



CURRICULUM POLICY

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1. Policy Statement

We want all our students to be everything they can be and everything they are meant to be – to be able to live life in all its fullness (John 10.10).

It is the firm commitment of the Cranmer Education Trust (CET) that all our students enjoy a rich and ambitious curriculum that provides a platform for progression, aspiration and social mobility. There is no ceiling on students' experiences or aspirations. Expectations are the same for all and all routes will lead to recognised qualifications. The curriculums of our schools reflect their individual communities, identities and histories

Social, moral, spiritual, and cultural development (SMSC) is the golden thread running through all aspects of provision, designed to foster resilience, self-worth, cultural capital, social cohesion and integration. The curriculums of our schools seek to empower our young people.

Our primary curriculums are ambitious, designed to give all our children, and particularly those who are disadvantaged or who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), the knowledge, cultural capital, and enjoyment of and resilience in learning that enables them to progress successfully into secondary education and their lives as young people in our community. The breadth of curriculum provision in Years 7-9 will enable a large majority of students to take and enjoy the full EBacc at GCSE (Maths, English, Science, History, Geography and a Modern Foreign Language). At Key Stage 4 this will be supported by an Open Pot of subjects and qualifications that enable every student to succeed and progress.

Our curriculums include co-curricular enrichment and enhancement to further build social and cultural capital.

The academic, co-curricular and pastoral curriculum ensures students leave our schools as well rounded, informed and resilient young people ready to take their place in the world.

2. Principles that underpin our curriculum design

- **Broad** – so that young people gain knowledge and understanding of the **range** of ways in which human beings have understood and found meaning in our world - the best that has been thought, said and created.
- **Deep** – so that as they develop and gain experience, young people understand the concepts which provide structure to human beings' search for meaning and its complexity.
- **Rich** – so that all children and young people can widen their horizons develop creativity, life experiences, and increase cultural capital.
- **Interconnected** – so that our students are able to see links and connections within and across learning, can synthesise new information, tackle complex questions from a range of perspectives and understand that knowledge itself evolves, changes and is contested and dynamic.
- **Progressive** – learning builds on prior experience, gradually deepening understanding and mastery.
- **Relevant** – so that our young people are prepared for the next stage of their education, and for life in modern Britain as good neighbours and citizens: ethically and morally grounded; respectful of others and excited by diversity, compassionate and generous of spirit, and able to lead, build community and do good as they go. Our primary curriculums are strongly linked to the context of the school and its locality, reaching out from there to the wider world, building strong general knowledge and cultural capital.

3. Principles for Learning

- A rigorous and academic curriculum requires **high levels of literacy**. A whole school cross-curricular pedagogy to supporting literacy and reading underpins both curriculum design and teaching and learning. In the early stages of learning to read, reading materials are closely mapped to students' phonics knowledge.
- **High quality learning time**, where young people are given time to master and apply key disciplinary concepts.
- An understanding of the **cognitive science** of how students learn – ensuring they can remember and do more, grow in self-motivation and self-management; aiming for fluency and automaticity in key concepts which feature in our curriculum
- Formative assessment: we check students' understanding systematically, identify and address misconceptions quickly, and respond and adapt teaching, as necessary.
- Achievement for All: our pedagogy is adapted, and learning is structured to ensure that all students, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, can access, enjoy and experience success in the same curriculum entitlement for all students. Specific challenges, barriers and issues are identified and addressed.
- **Social development and fellowship** - so that our young people look forward to coming to school because there are so many things to be involved in and so many new things to experience, where they can grow socially and emotionally.

4. Curriculum Structures

4.1 Secondary

The Brian Clarke CofE Academy:

- We run a two-week timetable (B and C Week).
- The school day consists of five one-hour lessons Monday to Thursday. Friday comprises five 50-minute lessons.
- The co-curricular offer runs Monday to Thursday. All students take two compulsory period 6 sessions (45-minutes) per week.

4.2. Key Stage 3 Curriculum in The Cranmer Education Trust (CET)

During Key Stage 3, Years 7-9, all students follow a common curriculum which builds on learning in Key Stage 2 and introduces students to new subject disciplines and new levels of understanding.

