



Curriculum Policy Statement

Cranford House is committed to providing as broad an educational experience as possible with the aim that, when pupils leave, they will be equipped for the next stage of their studies (and for the world of work, if appropriate) and for taking their place in the world as a responsible and caring citizen. In addition to our Nursery provision, the School offers full-time education to pupils of compulsory school age.

The curriculum offered at Cranford is described in the Lower, Junior and Senior School Curriculum Policy statements but, in general, pupils follow the National Curriculum and will cover the following areas of experience:

- i) Linguistic**
Lessons are taught in written and spoken English (other than in Modern Foreign Languages). We aim to develop pupils' communication skills and their command of language through listening, speaking, reading and writing.
- ii) Mathematics**
Pupils are encouraged to make calculations, to understand and appreciate relationships and patterns in number and space and to develop their capacity to think logically and express themselves clearly. Their knowledge and understanding should be developed in a variety of ways including practical activity, exploration and discussion.
- iii) Scientific**
Pupils increase their knowledge and understanding of nature, material and forces. Pupils learn skills in observing, forming hypotheses, conducting experiments and recording their findings.
- iv) Technological**
Pupils have the opportunity to use ICT in lessons and at home. ICT is used as a means of independent learning (eg conducting research and writing projects) as well as being embedded within subject areas.
Pupils have the opportunity to develop their skills in design technology: cookery, sewing, knitting and craft are offered at Cranford House whilst for older pupils, GCSE Food and GCSE Textiles are offered in the Option blocks. Pupils have the chance to design, make and evaluate processes and products.
- v) Human and Social**
History and Geography are taught throughout the School. These subjects are concerned with people and their environments and how human activity, now and in the past, has influenced events and conditions.
- vi) Physical**
Physical activity plays a large part in School both within and outside the curriculum. Pupils learn to develop their physical control and co-ordination, tactical skills, strength and stamina as well as an understanding of individual and team sports. Pupils also learn about how to maintain a healthy lifestyle.
- vii) Aesthetic and Creative**
Cranford House has a strong tradition in art, music, drama and dance, all areas covered within the curriculum and outside it.
Poetry Festivals are held to promote a love of literature. House activities are also often based round these kinds of events.

viii) Spiritual, moral, social and cultural

- PSHCE is taught by the Form/Class teacher in the Lower School and by the RS specialist in the Junior and Senior Schools in designated lesson time.
- The aims and ethos of the school are also promoted through assemblies (whole school assemblies, combined schools assemblies, separate school assemblies, Form assemblies), Circle Time, Form time, House time.
- The School Council meets regularly and is chaired by a pupil.
- The Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl lead assemblies, as do the Prefects.
- Charity work forms a large part of the Houses' work. Bunbakes and sponsored events are frequent.
- Pupils have the opportunity to show leadership and to take responsibility through positions of responsibility, Duke of Edinburgh, First Challenge, etc.
- Pupils have the opportunity to become involved in the community (eg through music festivals, visits to old people's homes, environmental projects at Little Wittenham, work experience).
- The spiritual life of the school is supported by designated RS lessons (GCSE Short Course has been offered for the last two years to pupils in Year 10 or 11).

The School celebrates major Christian religious festivals (Christmas, Easter, Ascension Day) making use of Dorchester Abbey and St John's Church in Moulsoford for services. The local Vicar comes to the school at least once a year to lead special services, eg Remembrance Day.

Other religious beliefs are emphasized at appropriate times of the year and cultural differences are celebrated. Pupils are encouraged to show open minds and to be tolerant and respectful of diversity.

ix) Careers

All pupils learn about careers and career choices through for example, visiting speakers, visits to places of work, Sixth Form Choice Fairs and Careers Fairs. Older pupils have the chance to identify how their strengths, weaknesses and interests relate to the world of work. The School's Head of Careers formulates a special programme for Senior pupils to follow. For example, girls can opt to do the Morrisby test and have individual guidance and the opportunity to go on Taster Days. Work experience is compulsory after GCSEs.

Pupils are able to access information about training, education and occupations beyond school.

All pupils are encouraged to be responsible and thoughtful citizens. The Science Department in particular, leads whole school initiatives to raise awareness of environmental issues, eg 'Save It!' Day, Swap Shop (for recycling), energy and travel surveys etc.

All pupils, regardless of their age and ability, have the opportunity to learn and make progress. The Centre of Individual Learning is responsible, along with all members of staff, for pupils with learning difficulties or disabilities and for those showing exceptional abilities or talents. Appropriate provision is put in place for pupils with a Statement.

Cranford House aims to prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

For a more detailed overview, please refer to the “Welcome to Lower / Junior / Senior School”, “At a Glance” booklets and Senior Schemes of Work.

C Hamilton
May 2009

T:/admin & whole school/whole staff issues/whole school doc/policies/curriculum May 09