

Sydenham School

Curriculum Principles

Updated March 2016

To be reviewed March 2017



What do we want for our girls?

Our girls are already part of a dynamic, technology-rich and globally engaged world. They deserve an exceptional education that embodies the ethos and values of our school and cares for their hearts and souls whilst the content, pedagogy, and application of the essential knowledge and skills curriculum prepares them to lead in a global community – both personal and public.

Their development of self-worth and esteem, resilience and self-reflection leads to respect, tolerance and determination and will enable a Sydenham student to lead the way in her life.

How can we achieve this?

- By being part of the Sydenham Family girls are prepared with strong academic outcomes and interpersonal skills, are effective leaders in school, in families, at university, in the workforce, and in their global and local communities.
- Sydenham Girls benefit from an integrated curriculum and girl-focused learning opportunities at every key stage.
- Sydenham Girls experience an exemplary STEAM - science technology, engineering, arts, maths - programme for girls, distinguished by the highest quality faculty, curriculum, facilities and partnerships in each of these areas.
- Sydenham Girls are prepared for life and family relationships, digital citizenship, further and higher education and the workforce by optimizing its partnerships with the local and global communities.
- Sydenham School is an inclusive and inspiring environment rooted in respect and equality.

Our Principles

1. Mind, Body, Spirit

Our first principle is to have a curriculum that enables the development of the whole person (mind, body and spirit) and the individual's independence as a learner.

All learners are given equality of opportunity through the curriculum to learn and develop their commitment to their own learning and achieve their personal best. As a member of an emotionally intelligent school each young person will also know herself and what she is capable of, be able to express ideas cogently and compellingly, maximising the multiple platforms of oral, written, electronic, auditory, and visual communication. Through our focus on ethos and a self-regulating good behaviour, becoming Rights Respecting School and developing the culture of effort, praise and encouragement every student can grow to become the hard working, deep thinking adult with a mind-set of having the holistic approach / 'kit for the journey' through life.

2. Learning Inspiration and Creativity

Our Second Principle is to provide an inspirational curriculum that engages and motivates all our students to achieve. Student voice will influence the content of this curriculum.

With the best academic outcomes and essential knowledge and skills, along with leadership and learning skills, a global perspective, clarity, integrity and ethical decision-making, our girls will be fully prepared to embrace the opportunities of the complex world of their future. This curriculum will reflect and celebrate the cultural, ethnic, linguistic, social and religious diversity of Sydenham Family and Community by promoting spiritual, moral, cultural, emotional, intellectual, physical and social development. The core curriculum content is broad and well balanced and designed to satisfy every student's curiosity, allowing them to become questioners and to have a self-perception as strong participant whose voice is heard.

DURING THEIR EDUCATION SYDENHAM STUDENTS HAVE AN ENTITLEMENT TO A BROAD AND BALANCED CORE CURRICULUM

- ENGLISH AND MEDIA
- MATHS AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES
- SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING, FOOD AND TEXTILES, DESIGN TECHNOLOGY
- STEM MOVING TO STEAM – INTEGRATED SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ARTS AND MATHS
- HUMANITIES - HISTORY GEOGRAPHY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CITIZENSHIP AND PSHE
- HUMAN SCIENCES - SOCIOLOGY PSYCHOLOGY, BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, CHILD DEVELOPMENT, LEISURE & TOURISM, HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE
- LANGUAGES – ANCIENT, MODERN AND GLOBAL (LATIN FRENCH SPANISH GERMAN MANDARIN)
- VISUAL ARTS (INCLUDING FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY CREATIVE TEXTILES FASHION)
- PERFORMING ARTS (DANCE DRAMA MUSIC) AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION
- PASTORAL PROGRAMME (TUTORIAL AND ASSEMBLY)

3. Thinking Innovation and Achievement

Our Third Principle is to equip our students with essential knowledge and skills.

Our leadership must ensure that girls are challenged to learn independently, to develop and to be collaborative in their approach. These skills are fostered through hands-on learning that connects real-world issues with core academic content. Digital literacy and bringing the external world in through partnerships we make learning more real. We encourage staff to look at, use and do research to improve teaching and learning. We encourage learning through performance, group projects, team work, competition, discussion, and opportunities for risk-taking, positive evaluation, and prompt feedback - all the learning tools that prove most successful for girls. The curriculum provides opportunities for complex projects, extended writing and academic research that cross subject boundaries. By providing challenge through new learning and learning in new environments, we empower girls as young women in our safe, nurturing and caring community that brings self-worth and self-confidence in themselves. This ensures students achieve their ambition in adult life.

DURING THEIR EDUCATION SYDENHAM STUDENTS HAVE AN ENTITLEMENT TO A BROAD AND BALANCED CORE CURRICULUM TO INCLUDE

- PASTORAL PROGRAMME
- ENRICHMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS
- OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP
- LEARNING IN THE WORKPLACE
 - WORK RELATED LEARNING, CAREERS AND INDUSTRY LINKS
- DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
- RESIDENTIALS
- DEEP LEARNING DAYS
- WORK EXPERIENCE
- REAL AND MOCK ELECTIONS including YOUNG MAYOR INVOLVEMENT

4. Relationships, respect and responsibility

Our Fourth Principle relates to the Curriculum that promotes the work ethic, the spirit of community and the global citizen in our students.

As the 'Sydenham Family' we have a supportive community and a curriculum that challenges every student to do their personal best. Our school must continue to recruit and retain students who want to be here, attract exceptional educators who want to go the extra mile and provide a learning environment that is 21st Century and encourages engagement, creativity, leadership, innovation, initiative, adaptability and risk taking, ready for the working world or life. Sydenham's co-curriculum of core and other aspects builds on learners' strengths, interests and experiences, both inside and outside the classroom and outside the school. As a Rights Respecting School

Tolerance, fairness, unity are key to students feeling part of a harmonious community. Democratic principles, role modelling and values based learning bring the best out in young people.

5. Aspiration and Excellence

Our Fifth Principle relates to ensuring we have the best Staff for our students.

The Curriculum for staff personal and Professional Development evolves from our leadership of a creative, strategic, research led, self-evaluative approach to the curriculum and to model an ambitious innovative curriculum to include student-led improvement.

In KS3, KS4 and KS5 Sydenham School staff will be continuously and actively developing and improving of the curriculum. The Staff to be able to research and freely discuss issues critically with each other and with students. They understand the techniques that make learning more satisfying and effective for girls. Aiming high and achieving higher is not just a school motto – it is how our girls will reach the best of themselves at all stages of development supported by a highly trained and effective staff.

<p>OUR COMMITMENT TO STUDENTS AND STAFF</p>	<p>COMMUNICATION CHALLENGE CHOICE</p>
<p>LEARNING ASSESSMENT FOR LEARNING FEEDBACK FOR LEARNING LEARNING TO LEARN STUDENT VOICE</p>	<p>SUPPORT MENTORING AND COACHING ADVICE AND GUIDANCE EMOTIONAL SUPPORT SAFETY</p>
<p>LEADERSHIP STRENGTH AND TRUST INNOVATIVE DESIGN EFFECTIVE ORGANISATION RISK AND EXPERIMENT</p>	<p>EXPERIENCE CURRICULUM NEW TECHNOLOGIES LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM ENJOYMENT</p>
<p>COMMUNITY INCREASING PARENTAL ROLE COMMUNITY LEARNING PARTNERSHIPS BUILDINGS FOR LEARNING</p>	<p>CAPACITY RIGHT PEOPLE, RIGHT SKILLS CHANGE AND GROWTH PERSONAL POTENTIAL BELIEF IN PEOPLE</p>