KS3 Curriculum: The Brian Clarke CofE Academy

	Year 7 Learning sessions per fortnight	Year 8 Learning sessions per fortnight	Year 9 Learning sessions per fortnight
English	6	7	8
Maths	7	7	8
Science	6	6	7
Religious Studies	3	3	3
German	4	4	4
Geography	3	3	3
History	3	3	3
PE	4	4	4

Art	2	2	2
Drama	1	1	0
Music	2	2	2
Design Technology	2	2	2
Food	1	1	0
Computing	2	2	2
Wellbeing/PSHRE	1	1	1
Citizenship	1	1	0
Academic Transition Skills	2	0	0
Duke of Edinburgh	0	0	1
Total	50	50	50

4.3 Central principles of the Key Stage 3 curriculum:

4.3.1 Reading and Literacy

A rigorous and academic curriculum requires **high levels of literacy**. A whole-school cross-curricular pedagogy to supporting literacy and reading underpins both curriculum design and teaching and learning. The **strategies** we use draw extensively on those outlined in:

- Metacognition and Self-Regulated Learning (2018), EEF
- Improving Literacy in Secondary Schools (2018), EEF.
- Closing the Vocabulary Gap (2018). Alex Quigley

All teachers and teaching assistants are trained in the literacy strategy and the components of **reading, oracy** and **writing**, enabling all students to make maximum progress whatever their start point.

Reading: There is a deliberate approach to developing a reading culture at Brian Clarke. This starts at transition. As part of the transition process all year 6 students joining the school are given a copy of Homer's *Odyssey*. This book has been chosen to engage students and has explicit links to the English curriculum they will embark upon in year 7. There is also a structured package of support to ensure all students can engage over the summer with the text and associated tasks, for example, key role models in the school reading aloud a chapter per week which can be accessed through the school's transition section on the website.

The integration of reading into the curriculum: Each form in every year group has two 20-minute structured, pre-planned reading activities, led by their form tutor.

Disciplinary literacy is embedded across every curriculum area. Subject leads choose texts which both challenge and extend students' reading, modelling how to read and how to deconstruct complex and subject-specific vocabulary.

A well-stocked and resourced library is our focal point to promote reading for pleasure, and age-appropriate scholarly reference materials to contextualise on-line information. A skilled librarian and literacy lead organise competitions that reward, promote and celebrate all aspects of literacy.

Oracy: Staff model for and support students to speak clearly and convey ideas confidently using standard English, enabling students to clarify their thinking as well as organise their ideas for writing. The core and co-curricular opportunities champion activities for oracy development.

Writing: Students are taught how to write as a subject discipline expert. They are taught how to write in different disciplines, with staff modelling what good writing looks like in their subject through the 'I do, we do, you do' approach. The Brian Clarke Church of England Academy displays and celebrates students' writing throughout the building and through on-line platforms including the newsletter.

Vocabulary: Staff at the Brian Clarke Academy teach vocabulary through the 'Quick method of teaching vocabulary'. This consistent, cross curricular approach supports students' fluency development and word recognition.

4.3.2 Academic Transition Skills (ATS)

Students have ATS once per week in year 7.

Students come to Brian Clarke CofE Academy from a variety of primary schools. They have been taught a variety of ways and to different levels of depth and confidence to structure extended pieces of writing, learn new vocabulary and analyse texts. It is vital that a consistent approach to these skills is developed so all students understand the language and techniques they will encounter across the secondary curriculum. Lessons in Academic Transition Skills in years 7 support students with this transition to successfully access the secondary curriculum. Through the topic of History of Medicine in year 7 students are taught metacognitive strategies including how to plan, monitor and evaluate their own learning; how to effectively summarise information; how to understand and deconstruct new vocabulary, and how to produce extended pieces of writing.

Opportunities for academic reading are embedded in the ATS curriculum as part of the rigorous and robust reading strategy where reading is embedded into lessons, form time, and targeted interventions for those who enter year 7 with reading ages below their chronological reading age.

Each time period across the History of Medicine topics includes at least one extract (typically fiction). Key comprehension tasks are selected in line with the identified learning principles to access these texts which build on our universal literacy strategies. ATS also incorporates the 'uninterrupted reading' strategy where the class teacher reads to the students.

Students are given reading home learning as part of ATS and are supported in choosing texts by their teacher and our skilled librarian.

