Mayfield	Policy Name: Curriculum Policy Owner: Director of Studies Review Date: September 2020 Next Review Date: September 2021 This policy is reviewed by the Education Committee Policy revised annually or as regulations or review demands

Curriculum Policy

The curriculum reflects the Catholic foundation of the School and is rooted in the convictions of its foundress, Cornelia Connelly. She recognised that not only should 'the wants of the age' be met, but also that the girls be educated for the future. She believed they must have a breadth and depth of opportunity. The curriculum for all girls is wide and varied and all subjects that make up the curriculum should be valued equally. Creativity, imagination and training the aesthetic sensibility are as important as numeracy, literacy, scientific and research skills. We value achievement and expertise, knowledge and understanding in all forms of physical, mental and spiritual learning, through every subject and activity on offer.

Our curriculum aims to ensure that we meet the needs and interests of each girl, taking into account their ages, and aptitudes. It challenges the most able and supports the learning of those with specific learning difficulties. Base line assessments to include the Mayfield Entrance Exams and MidYIS, Yellis and Alis testing allow us to effectively track progression and ensure that each girl achieves her full academic potential. Provision is made to make the curriculum accessible to those with English as a Second Language and to those with any other special need, physical, intellectual, or emotional. Within each subject, all pupils should achieve their full potential with continuity and progression of learning being maintained throughout. Cornelia Connolly believed that in her schools no girl should consider herself a failure and the curriculum both inside and outside the classroom at Mayfield has this as a key objective.

At Mayfield we aim to provide a curriculum to develop spiritual and independent learners with a love of learning and a sense of God being at the centre of all that we do. We understand that the curriculum, both within taught lessons and beyond them, should create an environment where questioning, reflection, risk-taking and the freedom to learn from mistakes are all encouraged. The curriculum is designed to ensure that all girls experience a broad and balanced education in these respects. The curriculum will 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 *(cross reference Life Skills Policy).* The curriculum is reviewed every year during the Spring Term and adjusted, as appropriate, to maximise the engagement, achievement and enjoyment of the girls. The curriculum is also reviewed to reflect new and revised curricular initiatives both within Mayfield and in line with ISI and Government expectations. An extensive range of extra-curricular activities is available to all girls.

The School operates a 30 period weekly timetable.

Years 7, 8 and 9

All girls in Years 7 – 9 follow a core programme of Religious Studies, English or ESOL, Mathematics, Science, PE and ICT. They also follow courses in Geography, History, French, Spanish and Latin with the Creative Curriculum comprising of Art, Ceramics, Drama, Food and Nutrition, Music and Textiles. The curriculum in Years 7 and 8 is designed to provide a broad academic experience. Girls will continue with many subjects that they have studied before, but they also have the opportunity of studying new things, or studying familiar subjects in different ways and with a greater range of facilities and teaching methods.

Three hours each week are specifically dedicated to the Spiritual and Pastoral education of the girls in the form of Liturgies, Assemblies, Life Skills and time spent with Form Tutors.

All girls in Year 9 take the first steps towards finalising their GCSE choices by focusing on studying two of the languages offered at Mayfield. Providing choice at this stage enables us to continue offering breadth of curriculum

