



MILTON ABBAY SCHOOL

Curriculum Policy	
Issue Date:	October 2025
Review Date:	October 2026
Policy contact:	Josh Bradbury, Deputy Head Academic
Approved by:	James Watson, Headmaster

CURRICULUM POLICY

Introduction

Milton Abbey School recognises the importance of offering a broad and balanced curriculum which is underpinned by our shared school aims.

Our curriculum consists of activities designed to promote the intellectual, personal, social, physical and cultural development of pupils. It includes the formal programme of lessons, based on the national curriculum, and the vast programme of extracurricular activities that we organise to enrich pupils' experiences of their lives and education.

Aims

Through the curriculum, the school aims to provide:

- a. full-time supervised education for pupils of compulsory school age, which gives pupils experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical, and aesthetic and creative education;
- b. subject matter appropriate for the ages, needs and aptitudes of pupils, including those pupils with a statement or EHC Plan;
- c. opportunities for pupils to acquire skills in speaking and listening, literacy, and numeracy;
- d. support for those pupils whose principal language of instruction prior to joining Milton Abbey was a language other than English; lessons in written and spoken English where required (please refer to the EAL Policy);
- e. personal, social, health and economic education which reflects the school's aims and ethos and encourages respect and tolerance of others;
- f. appropriate, impartial and up-to-date careers guidance that allows pupils to make informed choices and fulfil their potential;
- g. a programme of activities which is appropriate to the needs of all pupils (including those over compulsory school age);
- h. the opportunity for all pupils to learn and make progress;
- i. effective preparation of pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in British society.

The school largely shadows the National Curriculum, but it also seeks to go beyond this in order to help pupils to achieve in their learning, progression, coherence, relevance and balance.

The curriculum at Milton Abbey is a dynamic and interactive process which focuses on the quality of pupil learning. This quality is not just about the attainment of particular targets and outcomes; it is also concerned with the ability to learn how to learn, to reflect and adapt and to think constructively. We aim to enhance the physical, spiritual and moral well-being of **all** pupils. The curriculum will adapt to changes which occur both externally and internally but is designed to provide the balance needed for all educated members of society.

Rationale

The school's curriculum is designed to provide a balanced programme of education for all pupils in the lower school before they narrow their subject choices and choose specialisms in sixth form. Provision is made for those with special educational needs, but the programmes devised are based upon the concept of, as much inclusion in as wide a range of subject areas as possible. There are 28 periods on the school timetable: six on Mondays and Wednesdays, four on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and four on Saturdays.

Lower School

In the Third Form all pupils will study English, Mathematics, Humanities (Geography, History, Global Awareness), Capability (on rotation with Community Music and Public Speaking), a study skills programme (comprising Business and Enterprise, Digital Skills, and Project and Research), MFL, RS, Science and PSHE. In addition, through a termly carousel, pupils are given optional choices to study subjects that they can take in the Fourth and Fifth form to GCSE or Level 2 BTEC. All pupils are given the opportunity to study a Modern Foreign Language (MFL), with a subsequent review after the first term for those for whom some extra support is needed for specific learning needs. All Third Form pupils take part in "Adventure" which includes aspects of Sports Leadership and other areas and the Bronze DofE Award as part of their timetabled curriculum. The most recent version of the Third Form Curriculum Booklet can be found on our website [here](#) and is updated annually.

Third Form period allocations:

Subject	Lessons per week
English	4
Maths	4
Science (Physics, Biology and Chemistry)	3
Humanities (History, Geography, Global Awareness)	3
RS	1
Adventure (Sports and Duke of Edinburgh)	2
Capability/Enterprise/Digital Skills/Project	1
Community Music/Public Speaking	1
PSHE	1
MFL (or Learning Development (LD)/EAL)	2
Carousel (four subjects)	6

On joining the Fourth Form, pupils follow a two-year programme which leads to them taking between six and nine GCSEs and/or Level 2 BTECs according to their aptitude, interests and learning requirements. Pupils follow the core curriculum of English, Mathematics, Science and PSHE. The school is committed to delivering a dynamic and broad curriculum which offers vocational options alongside traditional GCSE subjects. Pupils are therefore able to select Level 2 BTECs in a range of subjects together with other conventional GCSE options. Some pupils will also undertake English Literature along with English Language; for those not taking English Literature, a level 1 course in Digital Skills or a project qualification (FPQ/HPQ dependant on ability) is available. In Science pupils follow the double award Combined Science curriculum, with those for whom this presents a greater challenge being able to access the ELC qualification to support their outcomes (previously Single GCSE Biology - now legacy). The most recent version of this Curriculum Booklet can be found on our website [here](#) and is updated annually.

Fourth and Fifth Form period allocations:

Subject	Lessons per week
English	4
Maths	4
Combined Science Double Award(Physics, Biology and Chemistry)	6
Optional Subjects (four)	12
English Literature/Project/Digital Skills	1
PSHE	1

Sixth Form

On completion of GCSEs pupils choose their Sixth Form courses dependent upon their aptitude, ability and interest. The curriculum is planned to enable pupils to select the right combination of subjects to allow them to move to their chosen university or career. The school offers A Levels in a variety of subjects tailored toward pupil interests. Pupils can also select Level 3 BTEC Diplomas in a number of vocational subjects. Each A Level or Single BTEC is taught over five periods, qualifications worth more than one A Level are taught over a proportionate number of lessons. All pupils also follow a PSHE curriculum with a weekly PSHE session. We offer opportunity for pupils to extend their learning through the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) which gives them an opportunity to study a topic of interest in more depth and to develop their research skills. Upon starting Sixth Form pupils have a number of supervised study sessions to provide further support on timetable; these are reduced as appropriate and in conjunction with each student's tutor and subject teachers.

The most recent version of the Sixth Form Curriculum Booklet can be found on our website [here](#) and is updated annually.

Learning Development and EAL Support

All pupils have access to the Learning Development Department which offers a range of timetabled support to pupils with specific learning needs as well as drop-in sessions. Pupils can receive study support, Learning Development lessons which address a specific learning need e.g. dyslexia, or English as an Additional Language (EAL) lessons. Pupils who have EAL lessons will be following a programme that will allow them to complete various qualifications including IELTS depending on a variety of aspects such as university destinations.

Extra-Curricular Program

The Extra Curricular options available for pupils play a crucial part in their development as rational and balanced members of society. Hence the school places great emphasis on the artistic, spiritual, physical and social activities that take place within a busy boarding environment. All the activities are open to every pupil and they are positively encouraged to take part in the activities which are on offer. Each day there is an hour clinic slot which enables pupils to access support both for curriculum work and beyond.