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## CURRICULUM POLICY

**Policy Custodian:** Deputy Head (Academic)

**Approving Body:** MTS Senior Leadership Team

**Approved:** June 2024

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### **Philosophy**

The curriculum at Merchant Taylors' School consists of all of those activities planned by the school to promote the development of our pupils and to prepare them for life in Britain, Europe and the World today. Merchant Taylors' School was founded in 1561 and our first Head Master was one of the great educationalists of that time – Richard Mulcaster. His writings on education contain much which still underpins our curriculum, not least its holistic ethos. As he said:

*'It is not a mind, not a body, that we have to cultivate, but a man, and we cannot divide him.'*

Merchant Taylors' is a selective school. Our vision is holistic, but our curriculum is academic. This academic focus exists to stretch and challenge the intelligent and enquiring minds of our pupils. Over the five or seven years a boy is with us, our curriculum challenges and engages them across the whole gamut of academic disciplines, be they linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human, social, physical, aesthetic or creative. This ensures that they emerge from Merchant Taylors' School as rounded young men of character and integrity. They will also be capable of thinking and working *be best able to perform all those functions in life which his position shall require.* Given that our pupils aspire to a wide range of future careers, our curriculum prepares them to be able to adapt to any challenges life may put in their path.

In order that pupils leave us ready for the world, our curriculum offers the following;

### **Challenge**

All of our pupils, of whatever ability and irrespective of whether they have an educational health and care (EHC) plan, are all challenged by our stimulating schemes of work and thus afforded the opportunity to make real progress at all times. Those pupils with an EHC plan are also supported by teachers who follow the requirements of their plan. Our challenging schemes of work, along with our excellent teachers, allow all of our pupils to access material suitable to their age and needs in a given subject. However, the schemes of work allow for pupils

always go further and it is through this partnership between the pupils and their teachers that pupils *memory, his* pupils allows them to *delight, his capacity and his advancement* make progress in all that they study.

### **Range**

Our pupils study a wide range of subjects, only specialising when they have had an opportunity to experience and excel in a number of different areas. All of the subjects we offer help our pupils to acquire skills in speaking and listening, literacy and numeracy. In order to best facilitate the acquisition of these skills, our pupils experience a wide range of teaching styles. There is no homogenised Merchant Taylors' teacher. Save for an expectation of excellence in their work, they are encouraged to enrich the learning of our pupils however they see fit.

## **Balance**

As pupils

curriculum and are apportioned more time from that available, notably English, Mathematics, Sciences and Modern Languages - at least to the end of the Fifth Form. Other subjects are considered

We ensure that they are given the opportunity to choose subjects which will help them develop a variety of types of intelligence and acquire a range of skills and knowledge.

## **Differentiation**

Our pupils are all individuals. As such, we can and do - from time to time - offer a tailored programme to some pupils. This allows us to adapt what pupils study in line with their differing abilities and any identified additional needs which they may have (including pupils with SEND). This may take the form of acceleration through courses in some cases, or doing fewer subjects more effectively in others.<sup>1</sup> It allows all pupils to learn and fulfil their potential.

Department which offers our pupils