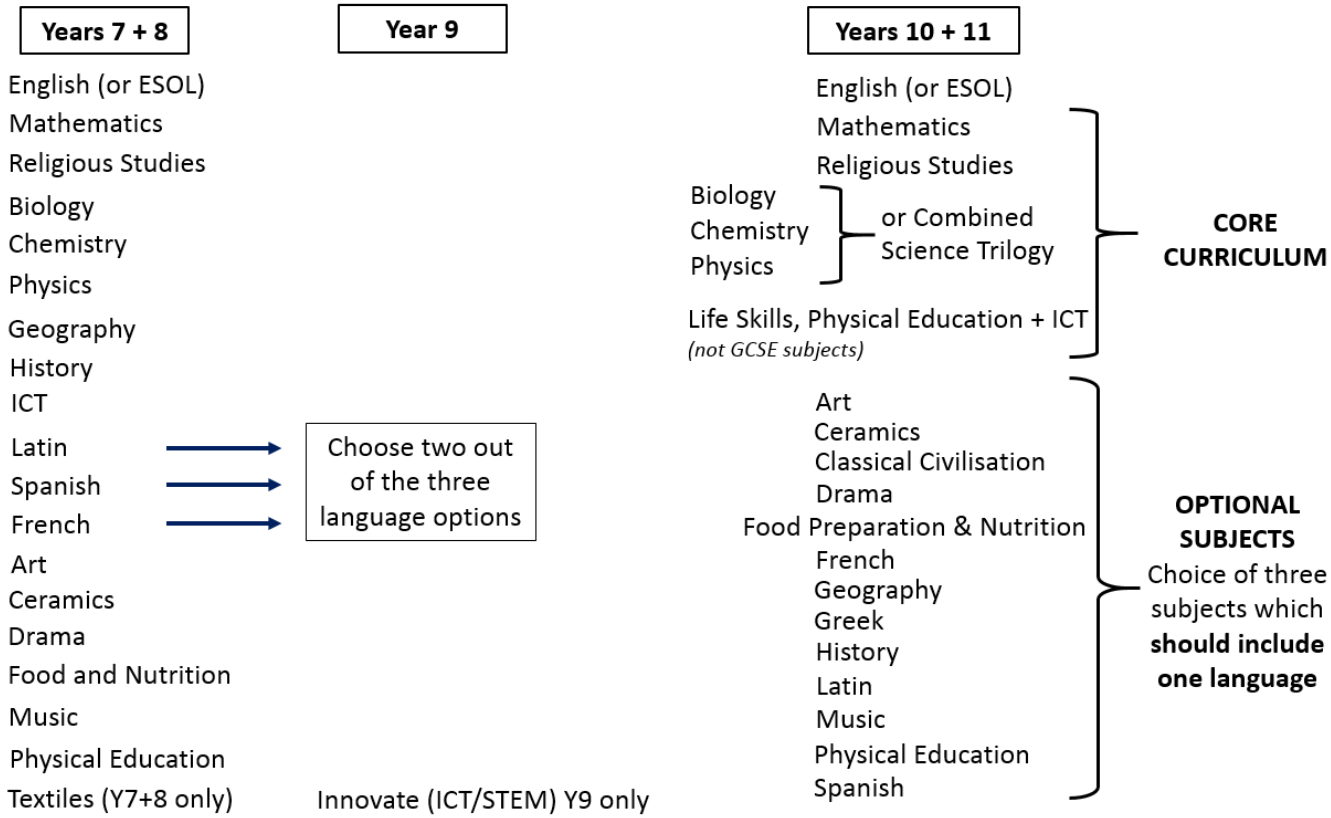
in Year 9, whilst allowing more time to be devoted to each subject studied, thus ensuring a greater depth of experience. Girls for whom English is a second language are allowed to choose one language, in addition to ESOL. Furthermore, these girls will study a Classical Civilisation course.

Middle School – Years 10 and 11

All girls in Years 10 – 11 follow GCSE courses. Each girl studies a core programme of English Literature and English Language or ESOL, one language subject, Mathematics, Religious Studies and Science (most girls study three separate Sciences – Biology, Chemistry and Physics but, where more appropriate girls can study Combined Science Trilogy, which is equivalent to two GCSEs). As part of the core programme all girls will continue to attend non examined PE. During Year 10, all girls will continue to study ICT and can take the BCS Application in IT Skills Level 2 Qualification at the end of the year. In addition, girls will study two optional subjects, taking the total number of GCSEs studied to either 9 or 10. The current optional subjects are Art, Ceramics, Classical Civilisation, Drama, Food Preparation and Nutrition, French, Geography, History, Latin, Music, Physical Education and Spanish. Studying Greek, Italian, German, Mandarin and Russian to GCSE is available through the extra-curricular programme.

As in Years 7, 8 and 9 three hours each week are specifically dedicated to the Spiritual and Pastoral education of the girls in the form of Liturgies, Assemblies, Life Skills and time spent with Form Tutors.

Girls for whom English is a second language are expected, wherever possible to take a GCSE in their native language during their time in Middle School.



Sixth Form – Years 12 and 13

Moving into the Sixth Form is a very significant step in any girl's personal approach to academic work. For the first time, pupils have an almost completely free choice of subjects. In timetabled lessons, teachers will increasingly be looking to pupils to take charge of their own studies. Teachers will help guide pupils through the course and will set assignments that will develop understanding. However, they will also expect pupils to take much more responsibility for their own learning, thus preparing them for independent work and study at university or in a career.

At A Level, breadth and depth continue to be the guiding principles with flexible courses designed from the wide range of subjects offered. Girls are expected to study three or four subjects in the Sixth form with terminal

assessment made at the end of Year 13. The current curriculum offers A level courses in Art, Biology, Business Studies, Ceramics, Chemistry, Classical Civilisation, Drama and Theatre Studies, Economics, English, French, Geography, Greek, History, Latin, Mathematics and Further Mathematics, Music, Physical Education, Physics, Politics, Psychology, Religious Studies and Spanish. The School offers a Pre U course in History of Art. Studying Italian, German, Mandarin and Russian to A level is available through the extra-curricular programme.

