



The Castle Partnership Trust
ACHIEVE | BELONG | PARTICIPATE

Curriculum & Homework Policy

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Purpose: to identify the principles of curriculum design.

Key points: the Trust ethos of all students to Achieve, Belong and Participate to secure the best possible qualifications in a positive and resilient way is fundamental to our philosophy. This policy should be operated in conjunction with the Assessment & Reporting Policy and the Whole School Literacy Policy.

Aim of the curriculum

The curriculum is designed to be balanced and broadly based and to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of our students and to prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

Our aim is to provide a curriculum that is highly effective in delivering outcomes that provide exceptionally well for all our student's needs. We aim to ensure that students leave the schools within The Castle Partnership Trust being very well equipped for the next stage of their education, training or employment.

The curriculum will:

- Develop students' knowledge of themselves as learners in order to make them more effective learners.
- Encourage independent learning and positive thinking amongst all students.
- Prepare students for life-long learning.
- Be personalised in order to meet the needs of individual students.
- Build on the primary opportunities.
- Ensure students are literate and numerate.

The Castle School

The Curriculum

In Year 7 and 8, setting for Maths will be across the year. For all other subjects the year group will be split into two equal ability populations and setting will occur in English and MFL, within the two populations. All other subjects are taught in mixed ability groups.

Setting in each subject is independent of that in the other subject. These sets are constantly reviewed and changes made whenever necessary.

In Year 9 students will be set, across the year in Maths and in two equal ability populations for English, MFL and Science.

Subjects Years 7, 8 and 9

All students are taught core subjects: English including Philosophy for Children, Mathematics, Science, RE and PE.

In addition, they will also be taught the following:

- Humanities subjects: History and Geography.
- Modern Foreign Languages: Either one or two languages from French, Spanish, German and Mandarin.

- Arts: Art, Dance, Drama and Music
- Design Technology, Computing and Food
- Personal, Social and Health Education, which is taught via timetable enrichment days at various times through the year.

Subjects Years 10 and 11

All students study English Language and Literature, Mathematics, Science, PE, PHSE, Careers, and Religious Education. English is taught in single gender groups.

Students select a further four option subjects. These options include:

- Modern Foreign Languages: French, German, Spanish, Mandarin
- Humanities: Geography, History
- Computer Science and/or ICT
- Arts: Fine Art, Music GCSE or BTEC, Drama, Dance, Photography, Textiles.
- Design Technology – Resistant Materials or Graphic Products.
- Health related subjects, GCSE PE, Catering

Court Fields School

The Curriculum

In Year 7, the year will be split into two populations and setting will occur by subject in Mathematics and Science only within the two populations. All other subjects are taught in mixed ability groups.

From Year 8 onwards, ability setting by subject within the two populations will continue throughout the school in Mathematics, Science and English. Setting in each subject is independent of that in the other subject. These sets are constantly reviewed and changes made whenever necessary.

In Year 9 students will be set for English, Mathematics and Science.

Subjects for Years 7, 8 and 9

All students are taught core subjects: English, Mathematics, Science, Philosophy and Beliefs (RE) and PE.

In addition, they will also be taught the following:

- Humanities subjects: History and Geography
- Modern Foreign Languages: Either one or two languages from French and Spanish
- Arts: Art, Drama and Music
- Design Technology, Computing and Food
- Personal Development (PD) which is taught once a week during tutorial time, specific topics for particular year groups through a one hour timetabled period a week and via timetable enrichment days at various times through the year.

Subjects for Year 10 and 11

All students study English Language and Literature, Mathematics, Science, PE, PD and Philosophy and Beliefs (RE). Students select a further four option subjects. These options include:

- Modern Foreign Languages: French, Spanish
- Humanities: Geography, History, Business Studies
- Computer Science and/or European Computer Driving License or ICT
- Arts: Music, Drama and Art
- Design Technology – Resistant Materials, Textiles, Graphic Products or Food technology
- Health related subjects: GCSE PE, Child Development

Homework - Principles

- Homework should encourage independent learning.
- Homework should not be a source of stress or anxiety for students, families and staff.
- Homework needs to be meaningful and manageable
- Homework should be linked to learning in the lesson and not be a 'bolt on', usually grounded in schemes of learning.
- All homework should be shared with students in the lesson and it should be recorded on Show My Homework/Epraise (Court Fields school).
- Homework which involves extended periods of time to complete must have mini deadlines or check points.
- Homework should have a reasonable deadline.
- Homework should be differentiated.
- The student's efforts must be celebrated and acknowledged with feedback.
- Where homework is not completed this should be recorded on SIMS, a new deadline for completion agreed with the student. If there are further problems, contact parents and issue an appropriate sanction.
- It is every teacher's responsibility to follow the school homework commitment. Heads of Faculty/Heads of Department are responsible for monitoring the quality and consistency of homework of students in their Faculty.
- Tutors are responsible for checking students are developing independent study habits and completing homework.

As an approximate guide to timing:

Year 7	20 minutes per subject week (up to 60 minutes per night)
Year 8	30 minutes per subject per week (up to 90 minutes per night)
Year 9	30 minutes per subject per week (up to 90 minutes per night)
Year 10 and Year 11	50 minutes per subject per week (up to 2 hours per night)