



ST JAMES
Senior Girls' School

Curriculum Policy

St James Senior Girls' School

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Introduction

At St James Senior Girls' School, we provide full-time education for pupils of compulsory school age (construed in accordance with section 8 of the Education Act 1996).

The general aims of the curriculum are:

- to provide an environment which enriches, enhances and refines our pupils' spiritual, intellectual, emotional and physical development, giving rise to an expansion in understanding, wisdom and creative potential;
- to actively promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law and individual liberty;
- to enable our pupils to develop respect and tolerance for others (including those of different faiths and beliefs and those with 'protected characteristics') and an awareness of and consideration for their needs;
- to prepare our pupils effectively for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in British society by engendering confidence in the various talents with which they have been endowed, fostering a desire to offer those talents in a spirit of generosity for the benefit of humanity and developing character attributes such as resilience, enthusiasm and integrity;
- to give accurate, up-to-date and impartial careers guidance to enable our pupils to make informed choices about a broad range of career options and encourage them to fulfil their potential;
- to structure the teaching of each subject so as to provide opportunities for pupils (of all ages, aptitudes and needs) to learn, make progress and achieve their 'personal best' in terms of public examination results;
- to enable our pupils to acquire speaking, listening, literacy and numeracy skills; and
- to give our pupils experience in the following areas:

Linguistic (including speaking, listening and literacy skills):

English Language, French, Spanish, Latin, Greek, Sanskrit, Drama, Speech and Debating

Mathematical (including numeracy skills):

Mathematics, mathematical skills used in other subjects such as Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Geography and Further Mathematics at A Level

Scientific:

General Science, Biology, Chemistry and Physics (taught as separate sciences at GCSE), and Psychology (A Level only)

Technological:

Applied IT, computer science, use of ICT integrated within the other subjects; STEM workshops and clubs;

Human and Social:

Hinduism (A Level), History, Geography, Citizenship, Philosophy, Religious Studies, Careers, Psychology, Economics

Visiting speakers e.g. in Assemblies, 'Wider Perspectives' programme, Minerva Society, Careers Programme

Physical:

Lacrosse, Netball, Athletics, Rounders, Aerobics, Pilates, Health-related fitness, Gymnastics, Dance, Cross-Country running, Karate, Football, Kickboxing, Cricket, Fencing, St James Challengers (Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme), GCSE PE

Aesthetic and Creative:

English Literature, Dance, Art, Art and Design, Music, Singing, Creative Writing, Cookery, Drama, Textiles, History of Art, Drama and Theatre Studies, LAMDA.

1. SEND

Where appropriate, pupils with learning difficulties and disabilities are given comprehensive study support by the SENDCO, who also informs subject teachers of the nature of any difficulties and gives guidance on how the pupil may be supported in lessons. For full details see the SEND Policy.

Pupils with an EHC plan or Statement of SEND

For pupils with an EHC plan or statement, suitable education is provided as outlined in the requirements of the plan or statement. For full details see the SEND Policy.

2. English as an Additional Language

Where possible we aim for all pupils to participate in all subjects and, where necessary, extra help will be provided for pupils with English as an Additional Language. However, parents of pupils classed as 'Profound' EAL (those whose academic progress will be severely hampered by a lack of fluency in English) are asked to pay for extra tuition by a TEFL qualified teacher. It may be necessary for the pupil to come out of one or two subjects during the week (e.g. Latin) to work on English, in order to enable them to access the rest of the curriculum as quickly as possible. For full details see the EAL Policy.

3. Differentiation and Independent Learning

We consider it to be essential that pupils are given work at a level that not only challenges them and interests them, but also ensures 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 their pupils and aim to encourage all pupils including those who are more able or talented. See More Able and Talented Policy and differentiation policies in the departmental handbooks for more detail.

Questions from pupils, which lead to a deeper exploration of the subject, are encouraged. Independent learning skills are developed through practical activities, exploration and research, project work, discussion and extension work.

