



# King Edward's

## WITLEY

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### **Curriculum Policy 2025-26**

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King Edward's School is proud to offer to all its pupils a broad and balanced education, which is suited to pupils across the ability range and is appropriate to their needs. The School aims to provide an environment which nurtures children to achieve success in their chosen fields, to become happy, confident and independent learners, to develop academic potential as well as integrity, global awareness, wisdom, humility and a sense of duty.

#### **The aims of the curriculum policy are:**

- To ensure that all pupils receive a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum
- To support learning at all academic levels and inspire intellectual adventure
- To monitor the range of subjects taught and curriculum time allocated to each subject area
- To encourage independent thought, leadership and teamwork skills and a sense of responsibility and service towards others and the environment
- To provide continuity of learning and preparation for the next phase
- To develop problem-solving, communication and creative skills
- To develop a sense of inquiry

#### **Lower School & Third Form**

The Lower School is a two-year programme. All pupils take the core curriculum of English, Mathematics, Science, Geography, History, Latin, Religious Education, Art, Design Technology, Music, Computer Science, Drama, Food Science and Physical Education. Pupils also follow a course in PSHE to equip them with the skills and mind-set to access all areas of the curriculum. All pupils in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2nd Form study one modern foreign language, either French, German or Spanish. All subjects are taught in form groups, except for English, Mathematics and Languages which are taught in subject groups. New for 2025 includes the option of German and the addition of Thinking Skills, both into the 1<sup>st</sup> Form.

Pupils move to Middle School at the start of 3rd Form. The curriculum is similar to Lower School, with pupils taught in form groups for Drama, Computer Science, History, Geography, Religious Education, PSHE, Art, Design Technology, Food Science, Physical Education and Music. Pupils choose two options from German beginners, French, Spanish, Spanish beginners, Latin, Classics, Learning Support and English as an Additional Language. One of the choices must be a Modern Foreign Language. Pupils start their GCSE studies in the 3rd Form in the Core Subjects of English, Maths and Science, which are taught in subject groups.

## **Middle School (GCSE)**

The Middle School curriculum builds firmly on the foundation built in 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Forms and the GCSE (or IGCSE) programmes pupils embarked on in core subjects. International GCSEs (IGCSE) are equivalent to GCSEs and Heads of Department, in consultation with the Deputy Head, Academic, determine the most appropriate course for study. Reference to GCSE in this policy includes IGCSE.

Pupils continue with GCSE English Language and Literature, Mathematics and Science (double or triple award). These are taught in subject groups. On rare occasions, pupils may be offered English Language only or single award Science, based on their individual circumstances.

Pupils choose four GCSE option subjects from Art, Business, Classical Civilisation, Computer Science, Design Technology, Drama, Economics, Food Science, French, Geography, German, History, Latin, Music, Physical Education, Religious Studies, Spanish, Textiles and Triple Award Science. The option blocks are constructed to meet the choices of individuals, but checks are made to ensure that pupils undertake a balanced programme and do not close educational or career doors. Business and Textiles are new subjects for 2025. Furthermore, Photography is available for one year only for pupils in the 5<sup>th</sup> Form in September 2025 who had studied the subjects at their previous school.

All pupils also follow courses in PSHE, including RSE, Games and general Physical Education.

## **Pre-A level**

For September 2025, the School has redesigned its Pre-A level course (previously called the Pre-Sixth). The main purposes of the course are not to obtain examination qualifications, although this is possible, but to develop pupils' cultural and linguistic awareness of the English education system and prepare them for A-level study. Pupils will have the opportunity to study up to six GCSEs on the programme which include English Language, Maths, Science, a Modern Foreign Language, Global Perspectives, Economics and Art.

## **Sixth Form**

Pupils in the Sixth Form have the option to study a range of subjects from (all A-levels unless stated): Art, Biology, Business, Chemistry, Classical Civilisation, Computer Science, Design Technology, Economics, English Literature, Food Science & Nutrition (Level 3 Diploma), French, Further Maths, Geography, German, History, Latin, Mathematics, Music, Music Technology (BTEC), Philosophy, Physical Education, Physics, Politics, Psychology, Spanish, Sport (BTEC single or double award), Textiles and Theatre.

Most pupils will take the equivalent of three A-levels, with a small number taking two or four. No new subjects were introduced for September 2025.

In addition, all pupils study PSHE, including age-appropriate RSE, Games and the taught component of the EPQ (Extended Project Qualification), which covers research and analytical skills. Pupils are strongly encouraged to then undertake their own EPQ project, which could be in any form, such as an investigation, extended essay, artifact or performance, and is equivalent to half an A-level.

