



TAVERHAM HALL

Preparatory School

Curriculum Policy

It is the policy of Taverham Hall School that pupils should receive a full time supervised education for those of compulsory school age which gives pupils an education in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative aspects. We offer a broad and balanced curriculum, which delivers an education tailored to the individual needs of every child.

The curriculum is designed to help all pupils fulfil their individual academic and creative abilities, and exploit their talents to the full. Progression is at the core of the curriculum.

The school curriculum seeks to offer appropriate choices and flexibility in order to reflect the needs and interests of the pupils and the pace most suitable to their learning. The areas of speaking, listening and literacy are dealt with comprehensively in the English Department's programme of study whereas the focus on numeracy is evident in the Mathematics programmes of study.

When considering the breadth, balance and appropriateness of the curriculum, the following factors play a crucial role:

***Breadth** - allowing pupils contact with the different elements of learning – knowledge, concepts, skills and attitudes – and the different areas of learning – aesthetic, creative, human and social, linguistic and literary, mathematical, moral, physical, scientific, spiritual and technological.

***Balance** - through time allocation for academic/physical/practical subjects, curricular and extra-curricular activities, including educational visits and residential trips.

***Appropriateness** - through group size, setting, streaming, awareness of learning styles, length of school day and length of teaching year.

***Coherence** - through planning and discussion, with schemes of work for all subjects documented and reviewed every year.

***Differentiation**

- through setting and grouping policies
- through teaching style and methods
- through teacher response to individuals' work, triggered by regular formative and summative assessment.

The curriculum at Taverham Hall is dedicated to promoting a positive approach to learning through the development of perseverance, independent thinking, study skills,

concentration and autonomy. It goes hand in hand with a supportive learning environment which strives to help every child to unlock their potential through the acknowledgement that small steps eventually lead to attaining one's personal best.

Please view our "Academic standards and work ethos" policy for the academic aims that the school curriculum embraces.

Years 3 and 4

On entry to the Prep school, pupils in Year 3 and year 4 are taught mainly by their class teachers and benefit from the input of specialist teachers in French, DT/ Forest School, ICT, Music, Art, PE and Games. Schemes of work for each subject have been devised in line with National Curriculum and Primary framework guidelines.

Pupils are always streamed for Maths and may be streamed for English to facilitate progress in numeracy and literacy.

The day is divided into 8 lessons. A small amount of prep, including some reading, is set every night to help to reinforce the learning.

Pupils are actively encouraged to join extra-curricular activities. Visits to museums and other places of interest are embedded into the curriculum.

Forest School sessions take place on a weekly basis wherever possible, making full use of the school grounds for investigative, nature-based work.

Years 5 to 8

When they reach Year 5, pupils are assigned to a form and receive all their education from specialist subject teachers while their form tutor keeps an overview of their progress, both from an academic and a pastoral viewpoint.

The day is divided into ten lessons. Pupils are streamed by ability for each subject and progress is reviewed on a regular basis.

Schemes of work for English, Maths, Science, French, History, Geography, ICT, Music, DT, RS, PE and Art are in line with National Curriculum guidelines. In Year 5 pupils are also taught Study Skills. They start Latin in Year 6.

Teaching in Year 7 and 8 focuses mainly on preparation for Scholarship and Common Entrance.

The Common Entrance syllabus is assessed through exams at the end of Year 8 in English, Maths, Science, French, Latin, History, Geography and RS and serves as an entrance exam for most senior schools to which the pupils move to once their time at Taverham Hall is over. Scholars are given the extra level of focussed teaching necessary to prepare them to the demands of academic scholarship exams.

A suitable amount of prep is set to each year group every night to provide reinforcement or investigative learning opportunities (see PrepPolicy).

Internal exams are set twice a year to provide the pupils with sufficient experience to cope with exams in all the Common Entrance subjects when they reach Year 8.

Pupils are encouraged to join extra-curricular hobbies, which include music, art and crafts, drama, and a wide variety of sports.

There are visits to theatres, museums and other places of historical interest and residential trips to France or Italy and various locations for Geography fieldwork.

In order to prepare them for the experiences of adult life, pupils are given the opportunity to take on positions of responsibility such as:

*break duty helper in year 6 and 7

*librarian from Year 5 onwards

*prefect (and Senior Prefect) in Year 8

Pupils in Year 8, as part of their PSHE work and Post CE programme, will be visited by parents and professionals offering insight into careers options and there will also be an opportunity to undertake aspects of the 'The Real Game' which gives invaluable opportunities to develop financial awareness.

Extra –Curricular Activities

The school is extremely fortunate to have use of over 100 acres of land and consequently there are a number of activities or 'hobbies' available which are unique to the school. In addition the school provides opportunities for curriculum enhancement, extended learning, special interest groups along with sports, arts and musical activities such as:

- Creative writing
- Karate
- Canoeing
- Cycling
- Art
- Athletics
- Fishing
- Tennis
- Nature (Norfolk Wildlife Trust)
- Rock band
- Choir
- Football
- Fun Dance
- Chicken Club(!)
- Football
- Rounders
- Netball
- Hockey
- Rugby
- Japan Cub
- Hama beads

Across the full age range (7-13), pupils requiring **Learning Support** are identified early in line with the school's policy and are fully catered for through specialist teaching by our experienced SENCO who liaises closely with and advises both teaching staff and parents and reviews Individual Education Plans every term. (see SEN policy)

Sport plays a major role in pupils' lives and matches are played against many schools in a range of sports every Wednesday. The majority of pupils represent the school termly. The school Chapel Choir has recently competed in national competitions and there is a school drama production annually. (Oliver 2010)

The teacher in charge of a lesson is assisted by additional supervising adults in:

*Y3 – full time classroom assistant

*Y3 and 4 (sharing) – full time classroom assistant

*Y3 and 4 (sharing) – gap student (first 4 lessons of the day, every day)

*DT/Forest School – gap student present for every lesson

Pupils are not allowed to use the ICT suite unless supervised by a member of staff/gap student.

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