The broad programme of non-examined subjects gives every pupil an opportunity to find success and enjoyment. All pupils in Years 7-9 engage in a full creative arts programme and Years 10-13 can continue with singing. Pupils with particular talents in music, singing, drama, or speech are given opportunities to refine and improve them in school productions and House competitions or in one of the School's choirs or orchestras.

4. Preparation for Adult Life

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

A comprehensive and well-researched programme of PSHEE and SMSC is offered within the curriculum to prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in British society. This includes drugs and alcohol awareness courses, sex education, financial literacy and citizenship. Outside speakers are also invited to contribute. Students are taught about the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs in lessons, assemblies and daily interactions.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education

At St James Senior Girls' School spiritual education is considered of paramount importance. A respect for all religious faiths, beliefs, cultural traditions and humanism is actively fostered through assemblies which draw on a variety of sources from our Eastern and Western spiritual, cultural and humanistic traditions. There are also philosophy lessons for all classes, Religious Studies for pupils in Years 7-9 and meditation and mindfulness is offered to all and practised by a number of pupils. Outside speakers are regularly invited to speak on many subjects in order to broaden the pupils' horizons. The School also actively promotes Fundamental British Values within the curriculum and via outside speakers. Within the School, trust, love, the value of respect and tolerance are considered to be fundamental, particularly towards those with protected characteristics. Indeed, we encourage pupils to respect other people, even if they choose to follow a lifestyle that they would not choose to follow themselves.

Careers Guidance

It is the policy of St. James Senior Girls' School that all pupils from Year 7 through to the end of Year 13 receive accurate, up-to-date and impartial careers guidance and education to allow them to fulfil their potential. We consciously work to prevent all types of stereotyping in the guidance we provide in order to ensure girls consider the widest possible range of careers. Girls also sit Morrisby and MyUniChoices tests in order to obtain fully impartial advice.

To allow them to fulfil their potential, information is given to pupils and parents at the time of GCSE and A Level choices concerning the requirements of university courses and various careers and individual interviews are held with each pupil in Years 9 and 11 to establish areas of interest and give suggestions. This allows pupils to make informed choices about a broad range of careers. Pupils are asked to undertake work experience at the end of Year 11.

A Careers' Forum is organised biennially for Years 9-13. Speakers representing a broad range of different careers give presentations throughout the morning. Pupils are encouraged to attend as many sessions as possible and to ask questions freely. For full details see the Careers Guidance Policy.

Preparation for Further and Higher Education

For full details see the Preparation for Higher Education Policy.

Subjects offered to each year group:

The subjects offered to each year group are as follows:

Year	Subjects studied	No of 50 minutes per fortnight	Taught in sets/ mixed ability groups
7	English	7	Groups
	Sanskrit/Classical Civilisation/Learning development	4	Groups
	French	4	Groups
	Latin	4	Groups
	Mathematics	7	Sets
	General Science	6	Groups
	Geography	3	Groups
	History	3	Groups
	Art	3	Groups
	Music	2	Groups
	Form	2 + 2 lunchtimes	Groups
	Textiles/Cookery/History of Art	2	Groups
	Drama	2	Groups
	Philosophy	1	Groups
	ICT/Computer Science/3D Design	3	Groups
	Sport (Chiswick - 4, Gym/Playground - 2)	6	Groups
	Religious Studies	1	Groups
	Total	60	

Year	Subjects studied (including options)	No of 50 minutes per fortnight	Taught in sets/ mixed ability groups
8	English	5	Sets
	Religious Studies + Study Skills/Cookery	3+1	Groups
	Gratin/Latin/Learning development and English	4	Sets
	Sanskrit/Spanish	4	Groups
	French	4	Sets
	History	3	Groups
	Geography	3	Groups
	Mathematics	7	Sets
	Physics	3	Groups
	Chemistry	3	Groups
	Biology	3	Groups
	Art	2	Groups

