



SAPIENCE
GIRLS ACADEMY

CURRICULUM POLICY

2023-24

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CURRICULUM POLICY

1. INTENT: WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO ACHIEVE?

At Sapience Girls Academy we believe that every student is capable of excellence and we try to encourage every student to push themselves and achieve their potential. We aim to set high standards for all our pupils, based on our vision of a curriculum that builds on prior learning to improve communication skills, promote creativity, broadens knowledge and prepares our pupils for life beyond the school.

We aim to help students to develop their gifts and talents: spiritual and social; intellectual and emotional; aesthetic and physical through the provision of a broad and balanced curriculum, which is responsive to, and supportive of, their needs and aspirations, fosters intellectual curiosity and academic achievement and motivates them to grow to their full potential. The curriculum is academically challenging and relies upon a number of rigorous GCSEs with vocational options available for an appropriate number of students.

2. CURRICULUM PRINCIPLES

- To be compatible with the requirements of the National Curriculum at Key Stage 3.
- To ensure that student's study for an academically rigorous curriculum with as wide a range of academic GCSEs as is appropriate.
- To be broad and balanced throughout each Key Stage.
- To allow progression between and through the Key Stages.
- To offer flexibility at Key Stages 3 and 4, by allowing for the needs of the individual to be met, as far as is reasonably possible.
- To provide for the personal, social, health and citizenship education of students including the preparation of students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.
- To provide appropriate careers education and guidance and the opportunity for students to keep career pathways open.
- To provide a variety of extra-curricular activities and opportunities.
- To enable all students to learn and make progress.
- We use the 1-9 grading criteria throughout KS3 and KS4; this helps parents and students to understand the progress they are making throughout their time at Sapience Girls Academy.
- Enable all pupils to have a learning experience in school which is fun, enjoyable and enriching;
- Enable pupils to have respect for themselves and high self-esteem, and to be able to live and work co-operatively with others;
- Enable pupils to value, recognise and respect similarities and differences, so that they can make a positive contribution to society and live cooperatively with others.

3. THE CURRICULUM AT KEY STAGE 3

We have a broad KS3 Curriculum covering a wide range of subjects. Subjects are taught during 25 hours of contact time over two weeks, each lesson lasting 60 minutes. The Curriculum includes:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Urdu
- Humanities: History, Geography and Religious Education

- Art
- Computer Science
- Physical Education

4. THE CURRICULUM AT KEY STAGE 4

Our Key Stage 4 curriculum offers a guided structure that is relevant to student's individual needs and to the demands of a rapidly-changing world. It is personalised so that the level and type of work is suited to the ability and learning style of each individual. Our subjects are aligned with AQA's specifications so that our pupils are able to meet their high expectations in the GCSE courses.

All students study the following subjects-

- English: Literature and Language
- Mathematics
- Trilogy Science (Dual Award)
- Humanities: History or Geography
- Religious Education
- Physical Education
- Computer Science
- Modern Foreign Language: Urdu
- Business

Key Points:

Students normally take the above listed GCSEs. There is, however, flexibility to take fewer subjects for those students for whom this is not appropriate.

- Wherever possible students are set according to ability.
- In Key Stage 4, pupils have enhanced time for core subjects: English, Mathematics and Science.
- As a faith school, which welcomes and celebrates a myriad of different ethnicities, it is important that students study Religious Education; providing them with a clear understanding and appreciation of the values, faiths and cultures of others.
- Where available there is the option for pupils to sit a GCSE in their home language.
- The time for PE recognises and promotes the importance of health and fitness.
- The personal and social development of students is the responsibility of all staff. However, the PSHE programme is delivered predominantly through the Form Tutor and through PSHE lessons.
- All students receive additional English and Mathematics support during school intervention sessions.
- Details of the Key Stage 4 curriculum is often shared directly with parents at the beginning of year 9 and throughout years 10 and 11. Pupils are often guided to track and monitor their own progress through the curriculum.

5. SUBJECT INTENT

- **English:** The purpose of English literature and Language is to offer pupils intellectual excitement and challenge; to provide them with a sense of delight and wonder; to equip them with knowledge and skills and the ability and confidence to use and apply these to meet the needs of present and future society. We set high standards in English teaching, recognising its importance in the curriculum, forming the basis for communicating and learning in all subjects.

