

AL-ZAHRA SCHOOL

CURRICULUM POLICY

2024/25

Schools:	Al-Zahra School
Head Teacher:	Mrs Z Rizvi
Senior Leadership Team:	Mrs A Azam, Mrs Z Rizvi, Mrs S Rizvi, Mrs E Jaffri, , Mr M AlBayati

Policy Review Dates	
Academic year:	2024/25
Review Cycle:	Annual
Last Review Date:	June 2024
Al-Khoei Foundation Ratification:	2nd SEPT 2024
Date Shared with Staff:	12th SEPT 2024
Next Review Date:	7th SEPT 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	3
I. OUR CURRICULUM INTENT	3
II. OUR AIMS	3
2. PRIMARY: KEY STAGE 2.....	4
I. CURRICULUM PROVISION 2019 - 2020: NO OF LESSONS ALLOCATED TO EACH SUBJECT AND TEACHER	4
II. ASSESSMENT.....	5
III. CURRICULUM ENHANCEMENT.....	5
3. SECONDARY: KEY STAGES 3 & 4	7
I. CURRICULUM PROVISION 2019 – 2020: NO OF LESSONS ALLOCATED TO EACH SUBJECT AND TEACHER	9
II. ASSESSMENT.....	10
4. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	13
I. EXTRA-CURRICULAR	13
III. STAFF TRAINING AND ISSUES	13

1. INTRODUCTION

The curriculum is all the planned activities that we at Al-Zahra school organise in order to promote learning, personal growth and development. Our curriculum has been developed to meet the requirements of current national guidelines and our commitment for our pupils to strive for excellence in accordance with our school vision.

i. Our Curriculum Intent

At Al-Zahra school our aim is to provide our girls with a rich, engaging and broad curriculum that fosters a life-long love of learning. Our focus is on delivering a curriculum that provides each and every one of our girls with the knowledge and skills to act in the world and be curious about the world.

We strive to educate and empower our girls to live out their ideal through educational and social engagement. Through a curriculum which systematically develops expertise in many domains, our girls grow in knowledge and understanding of the world. Reading and writing is promoted as a key function enabling current and future literacy, both unlocking the written and spoken word, as well as a wider cultural and political literacy.

Our shared Islamic values mean our girls are raised in an environment of mutual respect and cooperation. We develop our girls as active, responsible and courageous members of the school community in order for them to be good citizens, parents, colleagues and friends in the wider community.

The divine values of Islam are intertwined into our curriculum and serve to develop and enrich the whole person. This is permeated throughout the school encouraging our girls to think spiritually, ethically, morally and theologically.

ii. Our Aims

- To ensure pupil interests, safety and well-being above all;
- Nurture the talents of all students and celebrate success;
- Be a school of excellence in teaching and learning, God consciousness, character building, and service to community;
- To give our girls the cultural capital they need to be successful and proactive citizens of a modern faceted British society

2. PRIMARY: KEY STAGE 2

All teaching at primary is linked and is in line with the National Primary curriculum 2014. The teachers plan, teach and assess using the specific objectives listed in the curriculum in all subjects.

The primary curriculum offers pupils the opportunity to study subjects including Art, Humanities, Science, Computing over and above the core elements of English and Maths. Literacy and Numeracy are encompassed in all the lessons and at the end of KS2 most pupils achieve results above the national average for their SAT results.

In addition, Arabic and Religious Education are offered throughout primary. Islam is taught with a more holistic approach and focusses on nurturing and building positive values. We aim to ensure that RE and spiritual development will permeate every aspect of the curriculum, so that it is explicit and implicit within the curriculum. Pupils are taught about other faiths and from a very young age the values of God consciousness, respect and tolerance are embedded and underpin all aspects of life in school and beyond.

We have placed an added focus on developing pupil's creative writing skills by entertaining different genres. Through the Big Write pupils are able to plan, write and edit their work hence improving the depth of their writing.

We use Maths mastery which promotes numeracy and includes problem solving skills which are integrated into all the topics taught throughout the year.

