



ST JAMES

Preparatory School

CURRICULUM POLICY

2025-2026

POLICY AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

It is the aim of St James Prep School to provide every pupil with a unique and special experience of education whilst at the School. Through our teaching we aim to ensure that pupils are provided with exceptional learning experiences that lead to a consistently high level of pupil progress. This policy guides what the School as a community does to create an effective and well-managed learning environment in which the individual needs of each pupil can be met.

Children learn through their combined experience at School and home. We work in partnership with parents to ensure that pupils are encouraged always to try their best and to rise to the challenges that are set for them. We aim to provide full-time supervised education for pupils of compulsory school age (construed in accordance with section 8 of the Education Act 1996), which gives pupils experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical, and aesthetic and creative education.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

We believe in a creative and carefully balanced curriculum which aims to develop the intellectual, emotional, physical and spiritual aspects of the child, so that they may become independent, respectful, responsible, useful, thinking, confident and considerate members of the community and British society.

The curriculum and teaching actively promotes fundamental British values and is in accord with the Equality Act 2010. The teachers have excellent knowledge of their subjects and the resources are of very good quality. We also recognise the important role which parents play in their children's education and make every effort to encourage parental involvement.

Every child is supported to achieve their best in whatever field, whether it is academic, art, sport, music, or drama. As a school we take notice of the National Curriculum but syllabi often extend beyond it. Pupils acquire speaking, listening, literacy and numeracy skills and we take into account the ages, aptitudes and needs of all pupils including those pupils with an EHC Plan. Each subject is structured to ensure progression in competence and understanding and to allow the child to grow in self-confidence.

Our aim is to provide the children with the best material that civilisation and culture can offer: This includes the music of Mozart, the language of Shakespeare, the art of Leonardo, the architecture of great cathedrals, the stories of the Bible and the great epics: Mahabharata, Ramayana, Odyssey. Their beauty and intelligence satisfy pupils emotionally and enable them to develop their own creative powers. They inspire pupils of all abilities whilst providing challenge and stimulation for the gifted. We aim to provide an environment in which each child can:

- Delight in the love of learning; make excellent progress; learn to be adaptable; solve problems in different situations; work independently and as part of a team; develop

an enquiring mind. (Love of learning)

- Develop a belief in their own talents; be enthusiastic and eager to put their best into all activities. (Being your best)
- Show confidence in their creative powers; communicate their knowledge and feelings through various art forms including art/craft, music, drama and design & technology. (Being creative)
- Gain physical strength, confidence and agility in and through movement; know how to apply the basic principles of health, hygiene and safety. (Enjoying sport)
- Grow in awareness and thoughtfulness; care for and take pride in their school; behave in a dignified and acceptable way and learn to become responsible for their actions; understand moral values, such as honesty, sincerity, and truthfulness, on which to base their own behaviour. (Developing character)
- Value friendships; develop tolerance, respect and appreciation for the feelings and capabilities of others. (Being respectful)
- Appreciate stillness; be happy, cheerful and well balanced. (Being happy).

THE CURRICULUM CONTENT

The following aspects are covered within the curriculum:

Linguistic - Reading, Sanskrit, Speech, Poetry and Oral presentations, French

Mathematical - Mathematics, mathematical skills in other subjects such as Forest Schools/Science/Humanities

Scientific - Science, Gardening, Forest School, Design & Technology

Technological - Art and 3D Design, Presentations, Design & Technology, ICT, Coding, Needlework

Human and Social - History, Geography, Philosophy, RS, Gardening, Forest School, Visiting speakers in Assembly, PSHEE/SMSC

Physical - Rugby, Cricket, Football, Netball, Rounders, Athletics, Gym, Drama/Dance, Swimming, Fitness and Health information.

Aesthetic & Creative - Art, Music and recorder, Singing, Creative Writing, Drama/Dance, Cooking, Design & Technology, Needlework.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Where appropriate, pupils with special educational needs (SEN) are supported by the SEND Department. Teachers alert the SEND Department of concerns and observations are made by the Dept. The nature of the difficulty will be investigated and guidance is given on how the pupil may be supported in lessons. If necessary, further individual support may be offered.