2025 will see the launch of the Bridewell Sixth Form Diploma. All pupils are expected to participate in the Diploma, which interweaves the academic, EPQ and co-curricular

programmes. It is designed to develop the 'soft' skills of leadership, service, resilience, self-perception, motivation and teamwork.

### **Statutory requirements**

Marriage in the light of the *Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013* and Relationships and Sexual Education (RSE) are covered through PSHE lessons according with statutory requirements to deliver these topics to all pupils. Politics is covered in RS (issues relating to war, criminal justice system, equality, legal limits of abortion, euthanasia) and also through Geography, Modern Foreign Languages and History (change in rule from Saxon to Norman, changing power of the monarchy in 16<sup>th</sup> century, civil war, causes of wars, Russian revolution, Watergate scandal, Hitler's rise to power, Cold War, rise of dictators). Fundamental British values are given due regard both within the curriculum in subjects such as History, Religious Education and PSHE and outside the curriculum in Chapel, Assembly, tutor time and the Sixth Form Programme. This list is not exhaustive.

### **Academic Scholarships**

All Academic Scholars undertake the Bridewell Scholarship Programme. For pupils in the Lower and Middle school they will complete a carousel of workshops and activities every half-term in each of the six Faculties (Language and Literature; Languages; Humanities; Science; Maths and Computer Science; and Creative Arts. Academic Scholars in the Sixth Form will be attached to one Faculty where they will receive mentoring from a subject specialist and also support the programme of activities for Lower and Middle School pupils when they cycle through. Academic Scholarships may include a fee remission, which can be increased on a means tested basis at the Head's discretion in response to the pupil's circumstances.

### **Co-curricular and Enrichment**

All pupils are required to participate in a balanced range of Creative, Action and Service activities and academic enrichment. In the Lower and Middle Schools, pupils have Games and PE twice per week.

### **The needs of the individual**

It is also recognised that some pupils will need an adjusted programme of study. All pupils are screened for learning needs. Learning support can be provided for those who need help with literacy and numeracy (see Additional Needs and Inclusion policy). Specialist music tuition is also available. If it is appropriate to enter pupils for examinations at an early stage because they are ready for it, we will do so. All departments are expected to provide extension work for the more able.

Our unique and flexible curriculum is intended to enhance the development of all our pupils, preparing them for a full and engaged international life.

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The number after each subject corresponds to the numbers of 55-minute periods allocated per fortnight

<u>1<sup>st</sup> Form</u> English 7 Mathematics 7 French/Spanish/German 7 Science 6 Latin 2 History 3 Geography 3 Religious Studies 2 Art 2 Design Technology 2 Food Technology 2 Drama 2 ICT 2 Music 2 PE 4 Games 4 PSHE 2 Thinking Skills 1	<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Form</u> English 6 Mathematics 7 Science 8 French/Spanish 6 Latin 3 History 3 Geography 3 Religious Studies 2 Art 2 Design Technology 2 Food Technology 2 Drama 2 ICT 2 Music 2 PE 4 Games 4 PSHE 2	<u>3<sup>rd</sup> Form</u> English 7 Mathematics 7 Biology/Chemistry/Physics 9 Languages/Classics 2 x 4 History 3 Geography 3 Religious Studies 2 Art 2 Design Technology 2 Food Technology 2 Drama 2 ICT 2 Music 2 PE 3 Games 4 PSHE 2
<u>4<sup>th</sup> Form</u> English 8 Mathematics 7 Science 12 Option a 6 Option b 6 Option c 6 Option d 6 PE 3 Games 4 PSHE 2	<u>5<sup>th</sup> Form</u> English 8 Mathematics 7 Science 12 Option a 6 Option b 6 Option c 6 Option d 6 PE 2 Games 4 PSHE 2 Critical Thinking 1	<u>Pre-A level</u> English 9 EAL or an MFL 9 Mathematics 9 Single Science 9 Global Perspectives 9 Additional GCSE* 9 Games 4 PSHE 2  *Economics, Art, Double Science (final decision depends on overall uptake numbers)
<u>Sixth Form</u> A-level/BTEC 12 x 3 (maximum of 4) Games 4 PSHE 2 EPQ 2 Bridewell Sixth Form Diploma 2		

**The acronyms used in the Curriculum Policy can be interpreted as follows:**

EAL	English as an additional language
EPQ	Extended Project Qualification
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IGCSE	International version of the GCSE
KS3	Key Stage 3 (the curriculum for 11 -14 year olds)
PE	Physical Education
PSHE	Personal, Social and Health Education
RS	Religious Studies
RSE	Relationship and Sex Education