



TEACHING AND LEARNING POLICY

Wightwick Hall School

Inclusion

Wightwick Hall School offers all students an inclusive education *that enables them to be fully prepared for their adult life.*

We aim to equip students with an awareness of our diverse society and to appreciate the value of difference. We value each individual and promote opportunities for students to achieve the highest standards, having regard for individual circumstances and abilities. The curriculum is broad and balanced *while also being aspirational*, enabling students to strive for and meet the highest expectations that we have for them.

Every effort is made to ensure equality of opportunity across the spectrum of school life.

Vision

Be curious and thrive together.

Values

- Every student has the opportunity to access an enriched curriculum *adapted to meet their individual needs, which provides them with the ability to thrive.*
- Every student's individual needs will be met to ensure they reach their full potential.
- Every student is valued and encouraged to grow *and be curious as an individual and together.*

School Aims & Objectives

- To provide a rich and varied learning environment that allows students to develop their skills and abilities to their full potential.
- To enable students to become confident, *curious*, resourceful and independent learners.
- To provide the best possible standards of teaching and learning.
- To work with parents and students; to help our children at a level that meets their individual needs and capabilities, in a safe and caring environment.
- To foster pride in individual and group achievement.
- To foster self-respect and to care for others.
- To show respect for all cultures and, in so doing, to promote positive attitudes towards other people.
- To help students grow into reliable, independent and positive citizens.

To achieve these aims Wightwick Hall School endeavours to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum to all students regardless of gender, age, religion, race or ability.

We will provide a curriculum which will develop each student's intellectual, social, creative, spiritual, moral and physical potential. We will provide a curriculum that focuses on preparation for life beyond school.

Effective Teaching

Teaching is delivered in a structured systematic way to enable access to the curriculum for all *learners*. We focus on motivating the students and building on their identified skills, knowledge and understanding. We use initial assessments to inform planning.

Teaching is based on our knowledge of the students' level of attainment *and need*. Our prime focus is to *prepare our students for adulthood by developing their knowledge and skills*. We have high expectations of all students, and we believe that our role is to ensure *that all of our students have the best possible learning experience that equips them for the next stage of their life*.

Classrooms are organised to create the appropriate environment to enable learning to take place taking into account each students' individual needs. There are a range of opportunities provided for the students to learn outside of the classroom, the school grounds being ideal for outdoor *educational experiences*.

All students will have the opportunity to extend their learning at KS5 and access a variety of relevant courses.

The full curriculum coverage is available to view on the school website.

Effective Learning

We acknowledge that people learn in many different ways and we recognise the need to develop strategies that allow all students to learn in ways that best suit them.

We offer opportunities for students to learn in different ways. These include *(but are not limited to)*:

- investigation and problem solving
- research
- group/paired/independent/whole class work
- use of the computer
- fieldwork and visits to places of educational interest
- creative activities

- debates, role-plays and oral presentations
- physical activities

We encourage students to take responsibility for their own learning, to be involved in reviewing the way they learn, and to reflect on how they learn – what helps them learn and what makes it difficult for them to learn. *Each student will have a 'My Wightwick Way' profile, that outlines for all adults working with them the strategies that best supports their learning.*

Homework

At Wightwick Hall School we believe that it is our role to support our young people in building their confidence and self-esteem. To ensure this is possible it is our policy to make homework optional. There are a number of reasons for this, which include:

- They may be working at a lower level than their brothers and sisters
- If they are unable to complete the work set this can have a negative impact on their confidence and self-esteem
- Students have already had to work hard and concentrate all day, for those who have a difficulty with concentration there should not be an additional demand at home
- Students should be encouraged to develop their social skills outside of school
- Homework can at times be difficult for parents to access and this leads to additional frustrations

There are opportunities for extended learning at home and individualised homework can be set if requested.

The Role of Parents

We believe that parents have a fundamental role to play in helping students to learn. We endeavour to promote the engagement of parents regarding their child's learning throughout the year. We aim to achieve this through regular home school contact; reporting on their child's progress through parents' evening and end of term reports; coffee mornings and fund-raising events.

We believe that parents have the responsibility to support their *child* and the school in implementing school policies. We would like parents to:

- ensure that their child has the best attendance record possible.
- ensure that their child is equipped for school with the correct uniform and PE kit.
- do their best to keep their child healthy and fit to attend school.

- inform school if there are matters outside of school that are likely to affect their child's performance or behaviour at school.
- promote a positive attitude towards school and learning in general.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed in line with the full policy review cycle. Each review will take account of new initiatives, changes in the curriculum, developments in technology or changes to the physical environment of the school.

Policies to be read in conjunction with the Teaching and Learning Policy:

Whole School Marking Policy

Relationships and Behaviour for Learning Policy

Assessment, Recording and Reporting Policy