Music	1	Groups
Form	1 + 2 lunchtimes	Groups
Drama	2	Groups
Philosophy	1	Groups
Sport (Chiswick - 4, Gym/Playground - 2)	6	Groups
Computer Science/3D Design	3	Groups
PSHEE/Citizenship	1	Groups
Total	60	

Year	Subjects studied (including options)	No of 50 minutes per fortnight	Taught in sets /mixed ability groups
9	English	5	Sets
	Greek (by selection)/Religious Studies	4	Set/Groups
	Latin/Learning development and English	4	Sets
	Sanskrit/Spanish	4	Groups
	French	4	Sets
	Mathematics	6	Sets
	Biology	4	Sets
	Chemistry	4	Sets
	Physics	4	Sets
	History	3	Groups
	Geography	3	Groups
	Art/Music	2	Option Groups
	Form	1 + 2 lunchtimes	Groups
	Drama/Art	2	Option Groups
	PSHEE/Citizenship/Financial Literacy	1	Groups
	Philosophy	1	Groups
	Sport (Chiswick - 4, Gym/Playground - 2)	6	Groups
	Computer Science/3D Design	2	Groups
Total	60		

5. GCSE Options

Most pupils are recommended to choose nine GCSE subjects to study – the maximum number is ten for the most able and the minimum is eight (or, rarely, fewer). However, the most able mathematicians may take an Additional Mathematics qualification in addition to their GCSE subjects.

In Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, History and Sanskrit pupils currently follow the IGCSE syllabuses. For full details on GCSE subject options, see the GCSE Options Policy.

Years 10 and 11:

Subjects offered at GCSE are as follows:

Core

- English Language and English Literature (8 periods per fortnight; taught as one subject in sets)
- Mathematics (7 periods per fortnight; taught in sets)

In Years 10 and 11, options may alter in order to provide a timetable that enables as many pupils as possible to study their preferred choice of subjects. Therefore, this is reviewed on an annual basis.

Each subject has 5 x 50 minute periods per fortnight.

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|--------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| • Art | • Geography | • Physics |
| • Biology (sets) | • Greek | • Religious Studies |
| • Chemistry (sets) | • History | • Sanskrit |
| • Computer Science | • Latin | • Spanish |
| • Drama | • Music | |
| • French | • PE | |

Non-examined subjects for this age group are:

- Philosophy (1 period per fortnight, taught in classes)
- Careers Guidance/PSHEE/Citizenship/Financial Literacy (2 periods per fortnight, taught in classes)
- Form (1 period per fortnight and 2 lunchtimes)
- PE (6 periods per fortnight, taught in groups/classes)

6. A Level subject options

For details of the A Level Options procedure see the Sixth Form Prospectus.

Years 12 and 13

In Years 12 and 13, options may alter in order to provide a matrix that enables as many pupils as possible to study their preferred choice of subjects. We also offer the Extended Project Qualification and an ITC BTEC.

Subjects offered at A Level are as follows:

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| • Art and Design | • French | • Mathematics |
| • Biology | • Further Mathematics | • Music |
| • Chemistry | • Geography | • Physics |
| • Computer Studies | • Greek | • Psychology |
| • Drama and Theatre Studies | • Hinduism (AS & A Level) | • Religious Studies |
| • Economics | • History | • Spanish |
| • English Literature | • History of Art | |
| | • Latin | |

All subjects are allocated 10 x 50 minute periods per fortnight

Non-examined subjects offered to this age group are:

- Citizenship/Debate/PSHEE/Financial Literacy/Careers Guidance (2 periods per fortnight, taught in year groups)
- Form (1 period per fortnight and 2 lunchtimes)
- Philosophy (1 period per fortnight, taught in classes)
- Sport (4 periods per fortnight, taught in groups)

Musical and dramatic productions involving Years 10-13 take place in alternate years.

Signed by:	Hugh Venables Chair of Governors
Date of adoption of this policy	September 2021
Date of last review of this policy	Summer Term 2021
Date for next review of this policy	Summer Term 2022
Policy owner (SMT)/other	Deputy Head (Academic)

Appendix - Encouraging Independent Learning