Through the PSCH lessons we aim to build the whole individual by helping them to achieve their full potential spiritually, morally, physically and emotionally. We believe that through developing a positive independent mind set, pupils are able to thrive in school and make a positive contribution to society.

- i. **Curriculum Provision 2022 - 2023: No of lessons allocated to each subject and teacher**

Number of lessons for each subject:

Key Stage 2			
	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6

English	5	5	5
Reading	5	5	5
Library	1	1	1
Math	6	6	6
Science	2	2	2
Geography	1	1	1
History	1	1	1
Computing	1	1	1
Arabic/Quran	1	1	1
Islamic	1	1	1
Art	1	1	1
PE	1	1	1
PSHE/Mindfulness	3	3	3
Golden Time	1	1	1
Total	30	30	30

Number of lessons for each teacher:

Al-Zahra Primary School						
	Yr 4		Yr 5		Yr 6	
English	5	N Hansraj	5	R Lari	5	R Haneef
Reading	5	N Hansraj	5	R Lari	5	R Haneef
Library	1	N Hansraj	1	R lari	1	R Haneef
Math	6	N Hansraj	6	R Lari	6	R Haneef
Science	2	N Hansraj	2	R Lari	2	R Haneef
Geography	1	N Hansraj	1	R Lari	1	R Haneef
History	1	N Hansraj	1	R Lari	1	R Haneef
Computing	1	N Hansraj	1	R Lari	1	R Haneef
Arabic/Quran	1	R Maleki	1	R Maleki	1	R Maleki
Islamic	1	T Dhalla	1	T Dhalla	1	T Dhalla
Art	1	A AlfadhI	1	A AlfadhI	1	A AlfadhI
PE	1	K Austin	1	K Austin	1	K Austin
PSHE/Mindfulness	3	N Hansraj	3	R Lari	3	R Haneef
Golden Time	1	N Hansraj	1	S Masood	1	R Haneef
Total	30		30		30	

ii. Assessment

Pupils are assessed throughout the year through both summative and formative assessment. Summative assessments are done termly with Year 6 taking part in the national SATs yearly.

Apart from this, there are ongoing formative assessments throughout the year with three summative assessments point at the end of each term. Pupil progress is tracked, and intervention is put into place as and when required.

iii. Curriculum Enhancement

At Al-Zahra school we believe in maximising the potential of each child and acknowledge that learning takes place in different environments and manners. Our aim therefore is to make sure that various opportunities are provided throughout each year.

Educational trips are carefully planned and linked to the curriculum topic being studied for that term. Workshops and activities are booked which enable the children to build and reinforce on the learning in class. The Natural History Museum, Science Museum, Hampstead Heath Education Centre, Kew Garden, Ragged Museum, Toy Museum, The Florence Nightingale Museum are amongst a few of our regular visits.

The pupils also visit the local library and take advantage of Queens Park and the local area to further their learning. We always endeavour to use public transport when undertaking any visit so that the children build on their awareness of the outside world and grow into responsible citizens.

Regular school assemblies presented to students and parents/ carers enable students to build on a variety of skills such as public speaking, drama and presentation.

Being part of the Faith and Belief Forum and North London Citizens, our girls are provided with opportunities to appreciate and experience different values and beliefs on a practical basis. We also share a close relationship with St Anne's and St Andrews Church which further enhances this opportunity.

Charity days are held throughout the year where pupils raise money for a local charity; food bank at Christ Church, a national charity; British Heart Foundation and an international charity Al Kawther. This teaches the pupils to develop qualities such as empathy and selflessness in which are so prevalent to our faith and British society.

In year six, the pupils are prepared for secondary school life by linking with the local Brent Police who arrange a session where different public services present a workshop on 'How to be Safe'. They also come into school to talk about using public transport safely and wisely. In addition, a transitional session is arranged where pupils from secondary come in to talk to the year six pupils to prepare them for life in secondary school.

