

Westbourne School Curriculum Policy

Introduction	2
Progressive Pedagogy	2
International Mindedness	2
STEM-Rich Education	2
Modern Curriculum	2
Curriculum Design and Review	3
Inclusivity and Diversity	3
Enrichment and Extracurricular Activities	3
Prep School	3
Senior School	4
Middle Years (Years 6-8)	4
GCSE Years (Years 9, 10 and 11)	4
Pre-IB	5
IB1 and IB2 (Year 12 and 13)	6

VERSION CONTROL	
Title(s):	Curriculum Policy
Owner:	Mrs Rachel Rees, Principal
Author:	Miss Eliz Gurler, Compliance Manager
Date of Approval of this version:	August 2025
Next Review Date:	August 2026
Version Number:	2.00



"One of the most consistently high-achieving independent schools in Britain" Sunday Times Schools Guide

Introduction

At Westbourne School, we are committed to providing a curriculum that fosters a love of learning, encourages critical thinking, embraces diversity, and prepares our students to thrive in a rapidly changing global society. Our curriculum is founded on a progressive, internationally-minded, STEM-rich, and modern educational approach.

Progressive Pedagogy

- **Child-Centred Learning:** We prioritise the individual needs and interests of each student. Our teaching methods are adaptable and responsive, allowing for differentiation and personalisation of learning experiences.
- **Inquiry-Based Learning:** We promote inquiry-based learning, where students are encouraged to ask questions, explore, and discover knowledge for themselves.
- **Project-Based Learning:** Project-based learning (PBL) is integrated into our curriculum to facilitate real-world problem-solving, collaboration, and hands-on experiences.
- **Assessment for Learning:** Formative assessment is an integral part of our approach, providing ongoing feedback to students and teachers to facilitate growth and improvement.

International Mindedness

- **Global Perspective:** Our curriculum encourages students to explore diverse cultures, languages, and perspectives, fostering an international mindset. This is further enhanced by our connections with our international colleges in Singapore and Sydney through our Global Classroom approach.
- **Multilingualism:** We support language acquisition and maintain a strong language program, promoting fluency in multiple languages.
- **Global Issues:** We integrate global issues and current events into the curriculum to develop global citizens who are aware of and engaged with the world.

STEM-Rich Education

- **STEM Integration:** Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) are seamlessly integrated throughout the curriculum, promoting interdisciplinary thinking and problem-solving.
- **Hands-On Science:** Our science classes emphasise hands-on experiments, coding, and digital literacy.
- **Engineering and Design Thinking:** We encourage students to design and create, fostering innovation and problem-solving skills.
- **Mathematical Proficiency:** We aim to develop strong mathematical skills and problem-solving abilities in all students.

Modern Curriculum

- **Digital Literacy:** Our curriculum includes digital literacy components, ensuring students are prepared for the digital age.
- **21st Century Skills:** We prioritise the development of critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity, equipping students with skills for the modern workforce.



- Adaptive to Change: Our curriculum is flexible and responsive to societal, technological, and economic changes, ensuring that students are adaptable and prepared for the future.

Curriculum Design and Review

- Curriculum Meetings: We establish curriculum meetings involving teachers and SLT to review and update the curriculum regularly.
- Alignment with Educational Standards: Our curriculum aligns with national and international educational standards and benchmarks.
- Feedback and Continuous Improvement: We actively seek feedback from students, parents, and teachers to continually enhance the curriculum and teaching practices.

Inclusivity and Diversity

- Inclusive Education: We provide an inclusive and equitable learning environment that accommodates students with diverse learning needs and abilities.
- Cultural Competence: Our curriculum promotes cultural competence and sensitivity, fostering a respectful and inclusive school community.

Enrichment and Extracurricular Activities

Enrichment Programs: We offer a range of extracurricular activities and enrichment programs to complement the curriculum.

Community Engagement: Students are encouraged to participate in community service and engagement activities.

This curriculum policy reflects the core principles of a progressive, internationally-minded, STEM-rich, and modern educational approach at Westbourne School. It serves as a foundation for ongoing growth and development, ensuring that our students are well-prepared to face the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century.

Prep School

The curriculum we offer reflects the ISS Standards (Wales) regulations 2024

The Early Years curriculum for our 4-5 year olds is broadly based on the New Curriculum for Wales where the approaches and ideas enrich the learning opportunities for the pupils.

The curriculum for 5-10 year olds is broadly based upon the National Curriculum and covers these subjects –

- English,
- Mathematics,
- Science,
- Computer Science,
- History,



- Geography,
- Art,
- Design Technology,
- Music,
- Spanish,
- Physical Education,
- Philosophy,
- Health and Wellbeing and
- Religious Education.

Each year group also takes part in a half termly Forest and Beach (FaB) school session. FaB School is a child-centred inspirational learning process that offers opportunities for holistic growth through regular sessions. It is a long-term programme that supports play, exploration and supported risk taking. It develops confidence and self-esteem through learner inspired, hands-on experiences in a natural setting.

Prep School pupils have access to a wide range of co-curricular clubs and activities which enhance our curriculum. Covering academic, creative and sporting activities, the selection includes 3D printing, football, gardening, journalism, construction, chess and lego.

Senior School

Middle Years (Years 6-8)

Our innovative Middle Years curriculum is designed to push students beyond their boundaries and enhance their learning skills by integrating subjects into thematic learning experiences. The primary objective is to encourage students to establish connections between various aspects of their education and discover their own interests. The Middle Years curriculum goes beyond traditional classroom learning, as students will participate in a variety of excursions and engage with industry professionals. This involves guest speakers from diverse career fields, visits to universities, and hands-on learning opportunities. The curriculum promotes collaboration across different subject areas and grade levels to enrich the overall educational experience for all students.

