



Curriculum Policy

Aim:

'The school believes that each child should be offered every opportunity to develop his own talents, academic, sporting, musical and creative, to the maximum through whatever medium.' (Aims and ethos of the school)

At Gayhurst this involves creating a balanced but challenging and enriching curriculum that encompasses the needs of all the pupils from Nursery to Year 8.

The Early Years (Nursery and Reception)

Pupils in Nursery and Reception work towards achieving the Early Learning Foundation Stage goals as defined in the six areas of learning of the Foundation Stage. The main aim is that the overall emotional, social, intellectual and physical development of each pupil is met through providing an appropriate broad curriculum.

The pupils in the Nursery gradually increase the number of sessions they attend so that by the time they reach Reception age they are ready for full time school. The day is centred around the Nursery with the Head of Nursery and her assistants. The Music teacher visits twice a week.

Reception pupils are completely integrated into the Junior School and receive PE and Music lessons the same as in Years 1-3. The Foundation Stage curriculum is followed and most pupils reach the Early Learning Foundation Stage goals at the end of the school year.

The Early Years department offers an educational programme to meet each pupil's needs so that progress is made at a pace suitable for each individual.

The Junior School (from 5 to 8 years)

Pupils are taught by their class teachers for the majority of their subjects. The concentration is on English: reading, writing and speaking; Mathematics: tables, number work and practical investigation; investigative Science and projects. Every encouragement is given to help pupils read fluently. Geography, History and Religious Studies are all taught to broaden the child's awareness and understanding and to help him or her appreciate the complexities of the environment in which we live.

Art and Design, Drama, and Music form an extension to the core subjects as well as introducing pupils to specialist skills in their own right. There are performances of music and drama regularly. Many children learn to play one or two instruments on an individual basis. Computers are located in every classroom and are a valuable learning aid. All the pupils from Reception upwards use either the Junior School or Senior School computer laboratories or both. PE and Games are incorporated into the weekly curriculum and from Reception onwards the pupils can choose to join in after school clubs.

Outings are an important part of the whole school curriculum for all the year groups.



The Senior School

The pupils will move up in three parallel forms to the senior side of the school where the lessons are arranged into a weekly 45 period timetable, five, 40 minute periods in the morning and 4, 35 minute periods in the afternoon. In Year 4 they will encounter some specialist subject teaching immediately and by Year 6 the majority of their subjects will be taught this way. Throughout the school the emphasis in the Sciences is on practical work, learning through investigation. Written French is also studied at this stage and all the children are introduced to Classics. At present the upper group study Spanish in Years 7 and 8 and some pupils study Greek in Year 8. IT lessons are timetabled into the curriculum but the computer laboratory is also used for many subject lessons. Mathematics, English, Geography History, Religious Studies and Music are all taught by specialist subject teachers throughout the Senior School as are Games and PE. The pupils are setted in the core subjects of Mathematics and English in the first term of their year in the Senior school. The pupils in Years 7 and 8 are grouped into streams based on ability.

(For more detail on the subjects refer to the individual Departmental Handbooks and Policies)