Sports Day is organized every year in Queen's Park where pupils partake in a variety of track and field events encouraging both team building and physical exercise. The day is thoroughly enjoyed by parents/ carers and the pupils alike.

3. SECONDARY: KEY STAGES 3 & 4

At KS3 we follow the national curriculum guidance as produced by the DFE, and all subject teachers ensure that the prescribed and recommended content is planned and delivered accordingly.

We are currently following the spiral curriculum and our subject topics have been sequenced to compliment this model. We have also developed a whole school cross curricular map which highlights the overlap between subject content.

Our girls have the opportunity to study an enriched curriculum offering Art, PE, Humanities, Science, Arabic, French, Citizenship, Computer Science, Business Studies, Psychology, PSCHE, Islamic Studies and the core elements of English and Math.

All pupils study English from Year 7, starting the GCSE content towards the end of Year 9. At the end of Year 11 they all sit for their English language and English literature GCSE. To improve literacy, we have embarked on a whole school initiative with the Word of the Week and DEAR time.

Pupils follow the Maths programme of study throughout KS3, which provides them with the foundation to continue with the GCSE at KS4. Pupils are encouraged to participate in the Maths challenge that the school enters every year with outstanding outcomes.

Science is taught as 3 separate sciences at KS3 and in Year 10 pupils are given the option of studying the Trilogy (combined Science) or Science as three separate subjects. Most of our pupils opt for the latter.

Computer Science is taught from Year 7, where pupils learn the art of programming to design and data analysis.

RE is taught throughout the school and focusses on encompassing our core Islamic values as well as the study of other religions and beliefs.

Pupils sit all their GCSE exams in Year 11 to ensure that the curriculum taught is broad and not narrowed solely for the completion of the exam content.

We have made an exception with Arabic by allowing the pupils to sit their exam at the end of Year 9 as most of our pupils are fluent in the reading and writing of Arabic from a young age.

This year we have offered pupils the choice of 6 subjects which are then allocated into 3 blocks according to the demand of each subject. The option blocks are as follows:

OPTION 1	OPTION 2	OPTION 3
Geography	French	Business Studies
History	Computer Science	Psychology

These subjects are taken up in Year 10, allowing for a wider range of subjects at GCSE. In addition, Art has been added to the timetable at KS4 to give pupils an opportunity to connect with their creative side.

The MFL department includes Arabic as a compulsory subject up to Year 9 and the majority of our pupils sit for their Arabic GCSE as early as Year 9. French is also offered as a subject at KS3 and KS4.

Pupils are given the opportunity to learn the Fundamental British values through their PSCHE lessons. This is timetabled as a subject throughout the school. In addition, we have timetabled an extended registration period every Thursday, where we use the weekly lessons prescribed by Votes for School to engage pupils' ideas and thoughts on contemporary topics. At the end of the session, pupils can cast their votes, and these are then displayed on the School notice board.

P.E is compulsory throughout, and pupils are given the opportunity to participate in many different team sports. Depending on demand sports clubs are offered after school for pupils to pursue their interest further.

Art is taught throughout KS3 and this year we have re-introduced it at KS4 to provide the pupils to connect with their creative side. The Food Tech room also enables pupils to practice their cooking skills.

Careers Education

Career education is taught as part of the PSCHE lesson, and the school organises a Careers Fair with a wide range of professionals coming in to speak to the pupils. We aim to invite people from diverse career backgrounds ranging from doctors, dentists, bankers, engineers, journalists, police officers, artists, architects to people working in media. The majority of these speakers are usually from our alumni which really helped the pupils to connect with them.