4.3.3 Targeted Support for Literacy

In addition to the comprehensive universal offer to support students' literacy, Brian Clarke Academy also provides a graduated response for students who might require extra support. Students' literacy levels on entry are evaluated through appropriate diagnostics and identified cohorts include:

- Students who have not achieved Age Related Expectations at Key Stage 2 in Reading and Writing.
- Students who score below their chronological age on reading diagnostic tests.
- Students who have not engaged appropriately with the transition task
- Students identified by teachers as appearing to struggle with accessing texts, articulating ideas, writing.
- EAL students at proficiency levels A-D where there are gaps in inferring, comprehension of more complex curriculum material, structural accuracy, abstract vocabulary and refining English usage.

Interventions are evidenced-based for the relevant diagnostic. They are bespoke, group based and where necessary, individual student based, dependent upon the child's needs. Interventions are delivered by a trained member of staff. The structure of the school day and early start 7.45am – 8.15am allows

for targeted interventions for low readers. All interventions are age-appropriate, short, frequent and evaluated for impact. Teachers are advised about appropriate in-class strategies to support students. All staff have access to Key Stage 2 student data and are trained in specific strategies to support reading and literacy.

4.3.4 Targeted support for Numeracy

Students who are assessed as significantly below age-related expectations in Maths at the end of KS2 are provided with additional 'Numeracy Step-Up' lessons (45-minutes per week). Students are not withdrawn from the regular curriculum for these lessons as they take place during a period 6 timetable slot. The numeracy sessions allow these students to practice and master the key skills they require to be successful in our KS3 maths curriculum. They are taught in the same classes and by the same teacher as their maths lessons to ensure consistency and to allow for teachers to be highly responsive in the content they cover. Formative assessment takes place in every session and students are nurtured and supported to become confident in their mathematical knowledge. Further low-stakes assessment allows us to monitor progress and plan further lessons accordingly.

During Year 8, further targeted intervention for the lowest attainers takes place as a continuation of the Numeracy Step-Up programme. This is again taught outside of curriculum time in a period 6 slot and the focus is on securing any knowledge from the Year 7 curriculum which has yet to be mastered.

4.3.5 Wellbeing (PSHRE)

The Wellbeing curriculum is taught by Form Tutors. It incorporates all aspects of the DfE statutory framework for Relationships and Sex Education (2020) which outlines what students should know by the end of secondary school to keep them happy, healthy and safe. The curriculum also delivers elements of the Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance provision. Good careers guidance is crucial if young people are to raise their aspirations and capitalise on the opportunities available to them and make informed decisions about their future. Statutory areas of learning include:

- different types of relationships including friendships, family relationships, dealing with strangers and, at secondary school, intimate relationships,
- how to recognise, understand and build healthy relationships, including self-respect and respect for others; commitment, tolerance,
- boundaries and consent; how to manage conflict; and also how to recognise unhealthy relationships,
- how relationships may affect health and wellbeing, including mental health,
- healthy relationships and safety online,
- factual knowledge around sex, sexual health and sexuality,
- healthy bodies and lifestyles including keeping safe, puberty, drugs and alcohol education,
- healthy minds including emotional wellbeing, resilience, mental health.

These areas of learning are taught within the context of family life taking care to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances (families can include single parent families, LGBT parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers amongst other structures) along with reflecting sensitively that some children may have a different structure of support around them, for example looked after children or young carers. Staff are also mindful that a particular need may leave a young person more vulnerable to exploitation and therefore preparation for adult life will be particularly important.

The intent of the wellbeing curriculum is to prepare our young people for happy and healthy lives in which they will make a positive contribution to the 21st Century community through:

- Helping students develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy.
- Equipping students who are members of distinct faith communities to take their place in a rapidly changing and challenging world.
- Providing a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place; preparing students for puberty and giving them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene.
- Creating a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships.
- Teaching students the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies.

The curriculum is pro-active in teaching our students the core values that support healthy lifestyles and allow them to nurture respectful relationships. The nature of the subject content means that the subject is constantly evolving to ensure that we meet the specific needs of the individuals and groups of students within a given year group. Each scheme of work equips our young people with the skills, knowledge and personal resilience to make safe and informed choices.

Our Wellbeing curriculum is also informed by Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021) and Ofsted's Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between Children in Schools and Colleges (2021).

4.3.6 Citizenship

Students have one hour per fortnight of Citizenship in years 7 and 8.

The Citizenship curriculum promotes British Values and provides students with the knowledge and skills to play a full and active part in society. Students learn about human rights, democracy, government and how laws are made and upheld; the ways in which citizens work together to improve their communities.

Through the curriculum teachers ensure students have the skills and knowledge to explore political and social issues critically, to weigh evidence, debate and make reasoned arguments.

