subject taught in Year 2 are:

	Minutes per Subject	% of Total Time (approx.)
English	325	23
Maths	255	18
Science	120	9
ICT	135	9
Geog/Hist/RE	165	12
MFL	25	2
Music	70	5
Art	130	9
PSHE	45	3
PE	80	6
DT	60	4
Creative	(60)	

The Key Stage 2 Curriculum

- 1) All pupils study for 1460 minutes per week in lessons varying from 35 to 85 minutes.
- 2) The main subjects taught are:
 - English
 - Mathematics
 - Science
 - ICT

- Humanities (History, Geography and RE)
- MFL
- Music
- Art
- PSHE
- PE & Games
- Drama

3) The allocation of time per subject and the overall percentage of teaching time for each subject are:

	Minutes per Subject	% of Total Time (approx.)
English	220	16
Maths	270	18
Science	120	8
ICT	125	8
Humanities	105/145	7/10
MFL	40	3
Music	125	8
Art	85	7
PSHE	40	3
PE	80/40	6/3
DT	80	6
Drama	40	3
Games	130	10

(Humanities and PE times change at Christmas, when swimming finishes and the travel time is no longer needed)

The Senior School Curriculum - Key Stages 3 & 4 plus Sixth Form

The following subjects are taught, with respective allocations:

Year	Subject	PpW	Year	Subject	PpW	Year	Subject	PpW
7	English	4	8	English	4	9	English	4
	Mathematics	4		Mathematics	4		Mathematics	4
	Science	4		Science	4		Science	4
	French	3		French	2		French	2
	Geography	2		German <i>or</i> Spanish	2		German <i>or</i> Spanish	2
	History	2		Geography	2		Latin	1
	RS	1		History	2		Geography	2
	Art & Design	2		RS	0.5		History	2
	Drama	1		Art & Design	2		RS	1
	Music	1		Drama	1		Art & Design	2
	ICT	2		Music	1		Drama	1
	PE	1		ICT	2		Music	1
	Games	2		PE	1		PE	1
	PSHE	1		Games	2		Games	2
				PSHE	0.5		PSHE	1
	Total	30		Total	30		Total	30
Year	Subject	PpW	Year	Subject	PpW	Year	Subject	PpW
10,11	English	4.5	12	Options	24	13	Options	18
	Mathematics	4		General Studies	1		General Studies	1
	Science	6		Liberal Studies	1		Liberal Studies	1
	MFL	3		Games	2		Games	2
	Options	9		Personal Study	2		Personal Study	8
	PE	1						
	Games	2						
	PSHE	0.5						
	Total	30		Total	30		Total	30

Notes:

- 1) In KS4, English lessons teach both English Language and English Literature. One lesson is shared on a weekly basis with PSHE, whereby one week pupils will have 5 periods of English and the next week pupils will have 4 periods of English and 1 period of PSHE.
- 2) In Year 7, Mathematics is taught in mixed ability. In Year 8, pupils are then taught in loose sets, based upon baseline and internal assessment data. These sets are regularly reviewed, enabling movement either way. By the start of Year 9, the top set pupils are identified as Express Mathematicians, who take GCSE at the end of Year 10. These pupils then take AS Mathematics at the end of Year 11 and may take A2 level at the end of

Year 12. Further Mathematics is available at both AS and A2 level in Year 13 for pupils who have completed A2 Maths early. Individual tuition may also be provided for able pupils who join the Sixth Form from another school and who wish to take Further Mathematics, but who have not benefited from the Arnold curriculum arrangement.

- 3) In Years 7, 8 and 9 Science is taught as a combined, single discipline. The sciences are taught separately from Year 10, and pupils may continue with Triple Science in KS4, using 1 of their option choices towards this (6 + 3 = 9 periods in total). Remaining pupils study Science in Year 10 and Additional Science in Year 11.
- 4) In Year 8, RS and PSHE share a single lesson weekly allocation; the delivery of the respective subject content is managed internally.

Senior School Curriculum Options

Year 8

- 1) Pupils choose to study either German or Spanish as their MFL2. This is continued in Year 9.

