



Curriculum Policy

QPHS Curriculum Policy

Intent

Policy Name:	Reviewed:	Last Reviewed:	Approved by Governors:
Curriculum Policy	Annually	10/12/2025	13/01/2026

The Queen's Park High School curriculum is designed to fulfil the schools core vision; 'Inspire Individuals, Empower Minds, Define Futures.'

Inspiring Individuals

- Provide a **broad and balanced curriculum** so that all students can discover their passion by showing them the best that has been written, thought and said in every subject.
- Have **high aspirations** of all students at all key stages so that they study subjects in depth and are challenged to maximise their potential.
- Extend students experiences beyond the academic curriculum and provide culturally enriching **extracurricular opportunities**.

Empowering Minds

- Develop students' self-worth, self-confidence and self-esteem so they are **mentally healthy individuals**.
- Put vocabulary, **reading and literacy** at the heart of the curriculum so all students can read, write and speak with confidence and use this to help navigate adult life.
- Encourage students to appreciate diversity, be **open minded** and curious so that they have a balanced view of the world.

Defining Futures

- Continually develop students' knowledge and skills to empower them to become **lifelong learners**.
- Provide excellent **CEIAG** (Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance) for all students at all levels of their educational journey so they are able to progress to their desired next steps.
- Aim to improve social mobility by ensuring that all students, regardless of their background are prepared for a **successful life in modern Britain and the wider world**.

Implementation

Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)

At Queen's Park High School, our Key Stage 3 curriculum, is designed to provide all students with a broad and balanced educational experience that fully meets the requirements of the National Curriculum. Our approach ensures that students develop essential knowledge, skills and understanding across a wide range of subjects, while also benefiting from enriched learning opportunities that extend beyond the classroom, including extracurricular activities.

The curriculum at KS3 is underpinned by a commitment to inclusion, ensuring that every student, regardless of ability or background, can access learning that is appropriately challenging and supportive. We aim to foster a love of learning, nurture curiosity and creativity.

Progression is central to our approach. The knowledge, skills and attitudes acquired during Key Stage 3 are carefully sequenced to prepare students for the demands of Key Stage 4 and beyond.

Subject	Number of hours per fortnight (50 lesson total)		
	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
English	9	9	9
Maths	8	8	8
Science	6	6	6
PE	4	4	4
French/Spanish	4	4	4
Geography	3	3	3
History	3	3	3
WPD	3	3	3
Tech	2	2	2
Art	2	2	2
Drama	2	2	2
Music	2	2	2
Computing	2	2	2

Features of the KS3 Curriculum:

- The KS3 curriculum is as broad as possible for as long as possible, with students not choosing options for GCSE until the end of Year 9, ensuring a wide-ranging educational experience.
- Technology, drama, art and music are valued subjects and are taught every week to all students in KS3, reflecting QPHS's commitment to a rich and balanced creative curriculum.
- There is a strong emphasis on literacy and reading in year 7, with students receiving nine hours of English lessons per fortnight. This focus ensures all students are secondary-ready, can access the full curriculum and experience a smooth transition from KS2.
- Students who require additional support with reading are provided with targeted literacy interventions, enabling them to develop essential skills and make good progress.
- Students are taught in mixed ability groups in all subjects until October half term of year 7 when they are streamed in English and maths. Streaming is based on KS2 data, CAT tests, reading ability and performance in lessons in term 1. Science is then streamed in year 9 to help prepare students for the decision of choosing combined or triple science at GCSE.
- All students study French and Spanish at the start of year 7 making a choice about preferred language in Year 8 to continue until the end of year 9.

- WPD – World Views and Personal Development is taught by specialist teachers and contains:
 - The statutory Religious Education curriculum (following the Chester and Cheshire West agreed syllabus)
 - The statutory Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) and health education curriculum
 - The statutory Citizenship curriculum
 - The non-statutory Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) curriculum
- The content of these curriculums is also supported by all curriculum areas where appropriate.
- A programme of CEIAG runs throughout KS3 in curriculum areas, WPD and in Curriculum Enrichment Days (CED).
- The taught curriculum is enhanced in all years by a full Extra-Curricular Enrichment programme and enrichment activities.
<https://www.qphs.co.uk/page/?title=Extra+Curricular+Programme&pid=33>

Key Stage 4 (Years 10 & 11)

Throughout Key Stage 4, students continue to follow a broad and balanced curriculum, which is reviewed annually to meet the individual needs and aspirations of each student. Our curriculum builds on the foundations established in KS3 and offers a traditional academic pathway based on the core subjects, while actively promoting the breadth and rigour of the English Baccalaureate (EBacc). While the EBacc is encouraged, it is not compulsory, allowing students and families to make informed choices that best suit the interests, strengths and future goals of each young person.

Options are carefully selected in consultation with families, teachers, and careers guidance professionals, ensuring that every student is supported in making decisions that are in their best interests.

Students are placed on one of two curriculum pathways, with the decision made in Year 9 prior to the 'Guided Choices' evening:

- **JEWEL Pathway:** Students follow the core and statutory subjects and choose four additional option subjects, allowing for a broad and balanced study programme that supports a range of interests and post-16 progression routes.
- **GEM Pathway:** Students follow the core and statutory subjects and choose three option subjects, with additional hours allocated to English and Maths. The aim of this pathway is to enable students to **Get English & Maths (GEM)**, improving their chances of achieving a pass at GCSE and opening doors for further education, apprenticeships or other post-16 programmes of study. Students on the GEM pathway also complete the Prince's Trust Award, which focuses on employability skills and personal development, equipping them with practical skills for life beyond school.

