

CURRICULUM POLICY STATEMENT

The school will deliver the National Curriculum at both key stages. However the aim of Summerhill School is to provide more than this. We want a curriculum which responds to the needs of our students and is seen as relevant to their needs post-16. The curriculum should:

- be balanced, relevant and differentiated.
- promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of all students.
- prepare students for the responsibilities and opportunities they will face in adult life.
- be delivered in ways which help the students to learn
- provide a smooth pathway through to education at age 19.
- provide the opportunities for students to work at a pace best suited to their own needs.

Summerhill School is a centre of excellence and to maintain this position it is essential that the curriculum is constantly evolving. All departments are constantly reviewing what is taught and how it is taught at both key stages. In particular:

- the pace of lessons
- the most appropriate time for assessment and the methods of assessment
- the suitability of courses being offered

Students in Years 7-9 study one modern foreign language (usually French, sometimes Spanish). Students whose capability in English would make it difficult for them to learn a foreign language may pursue a literacy skills course instead.

In Year 7 students are taught in mixed ability groups for the majority of the time, the exception being mathematics. In subsequent years there is an increasing amount of setting according to ability. This is done in order to match the learning experiences to the ability of the student so that they reach the highest possible standards of achievements.

The learning support team work closely with all departments, supporting students so that they all have access to the curriculum (see separate section).

The curriculum at Summerhill never stands still. It is constantly evolving to meet the needs of our students and we believe that at present we offer a first class curriculum delivered by first class staff in a modern superbly equipped building.

SUMMERHILL SCHOOL STAFF INFORMATION FILE

In Years 7 and 8 students study:	In Year 9, students study:	In Years 10 and 11 students study:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Mathematics • Science • Modern Foreign Language (usually French, sometimes Spanish) • Art • Design and Technology • Geography • History • Computing • Music • Physical Education • Religious Studies • Literacy • Personal, Social, Health & Enterprise Education (PSHEE)/ Careers/ Citizenship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Mathematics • Science • Modern Foreign Language (French) • Geography • History • Physical Education • Literacy • PSHEE / Careers / Citizenship / Religious Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English(GCSE) • Mathematics (GCSE) • Science (GCSE) • Physical Education (non-examination) • PSHEE / Careers / Citizenship / Religious Education (non-examination)
	<p>In addition, students have 3 choices from our list of Year 9 options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art • Computer Science • Design Technology • Food & Nutrition • Music • Religious Studies 	<p>In addition, students have four choices from our list of Year 10 & 11 options (subjects are listed below)</p>

The following courses were offered to Y9 students as part of our Year 10 and 11 options process in Spring 2016:

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|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Art ▪ Business Studies ▪ Computer Science ▪ Creative Media Production (WJEC certificate) ▪ Drama ▪ D&T Graphic Products ▪ D&T Resistant Materials ▪ D&T Textiles ▪ Film Studies ▪ Food & Nutrition ▪ French | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Geography ▪ Health & Social Care ▪ History ▪ ICT ▪ Law ▪ Music ▪ PE ▪ Psychology ▪ Religious Studies ▪ Sociology ▪ Spanish |
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The above courses are at GCSE level unless otherwise stated.

We also offered students a range of courses as part of the West Dudley Consortium:

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|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Animal Management (BTEC) ▪ Construction (BTEC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hairdressing (NVQ) ▪ Performing Arts (BTEC) |
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We expect to offer a similar range of courses in future years, with the exact list evolving to meet the predicted needs of students.

SUMMERHILL SCHOOL STAFF INFORMATION FILE

NEW TECHNOLOGY

The present buildings contain an abundance of up to date technology. We have always used ICT in our teaching in order to help equip our students with the knowledge they will require when they go on to further education or work. The ratio of students to computers is 2.5:1 in the school. All teaching rooms have computer access and an interactive whiteboard. There are four specialist areas that can be booked by staff so that whole classes can work on computers. Students also have access to computers at lunchtime and after school.

The technology department is fortunate in having modern, extremely well-equipped facilities, which include a sublimation printer, laser-cutter and 3D-printer.

THE WIDER CURRICULUM

Each year we have 7 Enrichment Days. On these days the normal school timetable is suspended so that we can deliver PSHE, Citizenship, Careers and Religious Education. These high-profile days enable us to make the best possible use of our in-house expertise, and to bring in outside specialists as appropriate. Whole days enable the learning to be structured in different ways according to its focus, and bring many opportunities for working collaboratively, on extended tasks and breaking down traditional divisions within the curriculum.

Summerhill has a proud tradition of providing its students with a large range of extra-curricular activities. All of these activities are seen as enhancing the learning experience and providing students with opportunities not available during the school day. They are very much valued by both students and their parents, as can be seen by the large numbers attending.

Sporting activities are catered for, with regular competitive games in cricket, football, hockey, rounders, rugby, tag rugby and tennis. Summerhill teams also compete in athletics, cross-country, gymnastics and swimming. Non-competitive activities are also important, with clubs running during the year for badminton, basketball, dance, gymnastics, multi-gym, multi skills and swimming.

The quality of the music department has long been recognised. Individual peripatetic tuition is available to all students. There are regular practices and concerts for a range of ensembles and choirs. There are a diverse range of groups including the Summerhill Choral Society, Summerhill Singers, Boyz Noyz, Summerhill Band, Handchime group and Recorder group.

The Learning Centre is available for students after school Monday to Thursday until 5.00 pm. Homework Club offers extra support to any student who requires help. Other clubs include Chess, Debating, Film-making and Drama. We also enter many local and national competitions and quizzes such as the Law Mock Trial.

As well as clubs, we believe that trips and visits are a wonderful chance for students to enhance their learning. Each year departments run day trips which are closely tied into the curriculum. There are residential trips to France, skiing holidays and trips further across the globe (e.g. USA, China and Iceland).

SUMMERHILL SCHOOL STAFF INFORMATION FILE

CURRICULUM STRUCTURE

Years 7 & 8 Curriculum

Year 9 Curriculum

Number of lessons each week

Subjects	Year 7	Year 8
English	4	4
Maths	4	4
Science	4	4
MFL	4	4
Art	1	1
Computing	2	2
DT	2	2
Geography	2	2
History	2	2
Music	1	1
PE	2	2
RE	1	1
Literacy	1	1
TOTAL	30	30

Subjects	Year 9
English	4
Maths	4
Science	4
MFL	2
Geography	2
History	2
Literacy	1
PE	2
Option A	3
Option B	3
Option C	3
TOTAL	30

Years 10 & 11 Curriculum

Subjects	Year 10	Year 11
English	5	5
Maths	5	5
Science	6	6
PE	2	2
Option A	3	3
Option B	3	3
Option C	3	3
Option D	3	3
TOTAL	30	30