



SMITHDON HIGH SCHOOL

CURRICULUM POLICY

Approved by: Governing Body

Approved: December 2025

Next Review: December 2026

Curriculum Vision

Our aim at Smithdon High School is to provide an exceptional education for all our students; an education that brings out the best in all of them and prepares them for success in life.

Our broad, balanced and knowledge-rich curriculum is designed to:

- provide children with the core knowledge they need for success in education and later life,
- ensure they leave Smithdon High School with the qualifications needed to access the next level of their education,
- develop the whole person and the talents of the individual, and
- allow all children to become well rounded, economically self-sufficient and respectful citizens.

Our Curriculum

Our curriculum has subject-specific knowledge at its heart, and we look to the academic disciplines for guidance on the most powerful knowledge to teach. We also seek to learn from research about how this knowledge can be retained in long-term memory, so that every child can reach their full potential and achieve excellent outcomes.

Our curriculum is both inclusive and ambitious: all our students are entitled to a broad, balanced and knowledge-rich curriculum. The development of our students academically, morally, physically and socially reaches far beyond the walls of the classroom, but it is the knowledge gained between these walls that sets them on the path to the happiness and success that they deserve.

In Years 7, 8 and 9 we offer a broad and balanced, knowledge-rich curriculum that gives our students a strong academic grounding in preparation for GCSE study.

At Key Stage 4 we offer a high-quality, academic curriculum, organised over two years to ensure our students achieve their full potential and experience in-depth learning, whilst preparing them for Post-16 education and training.

Through our curriculum, we plan to introduce the best that has been thought and said for pupils to reflect on as they become resilient, compassionate and educated citizens. As such, all of our students follow our ASPIRE curriculum (Achievement, Self-awareness, Purpose, Involvement, Relationships and Emotional intelligence) for 2 hours per fortnight during tutor time, which enables them to develop the skills and experiences needed for life outside school including relationships, health and careers.

Key Stage 3

The curriculum for Key Stage 3 is as follows, this is based on a 50 lesson fortnight.

Subject	Year 7 hours	Year 8 hours	Year 9 hours
English	8	8	8
Mathematics	8	8	8
Science	6	6	6
MFL (French or German)*	4	4	4
Geography	4	4	4
History	4	4	4
Religious Education	2	2	2
Art	2	2	2
Drama	2	2	2
Music	2	2	2
PE	4	4	4
Technology	2	2	2
ICT	2	2	2

*Students will study both French and German in year 7 and then select a preference to study only one in years 8 and 9.

During Year 9 students are given careers advice and guidance in preparation for choosing GCSE subjects for Key Stage 4.

Key Stage 4

All students follow a core curriculum of GCSE's (or equivalent) in English Literature and Language, Mathematics and Science (combined award) and core PE. The majority of our students study a foreign language at GCSE; either French or German. All students must also pick History or Geography (or both). We offer an alternative curriculum including ASDAN to a small number of students. The remaining subjects, to a total of 4 are chosen from the following list:

Art
Drama
Music
Business Studies
Health and Social care
Hospitality and Catering
Health and Social Care
Creative I- Media
Religion, Philosophy and Ethics
Design Technology
PE

Subject	KS4 hours
Core curriculum:	
English	8
Mathematics	7
Science	9
Core PE	2
Subject selections:	
4 x Subjects (see above)	4 x 6

At the end of year 10 some students will be selected to follow the triple science pathway, this is delivered in the same curriculum time as the combined (double award) course. In certain circumstances we seek out and offer alternative, bespoke curricula for students including offsite provision including open road, e-Learning and forest school.