



Curriculum Statement

The four principle values of 'Lead Learning', 'Every Child – No Excuses', 'High Expectations' and 'No Islands' are central to the culture and ethos of South Shields School. The philosophy of 'Growth Mindset' underpins the curriculum and learning to enable pupils to focus on and develop positive learning attitudes and attributes.

At South Shields School we are committed to enabling all our students to enjoy learning to become independent learners. We aim to make learning an exciting and interesting experience for all our students. We have high expectations for every student to ensure that all students reach or exceed their potential through the provision of a broad and balanced curriculum.

The school follows a one week timetable of twenty five lessons of one hour in length. There are also five advisory time sessions of 30 minutes to focus on British values, literacy (Drop Everything And Read (DEAR time)), a range of literacy interventions, numeracy, Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development (SMSC) and other aspects of personal development. Our Diversity Days also focus on developing British Values and SMSC.

At South Shields School we offer a stimulating and varied curriculum designed to be broad and balanced and in line with statutory requirements but also providing wide ranging opportunities for personalising individual students' learning programmes from year 7 to year 11. At the heart of our curriculum is the promotion of British values and tolerance of other faiths, democracy, individual liberty, mutual respect and the rule of law.

We realise the importance of a holistic approach to education. For this reason we actively promote and provide extra-curricular activities beyond the standard school hours. This includes academic workshops, music, drama, art clubs; Combined Cadet force; Duke of Edinburgh; external speakers; outdoor learning opportunities; sport clubs; a wide range of SMSC school trips and visits; career information, advice and guidance college visits, careers fairs and business partner activities.

Key Stage 3

South Shields School operates a three year Key Stage 3. In Years 7, 8 and 9 all students study English, maths, science, history, geography, PE, art, computing, technology, drama and music. All students also study a modern foreign language; either Spanish or French. Students have one library lesson per fortnight where they assess their reading progress through the 'Accelerated Reader' programme. We believe that this broad and balanced curriculum allows students to fully develop their literacy and numeracy skills as well as developing their inquiring and creative minds. Personal development is also incorporated into the curriculum which includes SMSC, RE, SRE, CEAIG, alongside careers, information and guidance education.



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Key Stage 4

Year 10 and 11 students currently study a broad and balanced curriculum. Students follow a core curriculum of English language and literature, maths, combined science, ICT and core PE. Students also follow three “option subjects” which they study for three hours a week. For most students at least one of these subjects is either geography, history, computer science or a modern foreign language (French and/or Spanish). There are a wide variety of GCSE choices, supplemented by a small number of BTECs and other vocational courses. Across all age ranges and throughout the curriculum we have a skills based approach to learning to help our students become independent learners to prepare them for working life in the 21st century. Most of these subjects are studied as two year linear qualifications with exams sat at the end of year 11. Some have exams during year 10 and year 11.



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Current Year 10 & 11	Notes
Art (GCSE)	Year 10 & 11
Business (BTEC)	Year 10 & 11
Catering (Vocational Award)	Year 10 & 11
Computer Science (GCSE)	Year 10 & 11
Dance (BTEC)	Year 10 & 11
Drama (GCSE)	Year 10 & 11
French (GCSE)	Year 11
Geography (GCSE)	Year 10 & 11
History (GCSE)	Year 10 & 11
Music (BTEC)	Year 10 & 11
Sports Studies (Cambridge National)	Year 10 & 11
Photography (GCSE)	Year 10 & 11
Spanish (GCSE)	Year 10 & 11
Engineering Design (Cambridge National)	Year 10
Creative imedia (Cambridge National)	Year 10



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The preference structure for our current Year 9 is a two year qualification course. Students all study English language, English literature, maths, combined science, alongside preferences from the “E-Baccalaureate” group and/or preferences from the “other” group. Most students will select one or more subjects from the E Baccalaureate group, but some select entirely from ‘other.’ Students can choose three subjects from:

Year 9 Preference 2018-2019

E Baccalaureate Group	Other Group
History	Art
Geography	Photography
Computing	Catering
French	Business Studies
	Music
	Dance
	Drama
	Sports Studies
	Engineering Design
	Creative imedia

Passport to Success was introduced at the school to focus students on taking responsibility for enhancing their own academic progress while at the same time developing a set of key skills necessary for life beyond the classroom. Our aim is that every student will leave with the qualifications and employability skills they need for life beyond School. In order to graduate, students need to be making expected or better progress across eight subjects, including English and maths. They also need to have completed all eleven of the Employability Skills, namely:

Contributing to discussions - taking an interest in topics and expressing their ideas

Presentation Skills - building their public speaking skills to explain their ideas

Independent Study - taking responsibility for their own learning



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Problem Solving - finding solutions to problems

Resilience - not giving up when faced with obstacles

Teamwork - putting effort into working with others

Leadership - taking responsibility for leading a group or event

Self-presentation - showing pride in themselves

Citizenship - being aware of the needs of others

Active Participation - getting involved in groups, either inside or outside of school

Cultural Experiences - learning more about their own and other cultures through new experiences

Students can graduate at three levels at the end of the academic year:

Pass - Expected progress or better in at least 8 subjects, including English and maths

Merit - Good progress in at least 5 subjects, including English and maths. No less than expected progress in 8 subjects.

Distinction - Good progress in at least 8 subjects, including English and maths.