

Curriculum Policy



Believe, Succeed, Together

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1.0 Curriculum Structure

The Academy follows the curriculum guidance outlined in the Single Academy Model Mainstream Funding Agreement.

The curriculum design relates specifically to the Academy's aims as detailed in section 3.0 of the [Academy Development Plan](#)

1.1 Form Time

Form time is 20 minutes per day from 8.40 – 9.00 a.m. Registration occurs during this time and pupils are expected to undertake literacy and/or theme-based activities.*

For each year group, one form period a week is allocated to an assembly – refer to the [SMSC Assemblies Programme 2018-2019](#)

1.2 Teaching Periods

The Academy operates a one week timetable covering 25 periods a week.

To maximise the amount and quality of learning time, each teaching period is 65 minutes in length and only one period is allocated after lunch.

Period	Time
Form Time	8.40-9.00
P1	9.00-10.05
P2	10.05-11.10
Break	11.10-11.30
P3	11.30-12.35
P4	12.35-13.40
Lunch	13.40-14.30
P5	14.30-15.35

*Year 7 Catch-up-Premium pupils work with teaching staff and LSAs until they reach the Expected Standard in English and Mathematics.

1.3 Single Gender Classes

There is a long established practice of single gender teaching in Southend. Of the 12 secondary schools in the borough, 6 (4 grammar and 2 faith) are single gender.

The Academy is a mixed gender school but many classes are single gender. The rationale behind this practice is based around the following:

- The differences in how male and female pupils learn allow teachers to adapt their teaching methodology specifically to gender.
- The potential distractive influences for both genders, particularly at KS4, are greatly reduced, creating a more purposeful learning environment.
- Single gender classes, particularly in the case of females, is considered to be a contributory factor in breaking gender stereotypes.
- Pupil outcomes (attainment and progress) for both genders have and continue to be significantly above national averages.

Pupils do, however, have the opportunity to integrate (in a mixed gender sense) in the following ways:

- Form.
- Assemblies and 'drop down' sessions.
- Non-EBacc GCSE option subjects.
- Life Skills 'drop down' sessions.
- Duke of Edinburgh Award.
- Sports Leader Award.
- Arts Award.
- Unstructured time e.g. break and lunch.
- Extra-curricular activities.
- Educational activities off site.

1.4 Key Stage 3

The Key Stage 3 curriculum is delivered in Year 7 and Year 8.

The subjects and number of lessons per week are shown below.

Year	English ¹	Maths ²	Science	PE ³	History	Geography	MFL	Computing	Statistics	DT	Food Technology	Music	Business	Drama	Art	Citizenship and RE	PSHEE
7	4	3	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
8	4	3	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

¹English is allocated the most curriculum time to facilitate higher standards of literacy across all subjects.

²Maths and Statistics combined are allocated the same amount of curriculum time as English to facilitate higher standards of numeracy across all subjects.

³Outside of the core subjects, PE is allocated double the curriculum to facilitate physical wellbeing.

1.5 Key Stage 4

The Key Stage 4 curriculum is delivered in Year 9, 10 and 11.

Year	English ¹	Maths ¹	Science ¹	MFL ²	Option 1 ³	Option 2 ³	Option 3 ³	Citizenship (including RE) ⁴	Recreational PE	Life Skills ⁵	Pupil Development ⁶
9	4	4	4	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1
10	4	4	4	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1
11	4	4	4	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1

¹GCSE English, Mathematics and Science are compulsory and are allocated the most curriculum time.

²MFL is compulsory, however, between 5-10% of pupils may have modified timetables which include additional English and Mathematics and/or work skills courses/work experience placements.

³Pupils opt for three additional subjects – refer to section 1.51.

⁴GCSE Citizenship is compulsory and is the primary means of promoting SMSC and British Values. It is taught alongside the statutory provisions of RE so the Academy is compliant in terms of sections 69 and 71 and schedule 19 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

⁵Life Skills – refer to section 1.52.

⁶Pupil Development – refer to section 1.53.

1.51 Option Subjects

All pupils are expected to follow three subjects which constitute the Personalised Pathway of their curriculum entitlement.

The subjects are arranged into three blocks which, along with the Core Pathway, cover the four statutory entitlement areas outlined in the National Curriculum.

Block 1	Block 2	Block 3
Humanities	Design and Technology	Arts
Geography	Graphic Products	Art
History	Food Preparation	Drama
	Business Studies	Music
	ICT (Technical Award)	P.E
	Statistics	R.E
		Sociology

All subjects, with the exception of ICT, are high value GCSEs.

