



THE ROYAL BALLET SCHOOL

Academic Curriculum Policy

The aim of this policy is to provide an over-arching framework which translates the values and aims of the school into effective teaching and learning. The curriculum embraces all that is learned through school, whether it be in academic lessons, dance classes or part of the informal learning within and beyond the school day. We believe that learning is an enjoyable, lifelong process and we will challenge and support all our pupils to do their very best whilst here at The Royal Ballet School.

The Academic Curriculum

We aim to follow the National Curriculum in the subjects that we are able to offer. All pupils will be taught a comprehensive PSHE and Citizenship programme. This will be through formal PSHE lessons and also through lessons in specific subjects.

- We will make provision for pupils with special educational needs and students for whom English is not their first language.
- We will teach religious education as a subject in Years 7 and 8.
- We will provide a weekly act of multi faith worship.
- We will avoid political bias.
- We will provide careers education and guidance with access to specialist support.
- We will provide opportunities for educational visits.
- We will test on entry to the school (MidYis) and use the information to monitor progress and to calculate value added.
- We will present pupils for GCSE, AS, A2, ESOL, BTEC, Trinity Diploma.
- Musicians may be entered for Associated Board examinations.
- We will provide a course for all students which involves physical education. In addition to dance classes for all groups, years 7-8 will receive one PE lesson each week
- Each pupil will receive 20 hours of formal academic teaching each week at the Lower School and at least 10 hours of academic and vocational teaching at the Upper School.

The curriculum choices

The Upper School Academic Curriculum

First Year	Second Year	Third Year
Trinity National Diploma in Professional Dance	Trinity National Diploma in Professional Dance	Trinity National Diploma in Professional Dance
BTEC National Award in Dance either AS in one of the following	BTEC National Award in Arts Management either A2 in one of the following	



THE ROYAL BALLET SCHOOL

Art English French Mathematics Or ESOL	Art English French Mathematics Or EPQ/ESOL	
--	---	--

The Lower School Academic curriculum

First Year	Second Year	Third Year	Fourth Year	Fifth Year
Art Drama English French Geography History ICT Mathematics Music PE Science Studies in Religion	Art Drama English French Geography History ICT Mathematics Music PE Science Studies in Religion	Art Drama English French Geography History ICT Mathematics Music Science	Dance Studies English Expressive arts Mathematics Double Science and 3 others from Art English Lit. French Geography History Music Triple Science	Dance Studies English Expressive arts Mathematics Double Science and 3 others from Art English Lit. French Geography History Music Triple Science

Homework

Homework is an integral part of the learning process. It is to be used to help students to reinforce the work undertaken in the classroom and to prepare them for the independent and unsupervised study that will be expected of them in the Upper school. Students are scheduled to spend 1 hour each evening in supervised prep (years 7-11) and are also encouraged to spend other times on independent study (years 9-11), making use of the IT room and library reading around their subjects or researching and preparing for coursework and/or final examinations.

Students for whom English is not their first language.

Wherever possible, ESOL students at the School are integrated into normal academic lessons following the same curriculum as their peers. Specific support is provided by the ESOL teachers, based at the Upper and Lower Schools. In certain cases ESOL students may focus on a reduced number of subjects at key stage 4.

At the Upper School ESOL students tend not to study traditional AS or A2 subjects but follow a structured programme with the ESOL specialist in which they are



THE ROYAL BALLET SCHOOL

prepared for English exams offered by the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate.

Curriculum review

There was a full review of the Upper School curriculum in 2002 by an external consultant. All curriculum matters are reviewed by a curriculum committee which meets regularly.

- The present membership of the committee includes the Academic and Pastoral principal, The Head of Lower School and other members of the academic team.

Head of Lower School/Academic and Pastoral Principal Responsibilities

- To ensure that the subjects that the school chooses to offer have aims and objectives which reflect the aims of the school.
- To ensure that each subject has a development plan.
- To ensure that the Heads of Department implement the literacy, numeracy and assessment, reporting and marking policies
- To ensure that where students have a requirement for educational support their needs are met.(see SEN Policy)
- To ensure that the personal, social and health educational need are met (see policy on PSHE)
- To ensure that each subject has differentiated schemes of work for each year group and set (if applicable).
- To ensure that all teachers incorporate methods of assessing the quality of learning within their lessons.
- To ensure that the amount of time provided for teaching the curriculum is adequate and opportunities are provided to review this.
- To monitor and evaluate pupil progress and report back to parents.
- To provide opportunities for staff training and thereby ensure up to date practise and effective teaching.
- To provide the Governing Body with an annual report on external examination results.

The Responsibilities of the Governing Body

- To monitor pupil progress using external test and examination results and value added indicators
- To participate in decision making about the breadth and balance of the curriculum



THE ROYAL BALLET SCHOOL

- To ensure that all examination results are published in the prospectus and annual report.

MF/PH-A 14 October 2009