



QUORN HALL
SCHOOL

Curriculum Policy

Person Responsible: Headteacher

Last reviewed on: July 2021

Next review due by: September 2022

Created: May 2020

Revisions: July 2021

Overview and Intent

At Quorn Hall School, we deliver a broad, rich curriculum which empowers every pupil within our school to achieve, progress and become a confident, resilient citizen equipped with the qualifications, skills and confidence to succeed in their next phase of education. Our goal is to help each young person re-imagine their potential, creating a virtuous cycle in which they continually recognise their successes and increase their ambition and confidence. Achieving culturally recognised milestones is key to supporting them to trust that they are on track and have access to the same curriculum and qualification opportunities as their peers in mainstream schools; at Quorn Hall School they receive the specialist support of small group teaching, therapeutic input and relational practice that enables them to achieve their potential. The National Curriculum is at the heart of our provision and we support young people to achieve recognised qualifications from GCSEs to awards in Sports Leadership and the Performing Arts. We also develop their cultural capital, character and confidence through the Duke of Edinburgh Award and participation in a range of sports and cultural activities.

We recognise that all students' ability to learn is underpinned by high quality teaching of basic skills, knowledge, concepts and values in a carefully sequenced, coherent curriculum which builds systematically on prior experiences. When gaps in their previous knowledge and understanding are identified, teachers skilfully ensure that they are supported to close these gaps *and* continue to progress to their expected levels. There is also a strong emphasis throughout the school on developing the skills to read fluently with confidence and understanding, with a range of support programmes in place to support young people who have specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia.

We aim to ensure that our curriculum:

- Provides a broad and balanced education for all pupils which is coherently planned and sequenced. This is based on a combination of the National Curriculum, PSHE & C, RSE and SMSC and therefore meets the Independent School Standards.
- Enables our students to read fluently and access the wider curriculum, receiving support where needed to overcome specific learning disabilities such as dyslexia
- Enables pupils to develop knowledge, understand concepts and acquire skills, and to be able to choose and apply these in relevant situations.
- Has high ambition for all pupils at each Key Stage, supporting them to close gaps and keep progressing so that by the end of Key Stage 4, they achieve the required qualifications, independent learning skills and resilience to proceed to their chosen college courses or apprenticeship.
- Supports pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, enabling them to participate effectively in modern multicultural Britain.
- Supports pupils' physical development, enabling them to find ways of being active which they enjoy and to support them to take increasing levels of responsibility for their own health and wellbeing in preparation for adulthood.
- Ensures equal access to learning for all pupils; with high expectations for every pupil and appropriate levels of challenge and support.
- Equips pupils with the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life and embrace opportunities.
- Promotes preparation for, and an appreciation of, life in modern multicultural Britain.

Implementation

We are committed to providing the best learning opportunities; including high quality teaching and access to the community and learning programmes that link classroom learning to life skills. Reading is a key focus throughout the school and we support young people to read often and read fluently, encouraging them to explore a range of literature reflecting their interests as well as ensuring that they encounter high quality challenging texts within the English curriculum. Subject Specialists develop the schemes of work for each subject, based on the National Curriculum programmes of study and the exam syllabuses, which teachers then deliver in a manner which makes them accessible and engaging for our students. We also benefit from beautiful grounds and specialist teaching areas such as a Science Lab, Food Technology Room and a state-of-the-art Music Recording Studio. In addition to a dedicated IT suite, all classrooms have an Interactive Whiteboard and teachers can book chromebooks and laptops to support learning.

Within Quorn Hall School's curriculum we are able to adapt our teaching to reflect the needs of individual pupils. We recognise pupils' strengths, needs and interests and build on these to promote achievement and success. We identify our pupils' learning needs through ongoing teacher assessments. We also have the support of an experienced Educational Psychologist, an Occupational therapist and a Speech and Language Therapist who can help identify and address additional barriers to learning.

Emotional barriers to learning can also be addressed through a tiered approach, with all young people benefiting from the strong relational practice and trust together with a strong PSHE & C programme which includes a focus on mental health and wellbeing. Additional support and advice can be provided through tailored pastoral support or the range of therapies we offer, overseen by a Clinical Psychologist.

Using this range of expertise, we can help our pupils to:

- improve self-regulation;
- improve coping with uncertainty and change;
- increase ability to make and sustain meaningful relationships;
- increase their confidence and independence as learners, re-imagining their potential and increasing ambition
- improve quality of life and reduce stress for both pupils and their families.

