



St Margaret's School

Exeter

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Curriculum Policy

AIMS

St Margaret's School is committed to the development of the full potential of each individual pupil. The School's curriculum is balanced and broadly based, and promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of our pupils preparing them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life, as good citizens. It is based on the fundamentals of the National Curriculum but goes beyond these, as appropriate for St Margaret's pupils.

The School provides:

- Full-time supervised education for pupils of three to eighteen years of age, which gives pupils experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, physical, aesthetic and creative education, appropriate for their ages and aptitudes. Pupils develop skills in speaking and listening, literacy and numeracy.
- Personal, social and health education reflecting the school's aims and ethos
- Appropriate careers guidance

The school sets out to:

- Ensure that pupils develop the essential literacy and numeracy skills
- Provide pupils with a full and balanced entitlement to learning
- Foster pupils' creativity and develop essential skills, including learning skills
- Promote a healthy lifestyle
- Inspire pupils to a commitment to learning which will last a lifetime
- Promote high standards in all learning and teaching
- Ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to learn and make progress

Equal Opportunities

Entry to all programmes of study is based on academic suitability and appropriateness, regardless of sex, race, disability, religion or belief.

Disabilities: In accordance with the statutory requirements the school aims to make the curriculum accessible to all pupils as far as is reasonably practicable.

Differentiation

A variety of differing teaching and learning methods and materials are used in all courses to suit pupils' different needs.

Subjects Offered

KS2 Art, Drama, English, French, Geography, History, ICT, Mathematics, Music, PCCE, PE, RS, Science, Technology (Food Technology and Design Technology)

KS3 Art, Drama, English, French, Geography, German, History, Home Economics, ICT, Mathematics, Music, PCCE, PE, RS, Science, Sociology, Spanish, Textiles.

KS4 Art, Drama, English, French, Geography, German, History, Home Economics, ICT, Mathematics, Music, PCCE, PE, RS, Science, Sociology, Textiles.

Post 16 Art, Biology, Chemistry, Drama, English Literature, French, Further Mathematics, Geography, German, History, Home Economics, Mathematics, Music, PE, Physics, Psychology, RS, Sociology, Spanish.

Current Optional Subject Choices

Y8 & Y9 A choice between Spanish and German is made part way through Y8 following a familiarisation period with both subjects. This replaces basic Latin.

Y10 **Compulsory GCSE Subjects:**
English, English Literature, Mathematics, Science, & Additional Science, one Modern Foreign Language (French, German or Spanish) and RS (short course)

Optional GCSE subjects:

Pupils can take three optional subjects from the following list:

Art, Drama, French, Geography, German, History, Home Economics, Music, PE, Sociology, Spanish.

Or they can opt to study the three Separate Sciences – Biology, Chemistry and Physics instead of core Science & Additional Science and take two other optional subjects from the following list:

Art, Drama, French, Geography, History, Home Economics, Music, Sociology

Y11 **Compulsory GCSE Subjects:**
English, English Literature, Mathematics, Science, & Additional Science, French and RS (full course)

Optional GCSE subjects:

Pupils can take three optional subjects from the following list:

Art, Drama, Geography, German, History, Home Economics, Music, PE, RS (Full Course), Sociology, Spanish, Textiles

Or they can opt to study the three Separate Sciences – Biology, Chemistry and Physics instead of core Science & Additional Science and take two other optional subjects from the following list:

Art, Drama, Geography, German, Home Economics, Music, RS (Full Course), Sociology, Spanish

Sixth Form Four AS subjects in Lower Sixth and three A2 subjects in Upper Sixth are studied. All girls take part in PE and the 'Issues' and 'Perspectives' programmes (which include aspects of PHSE, the Careers programme and preparation for UCAS applications).

Religious Studies

Religious Studies is provided for all pupils and the GCSE Short Course is followed by all pupils during Year 10 and Y11. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the school's religious education programme or related activities, requests must be made to the Headmistress in writing.

Collective Worship

As a Woodard School, the school has a particular religious character – Anglican. Prospective parents are informed of the school's designated religious status.

All pupils are expected to take part in collective worship which includes half termly Eucharist Services. The school has a programme of collective worship involving whole-school assemblies and smaller group assemblies.

Sex Education

The school provides sex education in the basic curriculum for all pupils, in which pupils are encouraged and guided by moral principles.

A full statement of the school's sex education policy is available to parents. It has been drawn up in consultation with staff, pupils and parents.

In accordance with the law the biological aspects of human reproduction remain compulsory for all pupils, but parents may withdraw their children from any other part of the sex education provided without giving reasons.

Political Education

The promotion of partisan political views in the teaching of any subject in the school is forbidden by law. Political issues are introduced in a number of courses and are presented in a balanced way.

PE and Games

All pupils are expected to take part in the school's Physical Education and Games programme. Pupils can only be excused from PE and Games lessons for medical reasons, for which a note from a parent will suffice, or other reasons agreed with the school.

Extra-Curricular Activities

The school has a wide and varied programme of cultural and sporting activities that take place outside the formal curriculum. All pupils are encouraged to take part in the programme.

Homework

The school expects homework to be set as appropriate. As guidance the school expects pupils to spend the following times on homework:

Key Stage 2

Yr 3	20 minutes per evening (Monday – Thursday) 40 minutes at the weekend
Yr 4	30 minutes per evening (Monday – Thursday) with a maximum of one hour at the weekend
Yr 5	A maximum of 45 minutes per evening (Monday – Thursday) weekend work should last approximately one hour
Yr 6	One hour maximum per evening (Monday – Thursday) weekend work should last approximately one hour in total

Key Stage 3

Yrs 7 & 8	Maximum of one hour 30 minutes per evening
Yr 9	Maximum of one hour 40 minutes per evening
Yrs 10 & 11	40 min per subject (3 or 4 subjects per day)
Sixth Form	Guidance should be given by subject teachers (region of 3 hours per subject per week)

Special Education Needs

The school has a special educational needs policy. Learning support is provided, where appropriate, for pupils with particular needs. The school will determine strategies in consultation with parents. A Gifted and Talented scheme operates throughout the school.

Concerns and Complaints

Parents who have concerns about any aspect of the curriculum should discuss these in the first instance with the pupil's Key Stage Co-ordinator

Ultimately, if an issue is not resolved parents should make an official complaint in writing to the Head.

The school has a Complaints Procedure in place, which can be obtained from the School Office and is published on the school's website.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be monitored by the Deputy Head (Curriculum), who will report to the Head on its implementation on a regular basis.

The Head will report to the Governing Body's Education Committee on the progress of the policy and will recommend any changes.