Girls for whom English is a second language are encouraged, wherever possible, to take an A level in their native language during Year 13.

Alongside the Year 12 curriculum, a varied enrichment programme is offered. In line with the educational principles embedded in the founding mission of the School, we are keen to broaden the girls' interests and experiences, whilst extending their depth of intellectual enquiry beyond the confines of the exam specifications. As part of the enrichment experience girls will be able to study for the Mayfield School Certificate of Culinary Skills.

Sixth Form girls are also able to study for an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). This is a research project that encourages independent thinking and allows students to follow a passion or interest not covered in the A Level specification (cross reference Scholars and Gifted and Talented Provision Policy).

A strong pastoral curriculum continues to support learning and a Life Skills programme provides the appropriate personal and social development. Religious Education, in the form of 'General RE' is compulsory for all girls in the Sixth Form, as is PE.

Actions not Words is the School's Voluntary Service programme. All Sixth Form girls are expected to take part in the Actions not Words programme during Year 12 and encouraged to continue this throughout their time in the Sixth Form. Actions not Words Overseas offers opportunities for girls to be involved in service overseas; currently in Malawi and Lourdes.

Careers

We ensure that all girls have access to accurate, up-to-date careers guidance that is presented in an impartial manner, enabling them to make informed choices about a broad range of career options and helping to encourage them to fulfil their potential. An age-appropriate Careers programme is rolled out through the year groups. Visiting speakers, including a wide range of former pupils return to the school, share careers advice and experiences with current students. In addition, a Careers Fair, involving parents, Old Cornelians and friends of the school is held annually. Girls are expected to undertake some work experience during their senior years during the holidays. School will help and encourage girls, by drawing opportunities to their attention, but girls and their parents are expected to take responsibility for organising their own placements.

In helping our girls to select which subjects to study at GCSE and A level, we endeavour to recognise their potential aspirations with a view to progression into continuing education and/or employment after graduating from Mayfield. Within the framework of a broad and balanced education for each girl, we intend for our curriculum to allow a high level of personalisation so that every pupil can play to her strengths, develop specialisms, develop existing and new interests and achieve her personal best in all that she does *(cross reference Careers Education Policy).*

English as a Second Language (ESOL)

The ESOL department of Mayfield School supports any girl from overseas whose first language is not English. Weekly timetabled lessons are given to girls in small groups. The School is an accredited examination centre. Girls can take any of the Cambridge suite of exams: the exams offered are KET, PET, FCE, CAE, CPE and IELTS. The Edexcel IGCSE in English as a Foreign Language is also offered at Years 10 or 11.

Sixth Form students, whose first language is not English are expected to take ESOL lessons in addition to their other subjects. Once they have achieved at least a Grade B in CAE, or a Grade 7 (with a minimum of 6.5 in each component) in IELTS they may choose to cease ESOL lessons. *(Cross reference English as a Second or Other Language (ESOL) provision).*

Use of ICT across the Curriculum

Opportunities for the appropriate application of technology to enhance learning abound and the School is continuing to seek new ways in which technology can be used to genuinely enrich the learning experience. Currently all girls in Years 9 and 10 take the BCS Application in IT Skills (AIS) (Level 2). Girls in Year 9 also participate in a weekly Innovate lesson which develops team building skills and project work through an ICT/STEM medium. Girls are also given opportunities to apply and develop their ICT capability through the use of ICT tools to support their learning in all subjects. Some examples of the appropriate application of technology to learning can be found in Science (Datalogging), Art (Photoshop), Drama (Video capture), PE (Motion capture and performance monitoring) and Music (Sibelius).

From September 2020 all girls will be expected to bring a laptop to lessons. Incorporating use of technology into regular curriculum time will enhance the skills of the girls as they deal with the digital age. They will use their devices to access and store resources electronically as well as submitting work for evaluation and marking. However, it is important to retain the skill of handwriting and some assignments will still be assessed in this way to help them prepare for external GCSE or A level examinations.

The Office 365 login and remote desktop app allows access to the School's curriculum areas wherever they are in the world.

Health and Safety in the Curriculum

When working with tools, equipment and materials, in practical activities and in different environments, including those that are unfamiliar, girls are taught:

- about hazards, risks and risk control
- to recognise hazards, assess consequent risks and take steps to mitigate the risks to themselves and others
- to manage their environment to ensure the health and safety of themselves and others

Continued Professional Development for Staff

Professional Development is vital for staff if they are to excel in their delivery of a highly effective curriculum for the girls. With this in mind Heads of Department working with the Director of Studies and in accordance with the School's Performance Review System, regularly review staff development needs. Inset is then targeted to address these needs both on an individual and whole-school basis so that teaching and learning across the school is of a consistently high standard.