



William Farr C of E Comprehensive School Curriculum Provision Statement

William Farr C of E Comprehensive School is proud of its reputation for academic excellence and the high standards and expectations shared by all staff and students. Our curriculum supports students to engage with ‘life in all its fullness’ through excellence, exploration and encouragement.

The curriculum at William Farr, which includes the PSHE Programme, will actively seek to support the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of its students in line with the six core values identified by the school of:

Compassion, Friendship, Perseverance, Respect, Responsibility, Wisdom.

“Leaders including governors consistently make bold and ethical decisions, shaped by the vision, to offer students a rich curriculum tailored to their aspirations and interests”

Section 48 SIAMS Report, March 2019

We provide a broad and balanced programme of study by which all students of whatever aptitude and ability can reach their highest standards of progress and academic achievement. We believe that students need to maintain as comprehensive a study base as possible and our curriculum is specifically designed to prevent over specialisation. We believe in developing the Arts and Practical Creative subjects and the merits of students having a creative outlet and developing wider life skills, confidence and self-expression.

During the time students spend at William Farr the academic curriculum is organised to guide them into those subjects where they will develop the greatest sense of achievement. This then leads to clear and ambitious progression pathways for further study and future careers and into the next stages of their development as individual members of society.

Students study a 3-year Key Stage 3, which has breadth and is not narrowed. Within Key Stage 4 the English Baccalaureate (Ebacc) pathway is available to all our students. The Ebacc consists of the core subjects of English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and Science along with the optional subjects of Geography or History and a Language. Students and their parents are encouraged to consider the benefits that the Ebacc offers. Regardless of the pathways selected in Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5, we offer an ambitious and rigorous suite of qualifications for students to choose from. Key Stage 5 students study each of their selected subjects for 5 hours per week, whilst also undertaking the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).

The organisation of subjects in each year may vary because it has always been school policy to allow individual Heads of Department and their staff the professional freedom to decide the most efficient way to teach their discipline from Year 7 to Year 13. This will be done with the support of the Senior Leadership Team, with decisions taken to provide the very best educational provision for our students.

Academic work is but one part of the 'whole curriculum' at William Farr. It is essential that parents join the staff in ensuring that positive student attitudes to their studies are supported by the school systems of welfare, care and guidance. The development and outlook of students is enhanced further by active involvement in many extra-curricular activities to enrich the wider educational diet on offer.