Through units on Active Citizenship students are provided with meaningful opportunities to understand how to be responsible, active citizens who contribute positively to society. When exploring contemporary issues students learn how to contribute to informed debate and the importance of respect and tolerance when others might hold different views to themselves.

4.3.7 Religious Education

Designated CE schools

Brian Clarke Academy is a Church of England school with a distinctive Christian ethos that welcomes young people of all faiths and none. All students study Religious Studies in every year up to GCSE.

In KS1, 2 and 3 students study the Diocesan-approved syllabus. This is not religious instruction in any faith. It involves learning about religions and world perspectives on the big moral and ethical challenges that human beings face – human rights, discrimination, persecution, war, our relationship with the natural world and the rights of animals. All major world faiths are equally respected and represented. – Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism, and through a developing understanding of faith and non-faith perspectives RS encourages students to explore and develop their own spirituality and search for meaning and direction in life.

The subject is taught by specialists, and the curriculum enhanced by the contributions of representatives of different faith communities, and particularly the 5 main faiths in the Greater Manchester area – Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism and Sikhism, and non-religious world views of humanism, secularism, and agnosticism, so that students understand the range of thinking and philosophies by which different human beings seek to make meaning of the world. All students take RS at GCSE.

The studying of Religious Studies at Brian Clarke Academy is expected in that parents have applied for their child to attend a Church of England school and in doing so subscribe to the school's curriculum policy, ethos, values, and day to day practises. Should a parent/carer wish to withdraw their child from Religious Studies this must be made in writing and following a parental discussion with the Headteacher.

4.4. The Curriculum at Key Stage 4

All Cranmer Trust students study English Language and Literature, Mathematics, Dual Award Science or separate sciences to GCSE. The majority will also take a Humanities subject (History and/or Geography) and a Modern Foreign Language to GCSE. Students in (VA) academies will all take Religious Education; students in VC academies or non- faith designated schools will have the option to study RE to GCSE level.

The KS4 curriculum also includes core PE and PSHE, including careers.

		Year 10 Learning sessions per fortnight	Year 11 Learning sessions per fortnight
CORE CURRICULUM	English Language and Literature	9	9
	Maths	9	9
	Science (double award students)	9	9
	Religious Studies	4	4
	Language (German)	5	5
	Core PE	2	2
	Wellbeing (PSHRE)	1	1
	Option 1 (History or Geography)	5	5
	Option 2	5	5
	Option 3	5	5
Total		52	52

At Brian Clarke Academy students choose 3 optional subjects. Option 1 is either History or Geography and then students choose 2 further subjects from the list below:

- Child Development (L2 Technical Award)
- Computer Science
- Construction and The Built Environment (L2 Technical Award)
- Design and Technology
- Drama
- Engineering (L2 Technical Award)
- Fine Art
- Food Preparation & Nutrition
- Geography

- History
- Music
- Photography
- Sociology
- Sport Studies (L2 Technical Award)
- Triple Science

4.5. The Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular Offer

Opportunities in addition to our academic curriculum are integral to Brian Clarke Academy. We want our students to enjoy the same enrichment activities provided by the very best schools, so that our young people grow in learning, skills, experience and confidence, and develop their whole self in a fully multi-cultural environment where they interact authentically with a wide range of students, and experts/coaches from the wider community.

The Co-Curricula offer is delivered through a compulsory Period 6 provision which is timetabled for students in Year 7/8/9 twice per week from 2:45-3:30pm. Students have a choice of two activities from a wide variety of options including sports, the arts, expressive arts, STEM and other creative skills.

All students take at least one nationally accredited qualification during key stage 3, for example Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award; CREST Award; national maths or computing challenges, Arts Award, Archbishop of York Award; or a grade in a musical instrument/voice; or compete at a high level in a school team for sport/debating/public speaking/chess etc.

4.5.1 Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is one of the main ways in which we help young people to develop skills for life and work, fulfil their potential, and become a good and responsible citizen, and leader in our society. It involves developing a skill, which builds commitment and confidence; volunteering, and making a positive difference to the lives of others; and planning for and undertaking an expedition, which requires teamwork, listening and consideration, self-reliance, and some stoicism. On the way students also learn a range of very practical skills, including map skills, basic first aid, cooking and outdoor risk management.

In Year 9 all students work towards achieving the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award through a timetabled curriculum lesson (once per fortnight) and the Co-Curricular offer. Large numbers of students can then go on to complete their Silver Award (Year 10) as an extra-curricular activity.

