



Name of policy	Curriculum Policy
Review committee	Board of Trustees
Last review date	September 2024
Next review date	September 2025

At GUST Independent School, we are continually striving to provide the best quality teaching and learning for every child in every class every day. We work collaboratively to design learning experiences that engage all learners in deeply meaningful experiences. We plan learning experiences that have rich contexts using books, online research, and educational visits to inspire all pupils, and we aim to bring learning to life by linking our curriculum to the real world. Learning at GUST Independent School goes beyond the classroom as our pupils experience a range of trips and visits linked to their learning.

Our curriculum uses the National Curriculum and reflects our school values. Through our curriculum, we endeavour to develop a lifelong love of learning, give opportunities to explore, question and investigate, and enable all children to achieve the highest possible outcomes.

Aims

The GUST curriculum enables all learners to become:

- Enthusiastic and successful learners who make great progress and achieve well
- Confident individuals who know how to live safe, healthy, and fulfilling lives
- Responsible citizens who can make a positive contribution to society

Values

The GUST curriculum is developed around a values-based learning community that:

- Promotes personal development
- Supports equality of opportunity
- Develops spiritual, moral, social, intellectual, and physical growth
- Celebrates the contributions of a diverse range of people, cultures, and heritages
- Develops an understanding of our relationship with the environment
- Promotes the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

Purpose

The curriculum at GUST Independent School will:

- Promote high standards, particularly in English, Maths, Science, Humanities, ICT, Motor Vehicle Studies, Construction, and Hair and Beauty
- As a school, we are accredited to offer vocational and academic qualifications through City and Guilds, GCSE through Pearson, and vocational qualifications through Skills and Education Group.
- Develop a wide range of skills and broaden children's life experiences – linguistic, scientific, technological, human, social, physical, aesthetic, and creative education
- Provide a broad and varied learning experience in every key stage
- Promote a positive engagement with, and commitment to, learning
- Enable children to develop effective skills of cooperation and collaboration
- Be relevant to children and prepare them for the here and now, for the next phase of their education, and for their future
- Widen horizons and raise aspirations about the world of work and further and higher education
- Help children recognise that personal development is essential to wellbeing and success

The organisation of the curriculum

The GUST curriculum is mapped out, ensuring that all learning is memorable and meaningful and that cross-curricular links are made. The subjects are developed to ensure there is a clear progression of knowledge, skills and content across the school using the National Curriculum as a starting point. The curriculum overviews in detail the learning undertaken each half term, showing progression throughout the year.

Monitoring, evaluation and assessment

The headteacher, deputy head and assistant deputy head are responsible for overseeing and monitoring the delivery, continuity, and effectiveness of the curriculum through:

- Regular formal and informal discussions with staff
- Monitoring of planning to ensure curriculum and key skills coverage
- Book trawls alongside planning to ensure cross-curricular links are optimised
- Observing learning and teaching to ensure progress is being made within the topics
- Regular reviews of the curriculum through pupil discussion and open dialogue

All teaching staff are responsible for the planning and delivery of the curriculum on a day-to-day basis and for making cross-curricular links where appropriate. They plan collaboratively to ensure clarity, consistency, and a sequential approach across year groups.

Enrichment opportunities

We aim to deliver a rich and engaging curriculum that provides children with links to real and personal experiences. To do this, teachers use curriculum overviews to plan their trips for the year, ensuring that every child experiences an external visit or internal workshop at least once per half term, often more.

In addition, teachers also monitor the coverage of enrichment opportunities across the areas and ensure that, where possible, additional enrichment opportunities are planned – for example, visits to St James' Park, Sage, local castles, forest schools, Nissan, local beaches, and local walks to nearby green spaces.

Planning

National Curriculum objectives are incorporated into planning. An overview of the subjects covered gives a broad outline. More detailed medium-term planning for subjects shows progression and continuity in subjects taught in a cross-curricular way across the school.

There are three parts to our planning:

Yearly planning: This shows an overview of subjects covered in each year group. It gives a broad outline for each year group and shows progression and continuity between topics taught in a cross-curricular way across the school. Long-term planning is flexible year on year as long as the objectives from the National Curriculum are covered. This means that planning can be differentiated, interests can be followed, or extra lessons planned following areas of misconception or to offer deeper insight into areas that have promoted an enjoyment for learning.

Medium-term planning: This shows specific objectives to be taught within each area of the curriculum and the links between them.

Weekly planning (core subjects): This breaks down the objectives into weekly achievable targets and activities.

Inclusion

We value the diversity of individuals within the school. All children have equal access to the curriculum and are treated regardless of race, religion, or ability. Pupils learn best when they can see links and have reasons for learning. Our curriculum promotes the enjoyment of learning through debate, creativity, purpose, and relevance. We hope that pupils are motivated by achievement both now and in the future and have a positive attitude towards themselves, others, and their environment.

Celebration

Pupils' achievements are celebrated regularly in the school through displays in classrooms and shared areas, in the weekly assembly where children are encouraged to share their knowledge with the rest of the school, and at end-of-year award celebrations.