

Curriculum Policy

At Researchers Schoolhouse, we have crafted a distinctive educational journey that harmoniously blends the British Curriculum with the enriching philosophies of Waldorf pedagogy. From Nursery through Year 5, our students embark on a holistic learning adventure that not only adheres to academic excellence but also fosters deep intellectual and emotional growth.

Our approach centres around immersing students in eight core subjects: Mathematics, English (Literacy), Mother Tongue (taught in Romanian following the Romanian curriculum), Science, History, Geography, Computing, and Financial Education, which culminates each term. Unlike traditional models, we utilise a method known as **All Grades Experiences (AGEs)**, where each subject is explored intensively over the course of a week. This immersive strategy allows students to delve deeply into the material, promoting profound understanding and long-term retention.

Main subjects like Mathematics, English, and Mother Tongue are revisited more frequently to reinforce foundational skills. During AGEs, we weave in cross-curricular activities, enriching the learning experience by connecting disciplines. For instance, Mathematics might be paired with Paintings and Drawings, while Literacy intertwines with Drama, and Geography comes alive through Dance and Music. This interdisciplinary approach not only enhances cognitive development but also nurtures creativity and critical thinking.

Inspired by the time-honoured success of Waldorf pedagogy, we believe that focusing on one subject at a time reduces cognitive overload and grants students the necessary space to truly assimilate knowledge. Over the years, we have witnessed how this method fosters a love for learning, as students are not rushed through topics but are given the freedom to explore and internalise concepts thoroughly.

Our teaching model is equally unique. Starting from Year 1, we move away from the traditional system of assigning one teacher to a single age group. Instead, we have six dedicated main teachers who rotate among all year groups according to a dynamic weekly schedule that aligns with each AGE. This rotation ensures that students benefit from the diverse expertise and teaching styles of each educator, while teachers gain a comprehensive understanding of the developmental continuum across different ages.

Professional development is a cornerstone of our philosophy. Our teachers engage in weekly training sessions—sometimes even twice a week—where they collaborate on strategies to enhance students' vocabulary using tiered words and create immersive English language opportunities beyond the conventional academic setting. They have access to a wealth of international resources from esteemed institutions like Oxford and Cambridge, which they adapt or supplement with their own materials to meet the specific objectives of our curriculum. In addition to our regular in-house training sessions, all our teachers and educators have access to the comprehensive professional development platform offered by [National College](#). This esteemed platform provides a wealth of resources, including

up-to-date training modules, webinars, and courses that cover the latest advancements in education, teaching strategies, and curriculum development.

By engaging with National College's resources, our educators stay current with innovative pedagogical approaches and emerging educational technologies. This continuous professional growth empowers them to integrate fresh ideas and best practices into their teaching, directly enriching the classroom experience. It also fosters a collaborative learning environment among staff, as they can share insights and strategies gained from the platform.

Access to such a reputable professional development resource underscores our commitment to excellence in education. It ensures that our teachers are not only well-equipped to meet the diverse needs of our students but are also inspired to continuously enhance their skills. Ultimately, this dedication to professional advancement benefits our entire school community, as it leads to more effective teaching and a more dynamic, engaging learning environment for our students.

Assessment at our school is an ongoing, formative process. Teachers continuously evaluate students' understanding through various methods, including long-term projects, independent classwork, and collaborative tasks. Each week, they assess and record progress in areas such as conceptual grasp, independence, teamwork, behaviour, effort, and attendance. These insights are compiled into detailed reports that are shared with parents at the end of each term, fostering a transparent partnership in each child's educational journey.

When a student faces challenges—be it academic, behavioural, or emotional—we proactively engage with parents to devise supportive plans for improvement. Each year group is supported by a dedicated tutor (the class assistant) and a Learning Coach (one of the main teachers). These mentors hold weekly meetings to discuss student progress and are readily available for students seeking guidance or wishing to voice concerns.

At the heart of our teaching philosophy is the conviction that education extends beyond mere academics. By integrating artistic expression, emotional development, and practical life skills into our curriculum, we aim to cultivate well-rounded individuals. Our students are not only prepared for academic success but are also equipped with the empathy, resilience, and creativity needed to navigate and contribute positively to the world.

Through this innovative and compassionate approach to education, we strive to inspire a lifelong passion for learning in every student, nurturing not just scholars, but confident, thoughtful, and engaged members of society.

