

Curriculum Policy

1 Aims of the Policy

The purpose of the curriculum is to help students to:

- Develop lively, imaginative and enquiring minds.
- Acquire knowledge and skills relevant to adult life and a world of rapid and continuous technological change.
- Have sound numeracy, literacy and ICT skills.
- Develop personal and moral values, respect for shared values and for other cultures, religions and ways of life.
- Develop an understanding of the world in which they live.
- Appreciate human achievements and aspirations.
- Take their place in society as informed, confident and responsible citizens.

2 Main principles

- The curriculum should have the following characteristics: breadth, balance, relevance, differentiation; progression and continuity; coherence.
- The curriculum should promote knowledge and understanding; mastery of intellectual, physical and interpersonal skills and personal qualities, values and attitudes.
- Equality of access for all students to academic experiences.
- The school should provide appropriate tasks and teaching techniques to support high expectations and appropriate challenge.
- The school should endeavour to provide an increasingly diverse and flexible curriculum which facilitates personalised learning.
- All students have an entitlement to work related learning at KS4.
- Parents should be provided with curriculum information relevant to their child.
- The curriculum should be subject to planned valuation and review.

3 Outcomes

The curriculum should:

- Deliver the current and future statutory requirements.
- Be broad, balanced, relevant and differentiated.
- Enable students to fulfil their potential.
- Prepare students to make informed and appropriate choices post-16.
- Meet the needs of the full range of abilities within the school.
- Ensure continuity and progression within the school and between phases of education.
- Foster teaching styles which will offer and encourage a variety of relevant learning opportunities.
- Encourage and respect for the school and its environment so that learning is a positive and pleasurable experience for all.
- Help students develop lively, enquiring minds, an ability to question and argue rationally and an ability to apply themselves to tasks and physical skills.
- Help students acquire understanding, knowledge and key skills relevant to school, adult life and employment in a fast-changing world.
- Help students to use language and number effectively.
- Help students develop personal moral values, respect for religious values and tolerance of other races, religions and ways of life.

- Help students understand the world in which they live.
- Help students to appreciate human achievements and aspirations.
- Lead students to experience the five outcomes of the Every Child Matters agenda.

The school, therefore, will endeavour to provide:

- An environment in which young people of all abilities are able to develop the skills and attitudes which will facilitate lifelong learning and sustained personal development.
- A flexible curriculum at ages 14-19 in partnership with other locality schools and colleges.

4 The School Specialism

Diss High School is a Specialist Humanities College and, as such, is committed to:

- Raising standards of achievement, particularly in the Humanities for our students.
- Extending the range of opportunities available to children which best meet their needs and interests.
- Developing a unique identity which is reflected in the school's mission statement.
- Benefiting other schools in the area, both secondary and primary.
- Strengthening the links between schools and the wider community.

5 Special Needs and Gifted and Talented

As far as possible, provision is made within the school for all students with special needs. Additional support is provided for students within the classroom and within the Special Needs department's own facilities.

To be reviewed annually