



**ADCOTE  
SCHOOL**

# **CURRICULUM POLICY**

Reviewed by: Nicola Tribe

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Next review: Sep 2024

## INTRODUCTION

Our School's curriculum is all of the planned activities that we organise in order to promote learning, personal growth and development. Adcote aims to offer a broad and balanced range of educational experiences that will encourage students to develop a sense of responsibility for their community and their environment, whilst discovering and stretching their individual academic, creative and sporting talents.

Adcote wants pupils to grow into positive, responsible young women who can work and cooperate with each other while, at the same time, developing their knowledge and skills in order to achieve their true potential and prepare for a successful life in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

We value the breadth of the curriculum that we provide and aim to use it to foster confidence, leadership, engagement, achievement and resilience in our pupils, following the CLEAR Learning initiative. Above all we believe in providing each pupil with a sense of their own worth within a safe, caring environment and the opportunity to reach or exceed their expectations.

The aims of our School curriculum are:

- To enable all pupils to learn and develop their skills to the best of their ability.
- To teach pupils about the world they live in and their place in it.
- To enable pupils to have respect for themselves and high self-esteem, and to live and work cooperatively with others.
- To help pupils understand the importance of fairness and the difference between right and wrong so that they grow up committed to equal opportunities for all
- To appreciate the value and contribution made by all ethnic groups in our multicultural society.
- To uphold the fundamental values of British democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.
- To promote a positive attitude towards learning so that pupils enjoy school and acquire a solid basis for lifelong, independent learning.
- To enable pupils to be creative and develop their own thinking.
- To teach pupils the necessary knowledge and skills to tackle life in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century using the CLEAR Learning initiative.

## ADCOTE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Subjects for each year group will have both medium and long term plans in their scheme of work. Updated as and when required for changes to specifications and legislation.

### LOWER PREP (Years 3 to 5) KS2

We follow a curriculum that prioritises Literacy and Numeracy alongside a broad range of other subjects. All subjects are compulsory.

Subject	Lessons per week (out of 25)
English	5
Maths	5
Science	2
Humanities	2
Drama	1
Games	2
PE	2
Spanish	1
Art	1
Textiles	1
ICT	1
Music	1
Form Time	1

### Year 6

Subject	Lessons per week (out of 25)
English	5
Maths	5
Science	2
Drama	1
PE	2
Games afternoon	2
Geography	1
Spanish	1
History	1
ICT	1
Art	1
Music	1
Textiles	1
Form Time	1

The syllabus for each academic subject is planned in accordance with the National Curriculum and the skills and content are broadly in line with the National Curriculum and are updated to reflect changes in this document when appropriate. The Primary Framework is a key resource. There is specialist teaching in Art, Textiles, ICT, Spanish, Music, Drama and PE throughout the Lower Prep School. Swimming is a weekly taught subject in the Autumn term.

Teaching in Lower Prep is largely form-based, in small class sizes. Form and Specialist Teachers are supported by Teaching Assistants in some lessons as appropriate. A full programme of termly visits is organised for each class to support the curriculum. In addition to this, there are residential visits for Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6.

### YEARS 7 TO 9 - KS3

The whole curriculum is taught by subject specialists and, for the most part, in subject based classrooms to make full use of departmental resources.

#### Year 7 & 8

Subject	Lessons per week (out of 25)
English	4
Maths	4
Science	4
History	1
Geography	1
Spanish	2
ICT	1
Textiles	1
Art	1
Music	1
Drama	1
PE	1
Games afternoon	2
PSHE/CLEAR	1

#### Year 9

Subject	Lessons per week (out of 25)
English	4
Maths	4
Biology	1
Chemistry	1
Physics	1
History	1
Geography	1
Spanish	2

ICT	1
Art	1
Textiles	1
Music	1
Drama	1
Food	1
PE	1
Games afternoon	2
PSHE/CLEAR	1

There are two parallel forms of approximately 10-14 in each year groups 7 and 9, and three forms in Year 8 with approx.18 students. The curriculum offers a very broad and balanced curriculum and an emphasis on taking part in a wide range of activities and on learning how to be part of a community. Year 9 girls are taught Biology, Chemistry and Physics separately. All girls use laptops to support their learning. As girls go up the school there is an increasing programme of cross-curricular ICT delivery, encouraging girls to see their skills as tools to a further end.

English, Maths and the three Sciences teach their GCSE courses over three years, starting in Year 9. This allows more time to cover the specification in more depth.

#### **YEARS 10 AND 11 - KS4**

Years 10 and 11 are the GCSE years. All girls study a common core of English, English Literature, Mathematics, and Biology. All take, in addition, up to three optional subjects, chosen from Art, Business, Chemistry, Drama, Food Preparation and Nutrition, Geography, History, IMedia, Music, PE, Physics, Spanish and Textiles. All girls have PE and PSHE, which includes a comprehensive study skills programme. Girls choose between Wayfarers and CCF in Year 10, with guided study provided in Year 11. Girls may also choose a twilight subject of a two year GCSE in Astronomy, Photography or Further Maths. At both GCSE and A Level, our aim is to give girls a free choice of subjects, rather than requiring them to choose from groups of subjects as dictated by the timetable.

#### Year 10 and 11

Subject	Lessons per week (out of 25)
GCSE English Language or IGCSE English as a Second Language	2
GCSE English Literature	2
GCSE Maths	3
Triple Science	6
PE	1
Games Afternoon	2

GCSE History GCSE Geography GCSE Spanish GCSE Art & Design: Fine Art GCSE Art & Design: Textile Design GCSE Business GCSE Music GCSE Physical Education GCSE Drama GCSE I Media GCSE Religious Studies GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition	Options subjects with 2 lessons each
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Pupils who enter Year 11 to complete GCSEs in one year take compulsory English and Maths and a selection from the sciences. Other subjects are possible if the pupil demonstrates a secure background and knowledge in the subject.

### YEARS 12 AND 13 - KS5

The small Sixth form teaching groups foster friendly and supportive relationships between staff and girls. Subject choices include Art, Biology, Business, Chemistry, Drama, Economics, English Literature, Geography, History, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physical Education, Physics, Psychology, and Textiles. Girls have the opportunity to follow additional courses to supplement their A Level studies. We currently offer one year courses in CMI Level 3, and The Extended Project Qualification (AQA), and a variety of half-term short courses. All pupils in the Sixth Form follow the enrichment programme. In addition, all pupils take PE in a sport or physical activity of their choosing. A wide range of activities is on offer from aerobics to CCF.

Year 12 and Year 13

Subject	Lessons per week (out of 25)
PE	1
PSHE	1
GCE Maths GCE Further Maths GCE Biology GCE Chemistry GCE Physics GCE English Literature GCE History GCE Geography GCE Economics GCE Business Studies GCE Psychology GCE Art & Design: Fine Art GCE Art & Design: Textile Design GCE Physical Education	Options subjects with 4 lessons each

Cambridge National Diploma Performing Arts	
EPQ	2 lessons
CMI	2 lessons

School policy is that students following the new linear GCE courses do not take the new AS exams at the end of Year 12.

There is additional EAL/IELTS support throughout weekdays, evenings and weekend sessions. Refer to the EAL Policy for further information.

#### IN SUMMARY

For a small school Adcote School prides itself on the breadth of our curriculum for all ages, in particular the range of subjects offered at GCSE and A Level, and our uptake of STEM subjects in the Sixth Form is significantly above the national rate for girls.