At Queen’s Park High School, the Key Stage 4 curriculum is designed to balance academic rigour, personalised support, and future readiness, ensuring all students are well-prepared to succeed in their chosen pathways post-16.

Subject	Number of hours per fortnight (50 lesson total)	
	JEWEL	GEM
English	9	10
Maths	8	10
Science	9	9
Princes Trust	NA	2
PE	2	2
WPD	2	2
Option subject 1	5	5
Option subject 2	5	5
Option subject 3	5	5
Option subject 4	5	NA

Features of the KS4 Curriculum:

- Students have the option to study Triple Science as one of their chosen subjects, allowing those with a particular aptitude or interest in science to pursue separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, providing a strong foundation for further study in scientific disciplines.
- A comprehensive programme of Careers Education, Information, Advice, and Guidance (CEIAG) runs throughout KS4. CEIAG is delivered through curriculum areas, World Views and Personal Development (WPD), ensuring students are well-informed about post-16 options, apprenticeships and career pathways.
- World Views and Personal Development (WPD) is taught by subject specialists and continues to cover Religious Education, Relationships and Sex Education, Citizenship, Health Education, and PSHE, equipping students with the knowledge, skills and understanding necessary to make responsible choices and develop as well-rounded individuals.
- The taught curriculum is enhanced through a full extra-curricular programme and enrichment activities across all years of KS4. These activities provide opportunities for students to broaden their interests, develop new skills, and engage in personal growth beyond the classroom.
- Students with a strong aptitude in mathematics can study Further Maths at GCSE level as an after-school activity with the maths department. This allows highly able students to challenge themselves, deepen their mathematical understanding, and prepare for advanced study post-16.
- Further information of the options process can be found here: <https://www.qphs.co.uk/page/?title=Key+Stage+4+Curriculum&pid=39>

- KS4 subjects and exam board information:

Subject	Exam board and qualification
English Language	AQA
English Literature	AQA
Maths	Edexcel
Combined and Triple Science	AQA
History	AQA
Geography	AQA
Religious Studies	AQA
Spanish	AQA
French	AQA
Computer Science	Edexcel
Media Studies	AQA
3D design	AQA
D&T (Design & Technology)	AQA
Art	AQA
Photography	AQA
Food tech	Eduqas L1/2 Award
Sport studies	Edexcel
Music	Eduqas
Drama	Edexcel
Health and social	Edexcel BTEC technical L1/2
Core PE	NA
WPD	NA

Key Stage 5

Queen's Park High School's Sixth Form offers a wide range of A Level and Level 3 qualifications, reviewed annually to reflect students' interests and aspirations. The flexibility of our programme ensures that course offerings respond to demand, enabling students to pursue pathways that suit their strengths and future goals.

Sixth Form options are decided after students initially indicate their preferences and therefore may vary from year to year. This approach allows us to tailor provision to the needs of each cohort while maintaining a broad and rigorous curriculum.

In line with government expectations, students who have not achieved a grade 4 in English (Language or Literature) or Mathematics continue to study these subjects, ensuring they gain essential qualifications for further study, employment and life beyond school.

More information about admissions can be found here:

<https://www.qphs.co.uk/page/?title=Admissions+%26amp%3B+Entry+Requirements&pid=61>

Features of the KS5 Curriculum:

- In Year 12, students normally choose three Level 3 subjects to study over two years, allowing for focused, in-depth learning in areas of strength and interest.
- Students can undertake the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), which develops independent research, project management and critical thinking skills.
- Each subject is normally taught for 8 to 10 hours per fortnight, depending on class size and student need, ensuring an appropriate balance of guided learning and independent study.
- Classroom hours are supplemented by Independent Study periods for each subject, supervised by our Independent Study Coordinator.
- World Views and Personal Development (WPD) continues in Sixth Form, taught by subject specialists once per fortnight. WPD covers personal, social, health, and citizenship education, supporting students' development as responsible, informed and reflective young adults.
- A Sixth Form-specific CEIAG programme runs throughout KS5, preparing students for higher education, apprenticeships, and careers. This programme includes guidance on UCAS applications, interview preparation, work experience and employability skills.
- The taught curriculum is further enriched by a full extra-curricular programme and enrichment activities, which allow students to explore interests beyond their subjects. Sixth Form students are also encouraged to develop leadership skills as active members of our Student Leadership Team, taking responsibility for initiatives that contribute to school life and their own personal development.
- KS5 subjects and exam board information:

Subject	Exam board and qualification
Art	AQA
3D design	AQA
English Language	AQA
English Literature	AQA
Film Studies	Eduqas
Geography	AQA
Biology	AQA
Chemistry	AQA
Physics	AQA
Psychology	AQA
History	AQA
Computer Science	AQA
Business Studies	AQA
Core maths	AQA
Drama	Edexcel
Maths	Edexcel
Further maths	Edexcel
Performing Arts	Edexcel
Sports studies	Edexcel BTEC
Music	Edexcel
UPS – Uniform Protective Services	Edexcel BTEC
EPQ – Extended Project Qualification	Edexcel
Religious Studies	Eduqas
Criminology	Eduqas

Monitoring and Review

The curriculum provision will be monitored by the Senior Leadership Team, under the direction of the Headteacher, who will report to the Governors/Trust on its implementation on a regular basis.