Options are available in school for full English and Maths Assessment, Occupational Therapy (OT) Assessment and support, Speech and Language Assessment (SALT) and support. **For full details see the SEND policy.**

PUPILS with an EHC Plan (Educational Healthcare Plan)

Children with EHCPs apply through the procedure organised by the local borough, Hammersmith & Fulham. Parents in the school can apply for an EHC Plan. St James Prep School would fully support parents wishing to apply for an EHC plan where, in our professional capacity, we believe it to be appropriate. **For full details see the SEND policy.**

ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (EAL)

St James Prep School is committed to providing learning support for all pupils accepted into the school whose first language is not English. Where a child has very little or no English, this will be considered on an individual basis. **For full details see the EAL policy.**

DIFFERENTIATION AND INDEPENDENT LEARNING

We consider it essential that pupils are given work at a level that not only challenges them and interests them but also ensures good progress and a sense of achievement.

Differentiation is used in lessons and assessment as appropriate, which may be differentiation by task or by outcome. Teachers have high expectations of the pupils and aim to encourage all pupils including those who are very able, interested and motivated. We also encourage independent learning through questioning, project work, discussion and practical activities. All pupils participate in music, singing, drama and speech and those with particular talents in these areas are given opportunities to refine or improve them in School productions, in the choir or orchestras, or in representing the School in outside competitions. Furthermore, we have a number of peripatetic teachers who teach a wide variety of musical instruments during the school week.

THE NURSERY

At St James Nursery School we aim to provide children with carefully planned activities that allow them to engage at their own level and to be supported to pursue activities to meet their own needs. We offer children rich experiences in a variety of situations, in an environment that invites them to explore and learn in an independent manner.

EYFS

The EYFS applies to children from birth to the end of the reception year. In the Prep School, the overarching aim of the EYFS is to help young children achieve the Statutory Framework for Early Years outcomes also outlined in Development Matters 2023. **For full details see the EYFS policy.**

PERSONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH AND ECONOMIC EDUCATION

Our philosophical ethos is a belief in that which is common to all traditions; the underlying element of humanity which unifies us all. Our aim is to provide an environment where everyone can discover that divinity, creatively explore and develop their talents and be happy. **For full details see the PSHEE Policy.**

SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL

Spiritual Education is considered of paramount importance. Assemblies use ethical and spiritual themes and draw stories from many sources including a range of faiths. Each class has an RS lesson once a week. There are also weekly philosophy lessons for all classes and the termly topics are also explored together at Assembly. Within the School, trust, and respect between teachers and pupils are fostered. **For full details see the PSHEE Policy (including Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Policy).**

ABLE, INTERESTED AND MOTIVATED (AIM)

The AIM coordinator maintains the AIM register and ensures that the AIM children's needs are fully met. Teachers provide the children with inspiring material and opportunities to enhance their skills.

PLAYS AND MUSICAL PRODUCTIONS

Drama and Music are essential aspects of the St James Prep School education. During the school year there are many and varied opportunities for classes to participate in musical events such as concerts, competitions, church services and instrumental recitals. Classes put on Assembly productions/presentations throughout the year. Lower School children perform the Nativity Play, Year 6 put on an End of Year production, and all classes take part in our annual Shakespeare Festival.

Prep School Use of Technology

At St James we believe that children learn best when they are engaged with their teachers through direct speech and are using writing to record their work.

Traditional book work will continue and the devices will be employed only to enhance the learning of the children. Teachers will be aware of the need to switch off all screens, including, Interactive White Boards, whenever possible.

Pupil access to the internet will be controlled through our school Jamf software and only apps installed by the school will be enabled during school time. Pupils will be unable to communicate with one another but will be able to send homework and tasks to their class teacher.

Occasionally, educational films will be shown but only to enhance the curriculum. Sometimes, as an end of term treat, age appropriate, entertaining videos may be watched.

Mobile phone use is banned for all prep pupils. Those in year 6 who are walking to school on their own must hand their phones to the office first thing in the morning and collect them at the end of the day.