Pathway	Subject	Number of Hours	Examination Board	Specification Number	Link to Specification
Core	English Language	2	AQA	8700	http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/english/specifications/AQA-8700-SP-2015.PDF
	English Literature	2	AQA	8702	http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/english/specifications/AQA-8702-SP-2015.PDF
	Mathematics	4	EDEXCEL	1MA1	https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/mathematics/2015/specification-and-sample-assessment/gcse-maths-2015-specification.pdf
	Combined Science	4	AQA	8464 (Trilogy)	http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/science/specifications/AQA-8464-SP-2016.PDF
	Citizenship	2	AQA	8100	http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/citizenship/specifications/AQA-8100-SP-2016.PDF
	French	2	EDEXCEL	1FR0	https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/French/2016/specification-and-sample-assessments/Specification-Pearson-Edexcel-Level-1-Level-2-GCSE-9-1-French.pdf
	Life Skills	1	-	-	-
	Personal Development	1	-	-	-
	Recreational Physical Education	1	-	-	-
Personalised	Art	2	AQA	8202 (Fine Art)	http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/art-and-design/specifications/AQA-ART-GCSE-SP-2016.PDF
	Business Studies	2	EDEXCEL	1BS0	https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Business/2017/specification-and-sample-assessments/GCSE_Business_Spec_2017.pdf
	Drama	2	EDEXCEL	1DR0	https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Drama/2016/Specification%20and%20sample%20assessments/gcse_drama_spec_L1_L2.pdf
	DT Graphic Products	2	EDEXCEL	2GR01	https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/design-and-technology/2017/specification-and-sample-assessments/Specification-GCSE-L1-L2-in-Design-and-Technology.pdf
	Food Preparation and Nutrition	2	AQA	8585	http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/food/specifications/AQA-8585-SP-2016.PDF
	Geography	2	AQA	8035	http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/geography/specifications/AQA-8035-SP-2016.PDF
	History	2	EDEXCEL	1HI0	https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/History/2016/specification-and-sample-assessments/9781446925867_GCSE2016_L12_History_Web.pdf
	ICT – (Creative iMedia)	2	OCR	600/7043/2	http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/115888-specification.pdf
	Music	2	EDEXCEL	1MU0	https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Music/2016/specification/Specification_GCSE_L1-L2_in_Music.pdf
	Physical Education (P.E)	2	EDEXCEL	1PE0	https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Physical%20Education/2016/Specification%20and%20sample%20assessments/GCSE-physical-education-2016-specification.pdf
	Religious Education (R.E)	2	EDEXCEL	1SP0	https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Religious%20Studies/2016/Specification%20and%20sample%20assessments/Specification-GCSE-L1-L2-Religious-Studies-A-June-2016-Draft-4.pdf
	Sociology	2	AQA	8192	http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/sociology/specifications/AQA-8192-SP-2017.PDF
	Statistics	2	EDEXCEL	1ST0	https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Statistics/2017/specification-and-sample-assessments/gcse-9-1-statistics-specification.pdf

1.52 Life Skills

The Life Skills Programme is designed to provide pupils with a range of competencies that help prepare them for the next stage in their education, training, or employment.

Year	Life Skills Programme
9	Digital Literacy, E-Safety and Finance Skills.
10	Team Building and Resilience, Preparation for Working Life and Study Skills.
11	Intervention and CIEAG.

1.53 Personal Development

The Personal Development Programme is designed to provide pupils with ongoing PSHEE education and substantive opportunities to experience and develop leadership skills to consolidate and further develop the competencies gained in Life Skills.

Year	Personal Development Programme
9	PSHEE, Arts Award, Sports Leader Award.
10	PSHEE, Duke of Edinburgh Award.
11	PSHEE, Student Leader Accreditation.

2.0 Mastery Curriculum

Refer to [Mastery Curriculum Policy](#).

3.0 Teaching and Learning

Refer to [Teaching and Learning Policy](#).

4.0 Marking and Assessment

Refer to [Marking and Assessment Policy](#).

5.0 Homework

Refer to [Homework Policy](#).

6.0 PSHEE

Refer to [SRE Policy](#).

7.0 Literacy and Numeracy

Refer to [Literacy Policy](#) and [Numeracy Policy](#).

8.0 Collective Worship

Refer to [Collective Worship Policy](#).

Refer to [SMSC Assemblies Programme 2018-2019](#).

Any parent who objects to their child attending an act or acts of collective worship may request that they are withdrawn under the [Education Act 1996 Part V, Chapter 3, Section 389](#) or the [School Standards and Framework Act 1998 Part II, Chapter 6, Section 71](#).

9.0 Careers Education

All pupils from Year 8, receive careers guidance from Connexions. This is undertaken in the Careers Centre - a purpose built, free -standing building, allocated specifically to careers education and guidance.

Careers education and preparation for working life are covered through PSHEE at KS3 and the Life Skills and Personal Development programmes at KS4.

All pupils in Year 10 have the opportunity to take part in the Work Experience Programme which is organised in the summer closure period.

[CEIAG Programme](#)

10.0 Celebrating Success

Refer to [Celebrating Success Policy](#).