

NEW COLLEGE LEICESTER



Curriculum Policy

January 2010

Curriculum Policy

This policy provides an overview of New College's vision for curriculum entitlement and forms the basis for all faculty and departmental curriculum planning and development.

Aims:

The curriculum will enable all our students to become:

- successful learners who enjoy learning, make good progress and achieve
- confident individuals who are able to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives
- responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to society

To do this, the college will provide a secure but challenging environment relevant to all students; personalised and differentiated to meet their individual needs. It will allow students to develop a wide range of skills, concepts and knowledge and equip them for the next stages of their development whether academic or work related. The individual student's achievement is at the heart of the curriculum.

In operating this policy, the college will ensure that all students strive for excellence through:

- providing a curriculum that is relevant and challenging to all students
- creating a stimulating environment which celebrates student achievement and encourages excellence
- providing suitable resources to enable staff to deliver the curriculum in the most effective way.
- an emphasis on the skills of literacy, numeracy, oracy and ICT

The aims are embedded in the college's commitment to provide equality of opportunity for all students through:

- providing a community which recognises and values the contributions of all students and their communities
- developing strong links within the West of Leicester and actively seeking to enrich and broaden the curriculum offer
- developing a 13 – 19 curriculum that offers pathways and progression for students of all abilities
- giving unbiased advice to students and parents regarding career choices.

The College Curriculum

New College will maintain a broad and balanced curriculum to which students will have equal access. Particular care is taken over the primary / secondary transfer programme to ensure continuity, and the college coordinates this through the Head of Year 7 and Assistant Principal (KS3 Curriculum). Students begin their secondary college education in Year 7 and complete compulsory education at the end of Year 11. The sixth form covers Years 12 and 13 with a range of courses from Level 1 to Level 3.

The Form Tutor and Head of Year follow closely each student's academic, personal and social progress. In addition to the strong emphasis on English, mathematics and science in Key Stage 3, a foreign language, geography and history, the arts, drama, music, physical education, citizenship, Religious Studies and PSHEE all have a high profile.

There are individual and group instrumental lessons available in college taught by instrumental teachers from Leicester Arts and self-employed professional instrumental teachers. There is a small charge for this service.

ICT is taught discreetly and across the curriculum from Year 7 onwards.

Each student receives 25 hours teaching during a normal college week. Students are taught both in ability and mixed ability groups. Additional targeted support is given to those students who have identified need. At times, some of these students are withdrawn for additional tuition, but our philosophy is to have in-class support wherever possible (see SEN policy). Special attention is given to those children assessed as more able (see Gifted & Talented policy), as well as to those students whose abilities develop at a later stage. We consider early GCSE entry where appropriate. The college participates in a variety of projects for very able and talented students.

Home Work

Home work is an essential part of a student's progress. It teaches and encourages organisational skills, personal development, independence and responsibility for learning. Students are given and carry a planner to record homework that has been set and to seek parents' comments. Parents are asked to sign this each week. It may also be used for messages or comments to the form or subject tutor. This gives parents an opportunity to support their child in their studies. Parents are strongly encouraged to show an interest and get involved in the work and progress of their child.

Key Stage 4 Pathways and Careers advice

In Year 9, following guidance activities including careers advice and parents information, students are able to make choices reflecting their areas of interest. The National Curriculum is followed and all students are taught English Language and Literature, maths, science, physical education, Citizenship, Careers and religious studies. In addition, guided pathways include a Technology subject, French, Humanities, Arts and work related subjects. The college has collaborative links with our partners in the West of Leicester Consortium and VESA which enables a wider range of vocational courses to be offered to students. In Year 10, students are grouped in core subjects according to their expected ability at GCSE examination level. A 10 day work experience placement is also undertaken.

At the end of Year 11, following guidance activities, personal interviews, discussions and parents' information evenings, students are able to take pathways into the sixth form to reflect their areas of interest. Most students study work related courses at level 2 and 3 and follow an enrichment programme.

Celebrating excellence and progress

The college has a rewards system of 'catching the students being good' and rewarding them. The college holds an annual prize presentation where awards are made for outstanding achievement and for excellent progress. Additional special prizes are awarded for music, sports, attendance progress and contribution to the year group. Every student in the college has the opportunity to gain an award.

Complaints Procedure in relation to the curriculum

In the event of a complaint concerning the curriculum, parents should in the first instance write to the Principal. The Principal, in liaison with the Vice Principal (Curriculum), will then seek to bring about a resolution of the matter.

If such a resolution does not emerge, parents should write to the Chair the Governing Body who will try to resolve the issue.

If a resolution has still not been arrived at, parents may write to the Chief Executive of Leicester City Council who has the power to invoke a Tribunal.

Related Policies:

- Teaching & Learning
- Home Work
- SEN
- Gifted and Talented
- PHSEE

Achievement

Students have progressed to further education in increasing numbers. Excellent performance comes not only from natural ability but also through effort, motivation and enthusiastic hard work throughout the years of secondary education. The college is particularly conscious of the importance of results and the need for a relevant curriculum to ensure students can follow appropriate higher education or work related opportunities. As a result the college values work related routes and works with agencies such as Connexions and VESA to support students into appropriate pathways.