- **Mathematics:** Mathematics is an essential skill in life and is at the heart of every day decision making. It is the aim of Sapience Girls Academy to support every pupil to achieve their potential and develop a deep understanding of Mathematics. The department offers a supportive, nurturing environment focused on developing a culture of success. The experienced team of teachers strive to ensure that every student achieves their potential and develops a life-long love of learning.
- **Science:** The provision of a highly engaging, skills-based curriculum that challenges and motivates pupils to learn and achieve is paramount. We strive to equip pupils with the skills they require to make good progress across the curriculum and as lifelong learners. Underpinning our vision is the provision of a supportive, nurturing learning environment where all pupils feel confident to participate, strive to achieve their full potential and enjoy learning. We believe that an appreciation of science should be a fundamental part of everyday life and that good teaching will enable children to develop confidently within a scientific society. The development of scientific concepts must be based on first hand exploration which will foster curiosity, critical reflection, co-operation, independent learning, open-mindedness and the development of literacy and numeracy skills.
- **History:** History is a subject that we aim to make it as exciting and enjoyable as possible. Through the study of History, we want pupils to develop a wide range of skills which will equip them for their adult lives and will be useful in a wide range of jobs and further studies. As a Historian, pupils will become skilled at answering questions, developed empathy and understanding, and they will be able to put their case forward and argue it well. There are so many careers that require these skills and the hundreds of others that they can learn through the study of History that can be applied to their lives outside of the school.
- **Geography:** At Sapience Girls Academy, our pupils learn about how places and environments are interdependent. They carry out geographical enquiries inside and outside the classroom. In doing this, they identify geographical questions, collect and analyse written and statistical evidence, and develop their own opinions. Many of the skills they develop within this subject are interlinked in many ways to the other subjects they study across the curriculum.
- **Religious Education:** Religious Education makes a distinctive contribution to pupils' learning by enabling them to reflect upon themselves as whole people, experiencing life through the body, the mind and the spirit. The purpose of Religious Education is to help pupils to understand the significance of religion and its contribution to their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Pupils are always encouraged to reflect and to develop their own beliefs and values and to develop key skills. Teaching and learning in Religious Education is designed to help and support pupils' Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural development as well as their subject knowledge. They will also consider their own beliefs and ideals, and reflect on their own experiences. They will have opportunities to think about the big questions of human existence, and to express their own ideas about these.
- **Physical Education:** The mission of the Physical Education department is to enable pupils to develop knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport and use this to improve performance. We aim to develop their understanding of how the physiological and psychological state affects performance in physical activity, sport and how this contributes to making a healthy, fit and educated pupil who can make informed lifestyle and well-being choices. We strive to deliver activities to allow pupils to perform effectively in different physical activities by developing skills and techniques and selecting and using tactics, strategies and/or compositional ideas. This inevitably will lead to developing their ability to analyse and evaluate to improve performance. We also want pupils to understand the key socio-cultural influences that can affect people's involvement in physical activity and sport.
- **Computer Science** - It's no exaggeration to say the world runs on computers. They are everywhere: in homes, schools and offices, but not just in the way you think. It is the aim of the ICT department to guide pupils into developing technical skills such as codes and algorithms but mainly about a

person should be responsible on using technology safely. Computers control aeroplanes, chemical plants, send rockets to space and make sure our cars run efficiently. Our pupils show great interest in game design, web design, app development or any other form of coding and programming. Pupils develop wider range of skills such as creativity, patience and develop a great deal of logic as they tackle complicated challenging tasks.

- **Modern Foreign Language (Urdu):** A GCSE in languages allows students to develop their communication skills as well as their grammatical understanding. In addition, they will learn more about the history and culture of the countries where the foreign language is spoken. At Sapience Girls Academy, our Modern Language teachers are committed to using a variety of activities to engage children in learning. Typical activities during a language lesson range from whole class interactive vocabulary games to partner work. Our resources are plentiful and we have the most up to date resources as produced by the exam boards. The priority is to ensure all students have the opportunity to participate and make progress, whilst receiving the appropriate level of challenge or support.