



## Curriculum Policy

This policy should be read in conjunction with the curriculum documents for Lower School, Middle School and the Sixth Form, each of which gives much greater detail about the curricular provision at each level. Also relevant are the Personal Development (PSHCE), Career Guidance and Other Half policies and documents, which demonstrate other key ways in which the necessary curricular areas are addressed at Abingdon.

The points below outline Abingdon's curricular provision in relation to the Independent School Standards Regulations (ISSR).

Abingdon's curriculum provides for the following:

**a. the full-time supervised education for pupils of compulsory school age (construed in accordance with section 8 of the Education Act 1996), which gives pupils experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical, and aesthetic and creative education;**

**"Full-time"**: Abingdon usually has 34 teaching weeks per year, split over 3 terms; normal school hours for day pupils are from 8.35am to 5.20pm. In addition to this, there are activities for many on Saturdays, most particularly sports fixtures. The boarding community has its own programme to cover times outside of the normal day boy hours and weekends.

**Curriculum coverage**: English, Mathematics, the three Sciences and one Modern Foreign Language are taught as compulsory subjects from Year 7 to GCSE level. DT, Art, Computing, RS, Geography and History are compulsory in years 7 to 9 and become options thereafter. Latin, Drama and Music are compulsory in years 7&8 and become options for years 9 to 11. Other options for year 9 and above are Greek, Electronics, Ancient History and a second or third Modern Foreign Language. Alongside the classroom curriculum, all boys have a programme of compulsory PE up to year 11 and sporting involvement of some kind is expected up to year 13.

**b. pupils to acquire skills in speaking and listening, literacy and numeracy;**

Boys follow compulsory English and Mathematics courses to the end of year 11, and also acquire these skills through the great range of subjects and teaching on offer throughout the school.

**c. where the principal language of instruction is a language other than English, lessons in written and spoken English, except that this requirement shall not apply in respect of a school which provides education for pupils who are all temporarily resident in England and which follows the curriculum of another country;**

At Abingdon, the principal language of instruction is English.

**d. personal, social, health and economic education which reflects the school's aims and ethos and encourages respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the 2010 Act(a);**

Abingdon has a clear and carefully thought through Personal Development (PSHCE/PDE) programme running throughout the school from year 7 to year 13 and a teacher who has the specific responsibility for overseeing its delivery. The key ways this programme is delivered are through tutorial meetings, year group lectures and specifically focused seminar sessions. Many aspects of the requirement to respect other people will also be covered in the School's compulsory RS provision up to year 9 as well as in other lessons and the programme of talks in weekly chapel gatherings, house meetings and school assemblies.

**e. for pupils receiving secondary education, access to accurate, up-to-date careers guidance that is presented in an impartial manner, enables them to make informed choices about a broad range of career options and helps them to fulfil their potential;**

Abingdon has a Careers department with a full time teacher who devotes the great majority of their time to overseeing and delivering the provision in this area. There is a well considered approach to careers guidance for each year group which includes group seminars and 1-2-1 advice and ISCO testing is used for most boys in the Middle School (unless they opt out) with follow-up interviews. The great majority of boys are helped to undertake work experience in year 11 and there is a healthy provision of internships, usually for boys in year 12, thanks to the generosity of Old Abingdonians. The master in charge of careers also speaks at assemblies and comments on subject choices at options times in conjunction with advice from tutors and teachers on appropriate GCSE and AS level choices. Additionally there is a yearly Careers Fair, in conjunction with two other Abingdon schools, giving year 11 boys the opportunity to meet professionals from a wide variety of careers. Given the great majority of Abingdon's year 11 continue with secondary education into years 12 and 13 and then continue into tertiary education, there is also a dedicated Universities Applications department which advises on university and course choice, both in the UK and beyond.

[f. Regulation f is related to below compulsory school age children - not relevant for Abingdon School]

**g. where the school has pupils above compulsory school age, a programme of activities which is appropriate to their needs;**

Abingdon offers a wide range of A level and pre-U qualifications in years 12 & 13 appropriate to the intellectual and practical interests and talents of its boys. Alongside this there is a General Studies (Personal Development) programme designed to offer a broader view of society and a variety of issues, from the moral and social to the very practical, as well as offering opportunities for further practical and intellectual extension. Within Abingdon's Other Half programme there are myriad opportunities for a Sixth Former to engage with intellectual, physical and practical pursuits complementary to the main curriculum.

**h. all pupils to have the opportunity to learn and make progress;**

At Abingdon all pupils, whatever their intellectual potential, EAL or LDD needs, are enabled to learn and make rapid progress, both through the formal academic curriculum as well as Abingdon's extensive Other Half (extra-curricular) provision. Boys' progress is monitored and formally commented on five times a year via the Reporting system and there are various other ways in which teachers and tutors follow the development of the boys and use assessment to inform future teaching and learning.

**i. effective preparation of pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in British society.**

Abingdon's curriculum is more than adequate in its preparation of boys in this area. Intellectual, physical, social, moral, cultural and spiritual growth are clearly nurtured through the school's wide-ranging teaching provision at all levels as well as through the tutoring system, assemblies, chapel services and section-specific lectures. Many opportunities are given to boys to prepare themselves for adult life, from leadership opportunities in a great many areas of school life to the school's emphasis on the importance of service and charitable giving, of both time and effort as well as finance.

**It is part of the School's commitment that this policy and all plans and schemes of work**

**(i) take into account the ages, aptitudes and needs of all pupils, including those pupils with an EHC plan; and**

**(ii) do not undermine the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.**

Commentary on (i) above:

In years 7, 8 and 9 Abingdon provides a broad-based, challenging and appropriate curriculum suited to its typical intake of pupils, which tends to be of high ability and potential. In years 10 and 11, Abingdon follows GCSE and iGCSE courses and in years 12 and 13, A Level courses are pursued. In many subjects, across the school, boys are setted by ability to enable the provision of sensible differentiation. Abingdon currently has no pupils with an EHC plan, but does have a number of boys receiving Learning Support. In the event of a pupil with an EHC plan being admitted to the school, Abingdon would undertake to ensure the curriculum delivered was appropriate to the needs of that pupil, utilising the resources and advice regarding services available from our Learning Support Department.

**Policy Author: Deputy Head (Academic)**

**Last internal review: October 2018**

**Reviewed by Governors' Education Committee: October 2018**

**Next Review: October 2019**

Other relevant or related policies and documents:

- PSHCE schemes
- Career Guidance Programme
- Other Half booklet
- Curriculum Documents for Lower School, Middle School and Sixth Form