

Key Stage 3, 4 & 5 Curriculum

Introduction

Knightsfield School is committed to providing a personalised curriculum for our students so they can develop the necessary intellectual, personal, social and physical abilities for adult life.

Our teaching is directed towards the requirements of the National Curriculum and conforms to the principle that all pupils should receive a broad and balanced curriculum, with approaches which address the special educational needs of hearing impairment and other SEND. Our emphasis is on the needs of each child. Learning activities are differentiated to ensure that our deaf pupils can access the full range of subjects. Pupils have many opportunities to develop their self-esteem, their resilience and independence in order to transition well to the Key Stage 5 curriculum.

Organisation of the curriculum

At Key Stage 3, pupils are able to take one of two pathways. These are dependent on the pupil's individual needs, both academic and personal. In liaison with parents, and taking into account the outcomes set out in their EHCPs, pupils' needs are met with our flexible approach to curriculum organisation. One route involves most lessons in the specialist acoustic environment of Knightsfield, making best use of the small class sizes and the Teachers of the Deaf subject-specialists.

Pupils on this route take the following subjects at Knightsfield with their year group class: English, Maths, Science, Humanities (this encompasses History, Geography and RE), ICT, D&T, art, PSHCE and German. They are then integrated into the neighbouring mainstream school (Monk's Walk School) for PE, art and drama lessons. Here they are supported by specialist Teaching Assistants who can also note-take for them when required.

All lessons are 50 minutes long and have the following allocations over the week:

KS3 Subject	Lessons over week
English	4
Maths	3
Science	3
Humanities	3
ICT	1
D&T	2
Art	1
PSHCE	2
German	1
Music	1
Art (Monk's Walk)	1
PE (Monk's Walk)	2
Drama (Monk's Walk)	1

Key Stage 3, 4 & 5 Curriculum

The second route meets the needs of pupils who can manage the mainstream listening environment of Monk's Walk School in more 'language heavy' subjects. They excel in certain subjects in addition to art, drama and PE. With specialist Teaching Assistant support, they can opt to take any of the following subjects: English, maths, science and humanities, for example. These are timetabled to match the equivalent lessons at Knightsfield, so that the pupils are able to access the optimum number of lessons with their deaf peer group.

In addition to the subjects, all pupils take part in daily 'language' sessions for 30 minutes. These are taught in mixed year groups to ensure pupils get to integrate to enable social inclusion in the sessions. They therefore support the pupils in the following areas: listening skills, deaf awareness, reading and social emotional and mental health. In addition, there are daily assemblies, in which pupils either attend a whole school assembly, work together on topics to present in pupil assemblies or work on reviewing progress towards their learning targets.

At Key Stage 4, pupils take the compulsory subjects; English, maths, science, PSHCE, RE, ICT and PE at the appropriate level for their needs. They then opt to take subjects at GCSE level or at a lower level such as Entry Level and other certificates. Some of these subjects would require pupils to integrate into the neighbouring mainstream school. Typical option subjects include: GCSE art, GCSE drama, GCSE PE, GCSE Computing, BTech Music, Entry Level Food Studies, Entry Level Textiles and iMedia Cambridge Nationals, for example. All lessons are either 50 or 55 minutes according to the time of the day and have the following allocations over the week:

KS4 Compulsory Subject	Lessons over week
English	4
Maths	4
Science	4
PSHCE	1
RE	1
ICT	2
PE	2

Specialisation of the Key Stage 3 and 4 curriculum

Opportunities are made, as part of the day-to-day curriculum, for pupils to undertake a variety of educational trips during school time. Examples include a visit to a place of historical or religious significance, a visit to a museum and taking part in creative workshops. Where possible pupils are also taken out after school to visit theatres or to join activities with other pupils, often from the deaf community.

Our termly activities days, annual theatre week and music day as well as the end of year activities week aim to promote pupils' self-esteem, develop social skills, thinking skills and encourage cooperative working through a range of team building, life skills and practical activities.

Key Stage 3, 4 & 5 Curriculum

- Speech and Language Therapists work with individual pupils and small groups to optimise the pupils' language development in collaboration with Teachers of the Deaf.
- Specialist Teaching Assistants work closely with pupils and teachers to support pupils' individual needs and foster their independence. They are given ongoing training to understand the needs of our pupils.
- Popular lunchtime clubs such as robot club, Minecraft club and Bollywood club instil a love for learning and allow for purposeful relaxation.
- Additional funding (Pupil Premium and Catch-Up funding) is used to support selected groups to develop their literacy and numeracy skills through targeted group work.
- British Values are an intrinsic part of lesson content, PSHCE sessions and whole school assemblies alongside the promotion of a multi-cultural outlook.
- Work experience opportunities support pupils to explore the world of work and to develop confidence in the work environment and is supported by content in PSHCE.
- All pupils are allocated a key 'Achievement for All' teacher who is able to work with families and pupils regularly to celebrate successes and work on individualised targets.

KS5 Curriculum

At KS5, we provide a tailored curriculum to the individual needs of each pupil and provide the appropriate pathway by working with partner colleges and Monk's Walk School.

Curriculum development and monitoring

Observations, scrutinies of classwork and learning walks take place throughout the year in addition to the appraisal system. This is to ensure high quality Teaching and Learning is consistent across the school. Both Teachers of the Deaf and Teaching assistants at Knightsfield as well as staff at Monk's Walk school are monitored and feedback is provided in line with our policies.

English and maths coordinators lead their subject at a whole school level, allowing them to contribute to all pupils' outcomes and to provide expertise in these key areas.

Regular pupil feedback and evaluation allows staff to reflect on what is working successfully and what can be altered to better meet needs. Activity weeks as well as end of topic evaluations allow pupils to explain their opinions and have a say in the delivery and focus of learning.

Shared lesson observations and team teaching allow staff to keep their skills up-to-date and to explore Thinking and Learning Skills in depth. This climate of development is encouraged and pupils benefit from the collaborative learning and challenging tasks.

Trustees visits are welcomed and take place regularly. Trustees visit lessons, assemblies, activity days as well as attend calendared evening events. This helps to foster good relationships and allows trustees to challenge the school regarding outcomes and practices based on what they have seen in person.

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