Year 10/11

- 1) Pupils usually take 9 GCSEs, comprising a compulsory Core Curriculum (English, Mathematics, Science, MFL) plus Option Subjects:
 - ⇒ English Language + English Literature (2), Mathematics (1), Triple Science (3), MFL (1), Option Subjects (2) *or*
 - ⇒ English Language + English Literature (2), Mathematics (1), Science + Additional Science (2), MFL (1), Option Subjects (3)
- 2) Pupils in receipt of Learning Support, and pupils for whom a strong, individual case may be made, are entitled to request exemption from the requirement to study a Modern Foreign Language and may choose another Option Subject instead.
- 3) Pupils have, initially, a free choice of Option Subjects. Once Option Blocks have been created around pupil option choices, a small number of pupils may need, after discussion with the Deputy Head and their parents, to re-consider their option choices.
- 4) Option Subjects are:
 - Art & Design
 - Drama
 - French (as MFL2)
 - Geography
 - German (as MFL2)
 - History
 - Latin

- Music
 - Physical Education (Examinable)
 - Religious Studies
 - Spanish (as MFL2)
- 5) Additional, extra-curricular subjects offered are:
- Business Studies (short course)
 - Classical Greek
 - ECDL

Sixth Form

- 1) Entry to the Sixth Form depends on 5 A*-C grades at GCSE (including English and Mathematics). Any pupil failing to meet this criterion may expect to have his/her entry to the Sixth Form challenged.
- 2) It is strongly recommended that pupils have achieved at least a grade B at GCSE in the subjects (or related subjects) they intend to study at AS.
- 3) It is also strongly recommended that students have achieved at least a grade D at AS in the subjects they intend to study at A2.
- 4) Pupils usually study 4 subjects in Year 12 at AS level and 3 subjects in Year 13 at A2 level.
- 5) All pupils take General Studies AS at the end of Year 12, and may choose to take the subject at A2 level at the end of Year 13 if they wish.
- 6) All A level subjects, at AS or A2 level, are 'cashed in' at the end of Year 13.
- 7) Pupils have, initially, a free choice of Option Subjects. Once Option Blocks have been created around pupil option choices, a small number of pupils may need, after discussion with the Deputy Head and their parents, to re-consider their option choices.
- 8) A level subjects available are:
 - Art & Design
 - Biology
 - Business Studies
 - Chemistry
 - Drama
 - Economics
 - English Language
 - English Literature
 - French
 - Geography
 - German
 - History
 - Latin

- Mathematics
 - Mathematics Further (*see earlier notes on curriculum*)
 - Music
 - Physical Education (Examinable)
 - Physics
 - Psychology
 - Religious Studies
 - Spanish
- 9) Additional, extra-curricular subjects at AS level are:
- Classical Greek
 - Geology (2 year course)

Notes

- 1) The Deputy Head may reduce or increase an individual pupil's curriculum in exceptional circumstances, if it is agreed with parents and the pupil that this would justifiably be in the pupil's best educational interests.
- 2) However, academically able Sixth Form students are, generally, not encouraged to take additional A level subjects, in line with clear guidance from university admissions tutors. Instead, alternative academic enrichment options and other qualifications are available; including Open University modules (*see Gifted & Talented Policy*) and the BTEC in Public Services.

Senior School Lesson Length

Senior School pupils have 6 lessons per day, each of 50 minutes.

Senior School Examination Boards

Pupils are entered for external national examinations in Key Stage 4 (GCSEs) and the Sixth Form (A levels).

Subject	GCSE	A Level
Art & Design	AQA	AQA
Biology	iGCSE (AQA)	AQA
Business Studies	AQA (Short Course)	AQA
Chemistry	iGCSE (AQA)	AQA
Drama	AQA	AQA
Economics	-	AQA
English Language	iGCSE (Edexcel)	AQA (Spec B)
English Literature	iGCSE (Edexcel)	AQA (Spec B)
French	AQA	AQA
General Studies	-	AQA
Geography	AQA (Spec A)	AQA
Geology	-	OCR
German	AQA	AQA
Greek (Classical)	OCR	OCR
History	iGCSE (AQA)	AQA
Latin	OCR	OCR
Mathematics	iGCSE (Edexcel)	Edexcel
Music	Edexcel	Edexcel
Physical Education (Examinable)	AQA (Spec A)	OCR
Physics	iGCSE (AQA)	AQA
Psychology	-	AQA
Religious Studies	AQA	AQA
Science	iGCSE (AQA)	-
Spanish	AQA	AQA

Curriculum Planning

- 1) AJS plans the curriculum in three phases:
 - a. There is an agreed long-term plan for each year group and this indicates which topics are to be taught in each term. In reception focused themed weeks or fortnights are also planned for all six areas of the EYFS.