All learners study:

- Business Management
- Computer Science
- DT
- English
- Humanities - Geography & History
- Latin
- Mathematics
- Philosophy
- PE & Games
- Science
- Health & Wellbeing
- Spanish



GCSE Years (Years 9, 10 and 11)

At GCSE pupils have the opportunity to explore subjects in greater depth and further develop their individual interests and ambitions. We offer a broad and balanced spread of subjects giving pupils the flexibility necessary to keep all doors for their future open whilst also giving a solid foundation for IBDP. Although we endeavour to keep options as broad as possible we are aware a few pupils may struggle; therefore we will review how many subjects an individual is taking and where necessary, a reduced number of subjects may be taken.

We allow teachers to choose the syllabus they think is most appropriate for the students to ensure the best academic preparation for the IBDP.

Blocking of subjects is tailored to the individual year group.

All learners study:

- English Language & Literature
- Mathematics

At least 2 Sciences (although pupils may opt to do 3) from:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics

1 language from:

- Spanish
- Chinese

And can choose from:

- Additional Maths
- Business Studies
- Computer Science
- Design and Technology
- Global Perspectives
- Latin
- Physical Education

Pupils whose native language is not English may have lessons at GCSE level (subject to demand) in:

- German
- Russian
- Chinese

All GCSE students in Years 9-11 will study Future Ready Skills. These are globally recognised micro-credentials from top universities such as Harvard and the University of London. These qualifications will help demonstrate initiative, adaptability, and future-readiness to sixth forms, universities, and employers.



Pre-IB

The pre-IB program's purpose is three-fold:

- Preparation for the IB Diploma Programme (IBDP): The programme is designed to develop foundational skills and knowledge across a broad range of subjects, aligning with and feeding into the rigorous academic standards and introducing the IBDP Teaching and Learning philosophy.
- Acquisition of an individually selected amount of GCSEs: Students are encouraged to sit some GCSE exams, primarily in Mathematics and English, but also in other subjects of interest that they may wish to pursue in the sixth form. This not only broadens their academic qualifications but also aids in their integration into the British education system and increases their opportunities for accessing British universities.
- Improvement of English Proficiency: A significant focus is placed on the rapid enhancement of students' spoken and written English to ensure they can express themselves effectively in academic contexts, thereby facilitating their success in the IB curriculum and beyond.

The aims of the programme are:

- Academic:
 - To build strong competencies in core academic areas such as mathematics, sciences, humanities, and languages.
 - To develop analytical and critical thinking skills.
 - To promote proficiency in research and inquiry-based learning.
- Holistic Development:
 - To foster self-management, communication, and collaborative skills.
 - To encourage participation in community service and extracurricular activities.
- Preparation for IB:
 - To align with IB learner profile attributes.
 - To introduce IB assessment methods, such as internal assessments and mini-projects, at an appropriate level.

Core subjects:

1. English Language: Focus on reading and listening comprehension, literary analysis, and effective writing.
2. Mathematics: Emphasis on problem-solving, abstract reasoning, and application of mathematical concepts.
3. Sciences: Introduction to scientific principles, experimental techniques, and critical evaluation of scientific information.
4. PSHE to aid with the integration into British society
5. Physical Education: Promote physical health, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

Elective courses:

- We offer elective subjects such as a second language or computer science to cater to diverse interests and career aspirations.



Interdisciplinary Learning:

- We arrange design projects and units that integrate multiple subjects to enhance interdisciplinary understanding and application of knowledge.

PE and Games:

All pupils up to and including Year11/Pre IB are expected to take part in the school's Games programme. Pupils can only be excused from Games lessons for medical reasons (for which a note from a parent will be required), or other reasons agreed with the School.

Sixth Form Year 12 and 13

IB

The IBDP curriculum is made up of six subject groups and the DP core, comprising Theory of Knowledge (TOK), Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) and the Extended Essay. Students must choose 1 subject from groups 1-5, then either Visual Art, or another subject from group 3 or 4. Three subjects will be studied at higher level and 3 subjects will be studied at standard level.

Through the Diploma Programme (DP) core, students reflect on the nature of knowledge, complete independent research and undertake a project that often involves community service.

Available subjects:

Group 1: English Literature and Language

Chinese

Russian

Group 2: Spanish Ab Initio

Chinese Ab Initio

Group 3: Business Management

Economics

Environmental Systems and Societies (Interdisciplinary with Group 4)

Group 4: Biology

Chemistry

Computer Science

Physics

Environmental Systems and Societies (Interdisciplinary with Group 3)

Group 5: Mathematics

Group 6: Visual Arts or another subject from Group 3 or 4

A Levels

The purpose of the A Level programme is two-fold:

- To offer a programme of study focused on specific areas of interest
- To offer an alternative pathway to students who may struggle to complete the requirements of the IB Diploma (and who would otherwise have to resort to IB courses)



From September 2025, students will have the option of completing A Levels in the following subjects:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Business Studies
- Chinese
- Economics
- English Literature
- Maths
- Spanish

Enrichment and Extra-curricular Activities

The School has a programme of extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities that take place outside the formal curriculum. These activities are optional for pupils.

Learning and Study Support

The School seeks to ensure that all pupils are enabled to fulfil their academic potential and recognises that some pupils require special support to enable them to do this. The nature of this support is outlined in the School's Additional Learning Needs Policy.

In exceptional circumstances, the Principal may authorise amendments to the curriculum of an individual pupil to accommodate their needs. The usual assumption is, however, that pupils are assisted to succeed across the full breadth and depth of the standard curriculum of the school.

