



Curriculum Policy

Rationale

This policy sets out the framework for a creative, inspiring and innovative whole school curriculum that intends to accommodate the needs for all the students. The curriculum at Mallorca International School offers breadth, depth and flexibility providing students with an excellent choice of lifelong learning opportunities developing both hard and soft skills.

Aims

- To ensure that the British National Curriculum is followed and statutory requirements are met in this respect
- To develop lifelong learning Character Education
- For each student to meet their potential and make excellent progress
- For all students to foster key literacy, numeracy and ICT skills
- To use a variety of learning and teaching strategies to develop independent and creative learning
- To meet the needs of each individual student
- To promote themed and cross curricular skills to develop holistic knowledge
- To best prepare students for examinations and university study

EYF Stage

Early Years Foundation Stage education cares for and educates children from 3 to 5 years of age. Teachers plan and teach using a themed play-based curriculum and assess the children using the 'Development Matters' framework. The team consists of specialist and experienced EYFS teachers that safeguard every child in a flourishing and nurturing environment. All EYFS staff members work in close partnership with parents\carers to foster opportunities for active roles in their child's education. Children are strongly encouraged to be creative, play imaginatively, ask questions, solve problems, use technology and think critically while having fun. Every child's progress is continually monitored and assessed which benefits and challenges every pupil. A key emphasis of the department's commitment is to develop language and communication skills, specifically in English phonics. This is delivered by means of daily phonics sessions.

Key Stage 1

Year groups 1 and 2 follow the British National Curriculum, from ages of 5-7, which sets out the learning and expectations for the first stage of Primary school. The Hamilton Trust Scheme is used in order to map the coverage of National Curriculum objectives and teachers must work within this framework, however, they are encouraged to deviate away from the suggested learning activities with a greater emphasis on creativity, imaginative play, investigation, problem solving, use of technology and critical thinking. Teachers should also tailor learning activities around the interests and needs of the specific group of students they are teaching.

Progressing from EYFS, Key Stage 1 places more of an emphasis on foundational literacy, numeracy and computing skills in English, maths, science and technology. A substantial part of timetabled learning is placed on these core subjects but by using a range of practical, experiential, active and cognitive learning methods. *Note:* the requirements for both Spanish and Catalan languages are also followed, as required by the local government.

Key Stage 2

Year groups 3, 4, 5 and 6 follow the British National Curriculum, from ages of 7-11, which sets forth the learning and expectations for the latter stage of Primary School. The focus is on developing key literacy, numeracy and computing skills in English, maths, science and technology. Similarly to Key Stage 1, the core of planning is instigated via the 'Hamilton Trust' framework guaranteeing coverage, continuity and progression

across the phase, however, teacher autonomy is actively encouraged towards adapting plans in order to meet local needs and the individual needs of the students in each class. Cross curriculum thematic learning is further encouraged with class teachers constructing interesting themed topics that have fundamental skills in literacy embedded. Additionally, personal and small group interventions are timetabled weekly for all students that need 'booster' support or 'gifted and talented' extension in terms of literacy or numeracy skills. The internal MySchool assessment for learning systems are utilised to both give structure to AFL as well as to track learning summatively giving important information to inform of necessary interventions.

The MySchool Primary School day is composed on 5 learning periods with a further 20-minute PSHE tutor period called 'MyTime'; also conducted daily. Tutor period learning revolves around the MySchool character education scheme, central to the school's mission statement, that guides the school ethos and future values that all students strive for. *Note:* the requirements for both Spanish and Catalan languages are also followed, as required by the local government. Foreign students in this phase of the school are must engage in Spanish language lessons, though, have option to opt out of Catalan language lessons and double the number of Spanish language lessons instead (by means of a written consent from parents).

Key Stage 3

Years 7, 8 and 9 follow the British National Curriculum from the ages of 11-14, set forth by the Department of Education in the United Kingdom. The subject areas offered at this stage at Mallorca International School include:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Coordinated science
- Spanish
- German
- Humanities
- Physical Education
- Technology
- Music
- Art

English classes are timetabled daily to meet the demands of international students. Additionally, personal and small group interventions are timetabled weekly for all students that need 'booster' support or 'gifted and talented' extension in terms of literacy or numeracy skills following on from Key Stage 2. The subject specific MySchool internal criterion-based assessment for learning systems, in conjunction with the 'Pearson 12 Steps', are utilised to give structure to AFL as well as to track learning summatively giving important information to inform of necessary interventions.