- b. Medium-term plans give clear guidance on the objectives and teaching strategies used when teaching each topic, as well as opportunities for cross curricular work and resources to be used. These are handed in to the Heads of Key Stage on a half-termly basis.
 - c. Daily planners are used for short-term plans. In KS2 these set out objectives for each session, and identify what resources and activities are going to be used in the lesson.
- 2) In the Senior School, an overview of the curriculum for each subject area is publicly available through the school website.
 - 3) Each academic department has Schemes of Work, which are annually updated.
 - 4) All Schemes of Work are accessible on the school Intranet.
 - 5) The format of Schemes of Work may differ between subject areas, although all SoWs contain the following core information:
 - a. Title of the unit
 - b. Specific pupil learning objectives/outcomes for the unit
 - c. Timescale for teaching the unit
 - d. Possible resources available/recommended for the unit
 - e. Assessment (summative & formative)

Homework

In AJS, homework is set according to the JS Homework Policy. As guidance the School recommends that pupils spend the following times on homework:

Reception: 10-15 minutes per night

KS1/2: Years 1 and 2: 15 to 20 minutes per night

Year 3: 20 minutes + 10-15 minutes reading

Year 4: 20 minutes + 10-15 minutes reading

Year 5: 25 minutes + 15-20 minutes reading

Year 6: 30 minutes + 15-20 minutes reading

In the Senior School, homework is set where appropriate and in accordance with Homework Timetables, set by the Deputy Head, which are accessible through the school website.

Homework may take a variety of forms (e.g. written work, research, planning). As guidance the school expects pupils to spend the following times on homework:

KS3: 60-90 minutes per evening (Year 7)

80-100 minutes per evening (Year 8)

90-120 minutes per evening (Year 9)

KS4: 120-180 minutes per evening (Years 10/11)

In the Sixth Form, as part of preparation for university, there is less of a distinction between formal homework and independent study. In addition, 'personal study periods' mean that much 'homework' can be completed in school. However, in general, the school expects Sixth Formers to undertake the following programme of homework/independent study:

Yr12: 16-18 hours per week (i.e. at least 4 hours per subject)

Yr13: 15-18 hours per week (i.e. at least 5 hours per subject)

Equality of Opportunity/Inclusion

- 1) The school aims to make the curriculum physically accessible to all pupils, as far as is reasonably practicable. The school has an Accessibility Plan which is available to parents on request (*Ref: SENDA Policy*)
- 2) With the exception of Mathematics, Senior School pupils are taught in academically mixed-ability classes. However, all lessons are differentiated, to enable personalised learning as much as is reasonable.
- 3) The school has a Learning Support department, which caters for pupils with special educational needs or learning difficulties.

Careers & Further Education Guidance

- 1) Pupils in Years 11, 12 and 13 receive individual careers advice and guidance.
- 2) Sixth Form students receive individual guidance on Further Education applications and opportunities.
- 3) Pupils wishing to apply to Oxbridge receive additional support.

Personal, Social & Health Education

- 1) All pupils in KS1 and KS2 receive a weekly lesson in PSHE.
- 2) All pupils in KS3 and KS4 receive a weekly lesson in PSHE.
- 3) The school provides sex education in the basic curriculum for all pupils, in which pupils are encouraged and guided by moral principles and taught to recognise the value of family life. A full statement of the school's sex education policy is available to parents. It has been drawn up in consultation with staff, pupils and parents, and takes into account the views of representatives from the community. It has regard for the government's guidance in Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (0116/2000). 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.

- 4) Sixth Form pupils receive weekly lessons in General Studies and Liberal Studies, which cover a wide range of academic, social, moral and cultural issues.

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.

Religious Education

Religious Education is available to all pupils, as detailed in the curriculum. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Religious Education. The school also has a programme of collective worship involving some whole-school assemblies and tutor group assemblies. The worship is mainly of a broadly Christian character, but it is not distinctive of a particular Christian denomination. Parents have a right to withdraw their children from acts of collective worship and should inform the Headmaster in writing if they wish to do so.

PE & 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/guardian 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 encouraged to participate in the programme, and involvement is monitored by form tutors and respective colleagues. Pupils are required to take part in the CCF from the summer of Y9 to the summer of Y10, after which it becomes optional.