1. Introduction

At Researchers Schoolhouse, we are committed to providing a unique and enriching educational experience that fosters holistic development. Our curriculum is rooted in the

British Curriculum for primary education, starting from Nursery and progressing up to Year 5. While we adhere to the standards of the British educational system, our approach is distinctively inspired by Waldorf pedagogy, emphasising depth of learning and long-term retention. This policy outlines the aims, structure, and implementation of our curriculum, ensuring that every student receives a balanced and comprehensive education.

2. Curriculum Aims and Objectives

- **Holistic Development:** Nurture intellectual, emotional, social, and physical growth.
- **Deep Learning:** Promote sustained focus on subjects to enhance understanding and retention.
- **Cultural and Linguistic Diversity:** Celebrate and incorporate students' mother tongues and cultural backgrounds.
- **Critical Thinking and Creativity:** Encourage innovative thinking through interdisciplinary learning.
- **Lifelong Learning:** Instil a passion for learning that extends beyond the classroom.

3. Curriculum Framework

Our curriculum encompasses eight main subjects:

1. **Mathematics**
2. **English (Literacy)**
3. **Mother Tongue** (Romanian curriculum taught in Romanian)
4. **Science**
5. **History**
6. **Geography**
7. **Computing**
8. **Financial Education** (concluding each term)

AGEs (All Grades Experiences)

We implement a unique teaching methodology known as AGEs, where subjects are taught intensively over a week. The AGEs are as follows:

- **Maths, Paintings and Drawings**
- **Literacy and Drama**
- **Geography, Dance and Music**
- **History and Handmade Arts**
- **Science**
- **Computing and Maths Challenges**
- **Financial Education**
- **Mother Tongue and Emotional Development**

This approach allows students to delve deeply into each subject, promoting better concentration and cognitive assimilation.

4. Teaching and Learning Approaches

- **Waldorf-Inspired Pedagogy:** Emphasises immersive learning experiences and artistic expression.
- **Subject Rotation:** Focus on one subject per week to reduce cognitive overload and enhance memory retention.
- **Cross-Curricular Integration:** Combine subjects to create interdisciplinary connections.
- **Differentiation:** Tailor instruction to meet diverse learning needs and styles.
- **Interactive Learning:** Utilise pair and group work to foster collaboration and communication skills.
- **Formative Assessment:** Continuous evaluation through projects, classwork, and group activities.

5. Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

- **Cultural Inclusivity:** Mother Tongue classes honour and develop students' native language skills.
- **Accessibility:** Curriculum designed to be accessible to all students, including those with special educational needs.
- **Emotional Support:** Emphasis on emotional development to support well-being and resilience.
- **Equal Participation:** Ensure all students have equal opportunities to engage in all activities.

6. Assessment and Reporting

- **Weekly Evaluations:** Teachers assess students based on understanding, independence, collaboration, behaviour, effort, and attendance.
- **Parental Communication:** Weekly reports are compiled and sent to parents at the end of each term.
- **Data-Driven Planning:** Assessment results inform future teaching strategies and interventions.
- **Support Plans:** Individual plans are developed for students needing additional support academically, behaviorally, or emotionally.

7. Staffing and Professional Development

- **Team Teaching:** Six main teachers rotate among all year groups, providing specialised instruction.
- **Weekly Training:** Teachers participate in weekly (sometimes bi-weekly) professional development sessions.
- **Collaborative Planning:** Teachers receive clear weekly objectives and collaborate to ensure curriculum coverage.

- **Resource Access:** Educators have access to international resources (Oxford, Cambridge, etc.) and are encouraged to create customised materials.
- **Vocabulary Enhancement:** Ongoing focus on expanding students' English vocabulary across all school settings.

8. Curriculum Enrichment

- **Artistic Endeavours:** Incorporation of arts, dance, music, and handmade crafts to enrich learning.
- **Financial Literacy:** Termly focus on financial education to build practical life skills.
- **Emotional Intelligence:** Dedicated time for emotional development and well-being activities.
- **Community Engagement:** Encourage connections with the broader community through projects and events.

9. Monitoring and Review

- **Continuous Improvement:** Regular review of curriculum effectiveness based on student outcomes and feedback.
- **Stakeholder Involvement:** Include input from teachers, students, and parents in curriculum development.
- **Adaptive Planning:** Adjust teaching strategies based on weekly assessments and discussions.

10. Compliance and Accountability

- **Educational Standards:** Curriculum aligns with the British Curriculum standards and fulfils regulatory requirements.
- **Transparent Documentation:** Maintain clear records of curriculum plans, assessments, and reports.
- **Accountability Measures:** Teachers are accountable for delivering the curriculum objectives and monitoring student progress.

11. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains current and effective. The next review date is scheduled for July, 2025