

Curriculum Policy

Primary person responsible for updates to this policy: Dr Sarah Watson
Vice Principal (Academic)
Last review date: July 2024
Next review date: July 2025

Circulation: This policy has been adopted by the governors and is available to parents on request. It is addressed to all members of staff and volunteers and applies wherever they are working with children.

'Parents' refers to parents, guardians and carers.

Aims:

- to ensure that the curriculum meets the needs and aspirations of all students
- to ensure the holistic development of students by addressing skills of academic and personal wellbeing
- to ensure that programmes of study fully meets the demands of examination specifications where required
- to ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn and make progress
- to provide opportunities for students to have ownership of their own learning
- to ensure students are provided with a curriculum that reflects the international environment in which they study, whilst upholding British Values.
- to support students in being successful through collaborating with the wider community where appropriate

DLD provides a broad and stimulating curriculum with a rich extra-curricular programme.

Through our teaching we aim for our students to:

- know who they are as an individual and as a member of communities
- become confident, resourceful, resilient, inquiring and independent learners
- Develop their own style of leadership, as well as be able to collaborate effectively with others
- be able to build positive relationships with others
- appreciate and show respect towards diversity within local and international societies
- be well equipped with the skills and knowledge to meet future challenges

Regulatory Context

In accordance with national regulatory requirements, DLD provides full-time supervised education for pupils of compulsory school age. The curriculum for all students takes into account their age, aptitude and needs, including those pupils with EHC plans. The curriculum plans and schemes of work do not undermine the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

The DLD curriculum offers:

Breadth: ensuring that all our students are exposed to linguistic and literary, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, moral, physical, aesthetic and creative and spiritual learning; ensuring that students acquire skills in speaking and listening, literacy and numeracy, as well as more nuanced skills as defined in the DLD Learner Profile that future-proof learning.

Relevance: ensuring that the subject matter and skills-based pedagogies are appropriate for the ages and aptitudes of students, including those students with a statement, taking into account students' previous learning and future goals.

Equal opportunity:

Students are treated as individuals with their own strengths, challenges, learning preferences and personal contexts. All students have the opportunity to learn and demonstrate progress.

Personalisation of learning:

Students are considered as individual learners who have differing needs and strengths. Students are able to personalise their learning pathway through a comprehensive choice of courses, and are provided access to advice in making the most effective decisions.

Teaching pedagogies reflect the need to engage students with course content through differentiated means, including addressing the needs of students with special educational needs (SEN), statements or EHC plans. Teaching pedagogies aim to develop student agency and efficacy to promote independent learning.

Programmes of activities are designed for students to select from which are appropriate to their needs, age, stage and interests.

Schemes of work and lesson plans are devised by the college to ensure all students can access the requirements of examination board syllabi.

Pastoral:

Our personal, social and health education (PSHE) programme helps students to develop a set of personal values based on honesty, embracing diversity and difference, understanding and respect for others (paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the 2010 Act (a)) and respect for the environment. Students are given the tools to enable them to make informed and realistic choices and decisions appropriate to their age and stage of development, thus preparing them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in both British society and in the international communities which they are part of. This reflects the college's ethos and aims.

Students meet daily with their Personal Tutors to discuss their thoughts around their own progress, and to enable them to take ownership of their academic and holistic data. More formally, students are invited to participate in 1-to-1 progress conversations with their teachers along with their parents. Additionally, they are invited for an interview with their Housemaster/mistress and/or the Vice Principal (Academic) to discuss course progression. There is a full programme of preparation to the UCAS application involving lectures, university Admissions Officers, university fairs and visits, and one to one support. Year group meetings are organised periodically concerning university and colleges choices. (See detailed schedules in Pastoral support and Careers Policy.)

As part of their programme of study, students in Yrs10 and 11 participate in two courses, Careers & Professional Development and Study & Life Skills, which are designed by the college to support early consideration of futures thinking. These courses equip students with the knowledge and skills to be academically successful and make informed personal decisions regarding lifestyle, happiness and safety.

Careers:

Initially applicants are advised about subject choices according to their career aspirations when they apply to DLD College. All students have the opportunity to make an appointment with our Head of UCAS & Careers.

The Head of Universities & Careers ensures that accurate, up-to-date and impartial advice is given on career options. A series of events is organised to suit various year groups' needs (detailed in our Careers Strategy).

Through the Careers Strategy all students receive Careers advice as part of our provision. This is delivered through PSHE. Workshops, university talks and visits, careers events and tutorial support. We provide students with information on all options to include university, apprenticeships and employment. A specialised programme is in place for each year group. For example, in the Autumn Term, the year 11 parents and students are invited to discuss post-16 choices. These activities enable students to make informed career choices and also encourage them to reach their full potential.

Enrichment Activities:

The college encourages students to become involved in a wide variety of enrichment activities, detailed in a separate brochure and discussed with students during their induction. Activities are available for compulsory and post-compulsory school age students, which are appropriate to their needs.

Online Safety

Following the publication by the DfE of “Teaching online Safety in school”, June 2019, all staff at DLD College have received Online Safeguarding training during the Inset period prior to the start of the academic year.

<https://www.educare.co.uk/>

In turn, during their Induction, students will learn:

- How to evaluate what they see online
- How to recognise techniques used for persuasion
- Online behaviour
- How to identify online risks
- How and when to seek support

These topics are also covered in PSHE periods in the Lower School.