

Curriculum Policy

To be read in conjunction with Equality and Diversity, British Values , SMSC and PSHE policy

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**At the heart of all our policies at White Trees Independent School
are the following principles:**

1. Everyone in our school can learn and achieve.
2. Everyone in our school has the potential to be successful
3. We build quality relationships with one another and everyone we work with
4. The success of our school is based on high expectations, mutual trust and respect, caring for each other and taking responsibility.
5. Our vision is to provide our students with the confidence, skills, and ambition to take the next steps towards a successful and productive life so they can contribute positively in society.

Introduction

At White Trees Independent School we believe that everyone in our school can learn and achieve and has the potential to be successful. We promote learning and development by building quality relationships which are rooted in mutual trust, respect, care, high expectations and taking responsibility.

Very often when students arrive at White Trees they have low self –esteem which is a barrier to learning. We address this by delivering a holistic curriculum which focuses on the student’s physical, intellectual, emotional and social development.

We firmly believe that by developing a positive and healthy self-esteem in our students they will be more likely to engage in learning.

Learning at White Trees involves participation in a variety of activities designed to enhance an educational experience and nurture and develop a particular student interest. We offer a range of recognised qualifications at KS3 and KS4

Overall we strive endlessly to ensure that student’s from White Trees Independent School leave us happy and with a foundation of strong values from which they can build upon to lead a successful life and make a successful contribution to society

The KS3 Curriculum

In Key Stage 3 we adopt an inter-disciplinary topic approach to the curriculum which has been developed and implemented in line with the Independent School Standards (2014) and has incorporated elements of the National Curriculum. Differentiation is a key aspect of our curriculum and course delivery. We recognise that differentiation is the key to ensuring all students can access learning and make progress in addition to ensuring appropriate content levels for all ability ranges.

Our curriculum aims to increase the student’s experiences of the physical world we live in. This often involves leaning from beyond the classroom, and helps to develop their enquiry skills usually associated with science but not necessarily in a traditional lab setting. Students learn to develop their observation skills, form hypotheses and conduct experiments and record the findings. These skills help to develop resilience

Our curriculum also promotes the use of information and communication technology (ICT) as we are keen as adults to learn from students. We encourage students to plan, research, and share and communicate their ideas. We keep our students up to date with responsible use and e- safety measures.

Our curriculum recognises that our students have different interests and we personalise and differentiate our teaching and curriculum to reflect this. We also have a Common Core Curriculum for all which aims to provide important skills and understanding for life beyond school.

Common Core Curriculum for all

English- Developing Reading, writing and Communication Skills

Maths: - Developing the capacity to think logically

KS3 English- end yr 9 all students will complete Entry Level Qualification
KS3 Maths - end of yr 9 all students will complete Entry Level Qualification

KS4 English	Functional skills level1	Functional skills level 2	GCSE
KS4 Maths	Functional skills level1	Functional skills level 2	GCSE

PSHE- Our PSHE programme incorporates our British Values and our Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Curriculum which echo our school principles

Physical Education: in this area we aim to develop the student's physical control and co-ordination as well as their tactical skills and imaginative responses, and help them to evaluate and improve their performance. Students will also acquire knowledge and understanding of the basic principles of fitness, health and well-being.

Social Education: in this area we further develop the student's understanding of our roles in society by focusing on fundamental British values to include the following:

Democracy- we will provide students with an understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process. This will be delivered through various other disciplines such as History and Geography and Cultural Studies. In school we promote the importance of democracy through areas such as Student Voice, Students electing peers to represent them and Student Council

The Rule of Law- we aim to develop understanding of the rule of law and how it protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety. In our school we promote the importance of the rule of law by having a shared code of practice and policies to set clear boundaries are explained clearly to students.

Individual Liberty- students are actively encouraged to make independent choices, and we educate and provide boundaries for students to make informed choices, through a safe environment and an empowering education. Students are informed and encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised on how to exercise these safely, for example through e-safety, our robust anti-bullying culture and Positive Behaviour Policy

Mutual Respect – This is one of our key principles and students are reminded that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. We all treat each other with respect and this is reiterated through our everyday practices and in teaching and learning environments by providing the opportunity for students to express their views in a safe environment. Through these practices our students will be able to recognise and have an understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination.

Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs- We aim to develop tolerance in our students through teaching about a range of different faiths, religions and cultural practice and celebrating festivities throughout the year. This will build an acceptance that people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour; There are a number of educational visits for students to experience which will give them a greater understanding of difference and develop their appreciation of the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their own heritage.

These principles are actively promoted throughout our school and run parallel with our Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural practices where we help students to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence;

- We help students to distinguish right from wrong and to respect English law
- We encourage students to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative and contribute positively to society
- We enable students to acquire a broad general knowledge of, and respect for, English public institutions and services
- We develop students understanding so they can appreciate and respect their own and other cultures.

Health Education in this area we aim to develop the student's knowledge and understanding of the Human Body and Mind and the importance of physical and mental well-being. Students will have opportunities to develop their expression of creativity through various routes such as art, music, poetry, dance and drama and will have access to Relaxation and Meditation Sessions.

Environmental Education- in this area we focus on the physical environment and aim to develop students understanding of past, present and future actions influenced and impact events. Students will focus on various societies and cultures and also have the experience of a residential trip to enhance their understanding.

In KS4 students will follow the same format

Physical – students can follow programmes of study which lead to recognised qualifications in Sport and Coaching

Social – students can complete recognised qualifications in Work Skills and Employability

Health – students can complete recognised qualifications in Food Preparation, Hygiene and First Aid

Economic – Students can complete qualifications in Money and Finance

In KS4 our students will have a Vocational placement to give them direct training in a more practical manner

Our students receive Independent Advice and Guidance to make informed choices at KS4 and 5 and this challenges them to achieve

Our curriculum at KS4 changes annually according to student interest and requirement