The course is fully inclusive; appropriate adjustments are made so that all students can participate. The award is highly regarded by both employers and universities.

4.6. Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Development (SMSC)

Character education and SMSC are the golden thread running through all aspects of curriculum provision. Grouping arrangements, seating plans, learning strategies and co-curricular opportunities ensure that students from all backgrounds work together authentically to build mutual understanding and respect, and foster social cohesion and integration. In our CE-designated schools the curriculum will directly address faith and shared values.

Spiritual development is at the heart of Religious Studies and collective worship/assembly. Our aim is to develop a mature spirituality which sees the commonalities in values across all the great faiths - loving your neighbour and becoming a responsible steward of the world given to us. The taught curriculum aims

to build a love of learning, and develop awe and wonder in learning about the world and how humanity has sought to understand and make meaning.

Students' moral education is developed through the practices and behaviours of the school – the emphasis on personal responsibility, kindness and generosity of spirit, mutual respect and active citizenship, all modelled by staff, by the ethos of the school and by the emphasis we place on community at a local, national and international level. We commit to charitable endeavour and doing good as we go.

Students' social education comes through the emphasis on active and collaborative learning; the centrality of oracy and communication; the investment in a wide co-curricular provision and ensuring that students take part, try new things, meet new people; student representation through a Student Leadership Team drawn from each year group with formal termly meetings with senior staff and consultations on school policy development, and our commitment to active citizenship in school and in the wider community. All these behaviours embed British values of democracy, mutual respect and the rule of law.

Students' cultural education comes through the breadth and richness of the curriculum and co-curricular provision; the exposure to resources in school, both in the library and on-line; living and learning in a well ordered, light, vibrant environment, which celebrates the arts and creativity; the diversity of the school population and how that is celebrated in school; the opportunities and encouragement and (where necessary) the financial support provided by the school to enable all students to visit museums, galleries, cities, the theatre, universities, different places including a residential.

4.7. Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)

An ambitious curriculum is supported by an effective and responsive CEIAG curriculum to ensure that all young people have the knowledge they need to make informed choices about their future. Brian Clarke is committed to providing a well-planned and resourced programme of CEIAG that endeavours to reflect the Department for Education (2017) 'Careers strategy: making the most of everyone's skills and talents' which placed the eight Gatsby Career Benchmarks at its heart.

A progressive CEIAG is mapped throughout the five years students are with us and embedded across all curriculum areas. When sequencing curriculums, subjects will plan for and signpost opportunities that link to careers. We use tutor time and the Unifrog platform which has access to videos and resources to showcase all elements of CEIAG to enable students and staff to record their 'encounters' and 'experiences' to build career profiles. Tutor time, Wellbeing lessons and assemblies will support CEIAG provision at key points in the academic year.

Our intention is to normalise the language of university and advanced apprenticeships from Year 7, building links with local universities and companies in the Greater Manchester region to ensure our young people are inspired and encouraged to make aspirational choices which are right for them. Our Key Stage 4 offer will build on students' broad and deep learning in Key Stage 3 and enable our young people to start to prepare for progression routes at Technical/Applied/Apprentice level, as well as traditional A-Levels. Co-curricular and enrichment provision will involve adults from the wider community who will reinforce aspiration and provide positive role models.

All students in Years 10-11 will have 1:1 discussions and bespoke careers advice on progression through 16-18 and beyond.

An independent careers adviser will be contracted through Positive Steps to support the school's careers strategy and guidance interviews. Links with external agencies such as the Careers and Enterprise Company will be utilised to provide targeted opportunities (particularly SEN) for our students.

5. The Quality of Education: Governance

The trustees of The CET have delegated the monitoring of the quality of education to local governance in each school. Local governors review progress against school improvement priorities, which are identified by the Headteacher with the advice and support of the CEO and the School Improvement Partner, hearing from leaders and where possible seeing, in practice, how the design and delivery of the curriculum is developed and improved and how this is helping all students and students, including those with SEND or who are disadvantaged, to learn well, make good progress and achieve.

Appendix 1: Curriculum Maps

The Curriculum Maps for Key Stage 3 and information about options at Key Stage 4 are found on the links below:

[Key Stage 3 - The Brian Clarke Church of England Academy \(brian-clarke.org\)](https://www.brian-clarke.org/)

[Key Stage 4 Options - The Brian Clarke Church of England Academy](#)