At Quorn Hall School we benchmark all our new pupils on arrival and ensure we identify gaps in their experience and knowledge. The whole school uses Schoolpod software to monitor pupil progress towards their targets, supporting meaningful reflection by teachers and leaders on progress data and links with attendance, the taught curriculum and the quality of teaching and learning.

There is a strong emphasis on supporting staff through ongoing CPD to deepen their subject knowledge and improve the quality of teaching and learning. For example, subject specialists are encouraged to be part of Subject Associations and the school pays for their membership.

Throughout all our key stages, the teaching staff at Quorn Hall School seek for students to be able to remember the concepts and key knowledge taught, supporting them to integrate it into their developing understanding. In every lesson, it is imperative that we communicate the importance of why we are teaching this and how it links to what they have learnt previously and how it will help them progress towards the next stage. Identifying and practising key vocabulary helps build students confidence and makes material increasingly accessible. All learning is sequenced to provide a structure and firm foundation for our pupils to develop into the independent, confident and resilient young adults we aspire for them to become. Teachers encourage recall and check pupils' understanding, identifying misconceptions and providing clear feedback in real time as well as through marking.

Lower School:

Nurture group principles are used to create a safe, structured and predictable learning environment where pupils learn to self-regulate, work and play cooperatively. They are supported by a consistent core team of adults, building relational trust. They have full access to the National Curriculum, PSHE and RSE together with enriching activities such as Forest School. When appropriate, themes are used to help create a coherent and connected learning experience. Pupils participate in whole school cultural events such as the Remembrance Day service.

Key Stage 3:

Quorn Hall School provides access to a broad and balanced curriculum, with a strong emphasis on developing core literacy and numeracy skills with their class teacher and some subject blocks and enrichment sessions taught by subject specialists e.g. Science, PE and the Performing Arts. This ensures that they benefit from subject specialists' expertise and passion and begins to build their capacity to learn from a wider range of adults, while still having the support of their familiar Teaching Assistants. In addition to the Careers Education provided through our PSHE curriculum and our own qualified Careers Advisor, students begin to access independent advice and guidance from a visiting Independent Careers Advisor in Year 9. To build their

confidence in gaining qualifications, students will have the opportunity to achieve Functional Skills qualifications in Year 9.

Key Stage 4:

Quorn Hall School provides access to a broad and balanced curriculum, with a strong emphasis on developing core literacy and numeracy skills with their class teacher and some subject blocks and enrichment sessions taught by subject specialists e.g. Science, PE and the Performing Arts. This continues to broaden their web of trusted adults and ensures that they benefit from subject specialists' passion and expertise and prepares them for their next phase of education. Students at Key Stage 4 work towards GCSEs, Functional Skills qualifications and the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. All students have the opportunity to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award and we have seen them take significant pride in the resilience and character they have developed through the various challenges involved in the Award. We also support young people with vocational pathways and relevant work experience, onsite and in partnership with local employers. They continue to meet with an Independent Careers Advisor and our own Careers Advisor, who help them plan and shape applications and develop their interview skills. They benefit from the support of the Quorn Hall team in their transition to their choice of local college courses or apprenticeships.

Impact:

As a result of high quality teaching and the sequenced curriculum, pupils develop detailed knowledge and skills in a broad range of subjects. Book scrutinies reflect the improvements in the quality of work produced and formative assessments indicate how students are supported to progressively close the gaps they arrived with in Reading, Maths and other subjects. As a result, pupils can go on to achieve nationally recognised qualifications, including Functional Skills and GCSEs alongside the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Our destination data shows how successful the combination of what students have learnt at Quorn Hall School (previously Gryphon) and the high quality transition support have been, with young people consistently progressing onto local colleges and apprenticeships, with several then progressing on to university. We encourage young people to stay in touch with the school as Alumni, recognising that this continues to empower them and that they can continue to be role models and raise aspirations for current students.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

The Headteacher is passionate about the difference that education can make, has high aspirations for our students and recognises the transformational role of high quality teaching in the life-long success of our young people. She therefore takes a leading role in monitoring and improving the quality of education. She is ably supported in this by two Assistant Heads, the Key Stage Leaders, Subject Specialists and the SEN team.

Lesson observations, learning walks, work scrutinies and pupil progress are used to support whole school improvement and inform the individual support and development opportunities teachers can benefit from. At Quorn Hall School we believe that the best teachers are always learners and there are a range of development opportunities to suit individual ambitions as well as a rich whole school CPD offer. Talented Teaching Assistants have been supported to qualify as teachers, subject specialists are encouraged to develop their subject knowledge and the school also supports leadership development e.g. two staff worked towards NPQSL in 2020-2021.