Teachers must ensure that the statutory requirements of the British National Curriculum are met, however, have full autonomy to deliver the curriculum in the most innovative and creative manner possible. In general, schemes of work produced by Pearson are used in order to guarantee coverage, continuity and progression across the phase. An integral part of curriculum delivery at KS3 is MySchool's bespoke themed curriculum, developed by its teachers, that stretches across all subject areas at the start of each term for 6-week periods. Learning style is very much along the lines of 'enquiry-based' study and all subject teachers coordinate their subject planning to achieve aligned and creative *entry* and *exit* points. Themed areas include:

- Year 7- 'Origins, 'Change' and 'Power'
- Year 8 - 'Discovery', 'Perspectives' and 'Leisure'
- Year 9 - 'Identity', 'Development' and 'Connections'

Teachers increasingly plan to best meet the needs of the students in preparation for their GCSE studies as the phase progresses.

25-minute tutor periods (MyTime) are also timetabled daily following four main strands of enquiry:

- Character Education Development following the 10 core 'MySchool Values'

- Life Skills Education Development following the 'Enabling Enterprise' scheme based on 8-core skills
- Personal Social Health Education topics
- Important developmental work based on the differing arising needs of the students in each group

The requirements for both Spanish and Catalan languages are also followed, as required by the local government. Foreign students in this phase of the school are must engage in Spanish language lessons, though, have option to opt out of Catalan language lessons and double the number of Spanish language lessons instead (by means of a written consent from parents).

Key Stage 4

At the time of writing this document the school does not yet have groups at Years 10 or Year 11 level, however, an infrastructure is already in place for the cohorts moving through the school. Students in KS at MySchool are being prepared to pursue the British 'General Certificate in Secondary Education,' (GCSE) curriculum set by the 'Edexcel' external examination board from ages 14-16 (the school has preregistered to be an Edexcel Examination Centre). Students undertake 10 subject areas at GCSE (or 9 GCSEs + Catalan non-GCSE). All students assume a compulsory core of 6 subject areas that includes:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Combined Science or Singular Sciences
- Spanish

GCSE wider elective subjects:

- History
- Geography
- German
- Physical Education
- Music
- Art

Further elective subject areas will be introduced in the future, though, these are the subjects that KS3 students are being prepared for to continue into KS4 currently.

The MySchool internal assessment for learning systems and the 'Pearson 12 Steps' are already in place for use at KS4 and will be utilised in conjunction with past GCSE exam papers to report and guide excellent learning.

Spanish national students have to fulfil classes in both Catalan and Spanish language as well as 'Sociales', as part of the requirements set forth by the local government. Students who are not Spanish national citizens have the option to take a tenth GCSE in place of Catalan language. This, however, will impact on students' choice of university in Spain thereby eliminating the majority of exit routes in the provinces of the Balearic Islands and Catalonia. Parents are well informed of the consequences of making this decision and must make the request that their son/daughter drops Catalan language in writing.

Key Stage 5

It is projected that the Key Stage 5 programme will be initiated at the start of the 2022/23 academic year with students in Years 12 and 13 pursuing the British GCE 'Advanced Level', (A Level) and 'International Advanced Level' study programmes, from ages 16-18, set by the Edexcel external examination board. This involves students carefully electing their specific subject interests and pursuing in considerably more depth and breadth in preparation for university study. It will be expected that students select a minimum of 3 A-Level subject areas to pursue. Subjects planned to be offered include:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Biology

- Chemistry
- Physics
- History
- Geography
- Spanish
- German
- Physical Education
- Music
- Art

'A Level' study will be considered the 'Core' programme at Key Stage 5, however, students will also engage in an obligatory 'Complimentary' programme which further develops personal skills that are difficult to attend to via the medium of 'A Level' courses. The complimentary programme will have the aim of completely preparing students for university entrance, the world of work, and for success in life in general. Plans for complimentary features actually carry potential additional UCAS entry points; the Edexcel EPQ, the Sports Leaders UK Level 3 Diploma and the New Era Academy Public Speaking Level 3 Diploma (all of which are externally assessed). The two latter schemes were introduced to the school from September 2018 at lower year groups as these two bodies have a levelled award system allowing students to progress through the levels towards completion at 18 years of age.

Monitoring and Review

This policy should be reviewed as standard a minimum of once every two years, though, at the current stage of development of the school will be reviewed annually until the school encompasses all Key Stages.

Date of implementation: October 2018

Date of last review: October 2018

Policy review date: August 2019