

CURRICULUM POLICY

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.

Regulatory Context

In accordance with national regulatory requirements, 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 (*Ref: Learning Support Policy*);
- 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 (*Ref: Learning Support Policy*);
- 6) personal, social and health education which reflects the school's aims and ethos (*Ref: PSHE Policies*);
- 7) appropriate careers guidance for pupils receiving secondary education (*Ref: SS Careers Guidance Policy*);
- 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 (*Ref: Mission Statement, SMSCD Policies*)

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 (Junior

School/2009 10) 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 do not 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 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) All pupils study for 1390 minutes per week in lessons varying between 35 and 70 minutes.
- 2) The main subjects taught are:
 - English
 - Mathematics
 - Science
 - ICT
 - Geography/History
 - MFL
 - Music
 - Art
 - DT
 - PSHE
 - PE & Games
 - RE
 - Creative

- 3) The transition from Reception to Year 1 demands that EYFS is an integral part of at least the first term of teaching; therefore, actual minutes per subject vary.
- 4) 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
English	320	24
Maths	265	19
Science	185	14
ICT	70	5
Geog/Hist	60	4
MFL	45	3
Music	65	5
Art	60	4
PSHE	40	1.5
PE	105	8
RE	35	2.5
Creative	80	6
DT	60	4

The Key Stage 2 Curriculum

- 1) All pupils study for 1455 minutes per week in lessons varying from 25 to 75 minutes.
- 2) The main subjects taught are:
 - English
 - Mathematics
 - Science
 - ICT
 - Geography/History
 - MFL
 - Music
 - Art
 - PSHE
 - PE & Games
 - RE
 - Creative
- 3) Pupils also have a 30 minute 'Class Time' period for completing tasks from across the curriculum at the discretion of the form teacher.
- 4) The allocation of time per subject and the overall percentage of teaching time for each subject are:

	Minutes per Subject	% of Total Time
English	325	22
Maths	320	22
Science	120	8
ICT	65	5
Geog/Hist	90	6
MFL	30	2
Music	60	4
Art	60	4
PSHE	25	2
PE	70	5
RE	30	2
Creative	30	2
DT	60	4
Games	140	10
Class Time	30	2

- 5) NB: The allocation of subject time and the setting of the timetable are currently influenced by the irregular pattern of one form and two form year groups.

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	6	8	English	5	9	English	5
	Mathematics	6		Mathematics	5		Mathematics	5
	Science	6		Science	6		Science	6
	French	4		French	3		French	3
	Geography	3		German <i>or</i> Spanish	3		Latin, German <i>or</i> Spanish	3
	History	3		Geography	3		Geography	3
	RS	1		History	3		History	3
	Art & Design	2		RS	1		RS	1
	Drama / Music	2		Art & Design	2		Art & Design	2
	ICT	2		Drama / Music	2		Drama / Music	2
	PE	2		ICT	2		ICT	2
	Games	2		PE	2		PE	2
	PSHE	1		Games	2		Games	2
				PSHE	1		PSHE	1
	Total	40		Total	40		Total	40

Year	Subject	PpW	Year	Subject	PpW	Year	Subject	PpW
10,11	English	6	12	Options	32	13	Options	24
	Mathematics	5		General Studies	1		General Studies	1
	Science	8		Liberal Studies	1		Liberal Studies	1
	MFL	4		Games	2		Games	2
	Options	12		Personal Study	4		Personal Study	12
	PE	2						
	Games	2						
	PSHE	1						
	Total	40		Total	40		Total	40

Notes:

- 1) In KS4, **English** lessons teach both **English Language** and **English Literature**.
- 2) In Year 7, **Mathematics** is taught in loose sets, based upon prior assessment data. These sets are regularly reviewed, enabling movement either way. By the end of KS3, 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.
- 3) In Years 7 and 8, **Science** is taught as a combined, single discipline. In Year 9 separate sciences are studied. Pupils may continue with **Triple Science** in KS4, using 1 of their option choices towards this (8 + 4 = 12 periods in total). Remaining pupils study **Science** in Year 10 and **Additional Science** in Year 11.
- 4) In KS3, **Drama** and **Music** are taught on a carousel basis, in roughly 6 week blocks per subject.
- 5) In Year 9, the **MFL** curriculum is the final year of an outgoing model. In future years, **Latin** will be compulsory for all Year 9 pupils (1 period/week) and **MFL2** will continue from Year 8, with **French** on 2 periods per week in Year 9.

