

# **BILTON GRANGE CURRICULUM POLICY**

## **Introduction**

Bilton Grange aims to provide a secure and happy environment in which the children enjoy a rich childhood in a community based on Christian principles. The curriculum is all the planned activities that we organise in order to promote learning, personal growth, a love of learning and development. It includes not only a strong connection to the requirements of the National Curriculum, but also our unique right to individuality and the range of extra-curricular activities that the school holds dear. It also includes the 'hidden curriculum', or what the children learn from the way they are treated and are expected to behave within our family community. We aim to teach children how to grow into positive, responsible citizens, who can work and co-operate with others while 'taking care of their own learning', so that they can achieve their true potential. Learning how to learn is a key facet of a Bilton Grange education and is in our view an essential skill for life in the twenty-first century. We are committed to providing an environment in which all pupils are challenged to be the best they can be and one in which pastoral care and well-being underpin academic, co-curricular and sporting excellence.

## **Values and Aims**

Our school curriculum is underpinned by our mission statement and our key aims. The curriculum is the means by which the school achieves its objective of educating children in the knowledge, skills and understanding that they need in order to lead fulfilling lives. We aim to develop confidence, self-esteem and independence in each child and to treat children as of equal worth. We believe very strongly in offering breadth within our curriculum, so that the all-round talents of each individual child may be developed. This involves promoting the academic, technological, creative, aesthetic and sporting facets of school life, as well as fostering children's natural curiosity, in order to empower them with a life-long love of learning.

We aim at an informal and friendly relationship between staff and pupils with a strong emphasis on courtesy, good manners and personal responsibility. We promote and reinforce British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs. These values are reinforced in a pervasive manner and permeate the school community. We aim to create a culture of choice in which children take responsibility for the use of their time and the activities in which they take part. We promote healthy relationships with our parent body to support the children's learning and encourage them to participate in the school's community.

## **Aims and objectives**

### **Curriculum Aims**

The aims of our school curriculum are:

1. Our role is to create a rounded education  
*The mission is delivered by a broad based provision*

2. To identify the individual talents and abilities of children and to enable them to fulfil their potential.  
*A stimulating and varied teaching environment in and out of the classroom.*
3. To excite intellectual and creative activity within each child's capacity.  
*Close pastoral and academic supervision and a teaching relationship based on mutual respect, the opportunities for creative self-expression presented by excellent drama, art, pottery, music and design facilities, generous teaching allocation; children encouraged to be confident, articulate and outward looking.*
4. Respond to the individual needs of children and provide appropriate support and encouragement.  
*Regular screening and close liaison between staff, parents and learning development.*
5. To encourage an engaged and committed approach to study because learning is a joint venture with the teacher.  
*Structured preps and study time, out of class access to teachers, support and advice.*
6. To provide a clear moral framework with foundations in the Christian Church.  
*A communal life defined by boarding ethos and based on the Chapel.*
7. To develop a high level of competence in the application of modern technology to learning.  
*The provision of quality facilities and the support of qualified staff.*
8. To provide competitive experience and physical challenge through a wide range of physical activity.  
*A comprehensive PE, sporting and outdoor programme, providing a wide variety of opportunity.*
9. To enable children to learn independently and think for themselves.  
*The Library facility and a range of appropriate learning tasks and access to huge information resources through ICT.*
10. To prepare children to achieve success in appropriate external exams by all the above.

**The practices which we employ at Bilton Grange to achieve our curriculum aims are outlined in the Academic Handbook which should be read in conjunction with this policy.**

## **Careers Policy**

As a Preparatory School, Bilton Grange seeks to support children, especially in their latter years in the school, as they begin to consider their career aspirations, and the skills and experiences they will need to develop to progress along a chosen path. It is, of course, too early in their lives and academic careers to be making firm decisions unless they possess or exhibit particular talents in specialist fields of endeavour such as the performing arts or sport. At all times, any guidance given will be impartial, free of gender bias or favouritism towards a particular profession or academic path.

The PSHEE and Insight programme in Years 7 & 8 offers opportunities for thinking about future pathways in the 'Finance' and 'Moving on' modules. During the Finance topic, aspects of different careers and qualifications are discussed alongside earning potential. 'Moving On' allows children to consider and discuss skills which will be needed for different times in their lives and which can be transferrable or needed for certain career paths – for example, problem solving, critical thinking and public speaking.

A number of opportunities are also planned, to meet and hear from people from a range of professions, business backgrounds and other walks of life. In the last few years some of these have been in the form of the Bilton Lectures; the 6<sup>th</sup> Form (Year 8) leavers' programme often also includes visiting speakers.