Senior School Curriculum Options

Year 8

- 1) Pupils choose to study either German or Spanish as their MFL2.

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 may 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 Director of Studies 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
- 6) Option subjects (outgoing) available in Year 11 in 2009-2010 are:
 - Business Studies
 - Design & Technology (Product Design)
 - Economics

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 Director of Studies 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
 - Music
 - Physical Education (Examinable)
 - Physics
 - Psychology
 - Religious Studies
 - Spanish
- 9) Additional, extra-curricular subjects at AS level are:
 - Classical Greek
 - Geology (2 year course)
- 10) Option subjects (outgoing) available in Year 13 in 2009-2010 are:
 - Design & Technology (Product Design)
 - Geology A2

Notes

- 1) The Director of Studies 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 **8 lessons** per day, each of **35 minutes**. However, in order to facilitate a balance of Teaching and Learning activities (*Ref: Teaching & Learning Policy*) as well as enable efficient timetabling, most lessons occur as doubles, lasting **70 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	AQA	AQA
Business Studies	AQA (Short Course)	AQA
Chemistry	AQA	AQA
Drama	AQA	AQA
Economics	-	AQA
English Language	WJEC	AQA (Spec B)
English Literature	WJEC	AQA (Spec B)
French	AQA	AQA
General Studies	-	AQA
Geography	AQA (Spec A)	AQA
Geology	-	OCR
German	AQA	AQA
Greek (Classical)	OCR	OCR
History	AQA	AQA
Latin	OCR	OCR
Mathematics	iGCSE (Edexcel)	Edexcel
Music	Edexcel	Edexcel
Physical Education (Examinable)	AQA (Spec A)	OCR
Physics	AQA	AQA
Psychology	-	AQA
Religious Studies	AQA	AQA
Science	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.
 - b. 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 Director of Studies, 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 (= 2 or 3 subjects)

KS4: 90-120 minutes per evening (= 2 or 3 subjects)

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: 12-16 hours per week (i.e. 3-4 hours per subject)

Yr13: 12-16 hours per week (i.e. 4-5 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; Accessibility Plan*)
- 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 (*Ref: Differentiation Policy*).
- 3) The school has a [Learning Support](#) department, which caters for pupils with special educational needs or learning difficulties (*Ref: Learning Support Policy*).

Careers & Further Education Guidance

- 1) Pupils in Years 11, 12 and 13 receive individual careers advice and guidance (*Ref: Careers Guidance Policy*).
- 2) Sixth Form students receive individual guidance on Further Education applications and opportunities (*Ref: Careers Guidance Policy*).
- 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 (*Ref: JS PSHE Policy; JS Drugs Education Policy*).
- 2) All pupils in KS3 and KS4 receive a weekly lesson in PSHE (*Ref: SS PSHE Policy*)
- 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 (*Ref: Sex Education Policies*).

- 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 (*Ref: Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Development Policy*). 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 (*Ref: SS Extra-Curricular Policy*)

Concerns and Complaints

Parents who have concerns about any aspect of the curriculum should discuss these in the first instance with the relevant Subject Manager/Head of Key Stage in AJS and Head of Department in the SS. If the issue is not resolved parents should contact the Headmaster of AJS or the Director of Studies in the SS, as relevant (*Ref: Complaints Policy*).

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be monitored by the Director of Studies in the Senior School and the Head of AJS, who will report to the Headmaster on its implementation on a regular basis. The Headmaster will report to the Governors' Education Committee on the progress of the policy and will recommend any changes.