RSE

RSE is taught in the PSCHE lessons and is planned in accordance with the PSHE

- i. **Curriculum Provision 2023– 2024: No of lessons allocated to each subject and teacher**

Number of lessons for each subject:

Key Stage 3			
	Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9
English	5	5	5
Math	5	5	5
Science	4	4	4
French	2	2	2
Computer Science	2	2	2
Geography	2	2	2
History	2	2	2
PSCHE	0.5	0.5	0.5
Arabic/Quran	2.5	2.5	2.5
Religious Studies	2	2	2
Art	1	1	1
PE	2	2	2
Total	30	30	30

Key Stage 4		
	Yr 10	Yr 11
English Literature	3	3.5
Math	5	5
Physics	3	2
Biology	2	2
Chemistry	2	2
Further Science	0	2
French	6	6
Computer Science		
Geography		
History		
Business Studies		
Psychology		
Extra Computer Sci	0.5	0
PSCHE	0.5	0.5
Religious studies	2	2
Art	1	0.5
PE	2	2
Total	30	30

Number of lessons for each teacher:

Al-Zahra Secondary School										
	Yr 7		Yr 8		Yr 9		Yr 10		Yr 11	
English Literature	4	S Masood	4	H Fadlallah	4	H Fadlallah	3	T Juma	3.5	T Juma
English Language							3	A Anwar	2.5	A Anwar
Math	5	M Meralii	5	W Karim	5	Z Karim	5	Z Karim	5	Z Karim
Science	4	A Zaidi	4	B Al-Yassin	4	A Azam	1		0	
						S Rizvi				
						B Al- Yassin				
Physics	0		0		0		3	B Al-Yassin	2	B Al-Yassin
Biology	0		0		0		2	S Rizvi	2	S Rizvi
Chemistry	0		0		0		2	A Azam	2	A Azam
Further Science	0		0		0		0		2	B Al-Yassin
										S Rizvi
										A Azam
French	2	Z Bukhari	2	Z Bukhari	2	Z Bukhari	2	Z Bukhari	2	Z Bukhari
Computer Science	2	M Bayati	2	M Bayati	2	M Bayati	2.5	M Bayati	0	
Geography	2	I Davari	2	I Davari	2	I Davari	0	Z Bukhari	2	Z Bukhari
History	2	I Davari	2	I Davari	2	I Davari	2	I Davari	2	I Davari
Business	0		0		0		2	W Karim	2	W Karim
Psychology	0		0		0		0		2	G Taher
Art	1	A Alfadhli	1	A Alfadhli	1	A Alfadhli	1	A Alfadhli	0.5	A Alfadhli
Arabic	2.5	N Asaad	2.5	N Asaad	2.5	N Asaad	0		0	
Quran		R Al-Safi		R Al-Safi		R Al-Safi				
Religious Studies	2	R Al-Safi	2	R Al-Safi	2	R Al-Safi	2	R Al-Safi	2	R Al-Safi
PSCHE	0.5	G Taher	0.5	G Taher	0.5	G Taher	0.5	G Taher	0.5	G Taher
PE	2	K Austen	2	K Austen	2	K Austen	2	K Austen	2	K Austen
Total	30		30		30		30		30	

ii. Assessment

Pupil progress is monitored through both formative and summative assessments throughout the year. Exams are conducted at the end of each term and subsequent reports are sent to parents/ carers to enable them to assess their child's progress.

We are using the 9-1 GCSE assessment framework and we feel that this is working well as both pupils and teachers have become familiar with it. We use this framework to set pupil targets at the beginning of each year and RAG track each individual pupil to measure performance and progress.

Our marking policy further allows us to monitor pupil progress as all teachers use a standard format in giving pupil feedback. Formative assessments are done throughout the year with the addition of summative assessments at the

end of each term. This allows the school to monitor pupil progress and evaluate and compare its performance against national figures.

iii. **Curriculum Enhancement**

The school prides itself in the ways it can enrich and enhance the curriculum. School trips are organised on a regular basis to compliment the teaching of the National Curriculum. In English, this includes trips to the theatre and drama workshops at The Globe and Harry Potter Studios, the Royal courts of Justice and Kidzania to name a few. In Science pupils visit Science exhibitions and take part in the Science live conference every year. Museum and field trips are organised for History and Geography respectively.

Whole school trips are organised every year ranging from Thorpe Park, Alton Towers and residential trips abroad. We have successfully been running our residential end of year trip for the past five years and the pupils have had the opportunity to visit Paris, Istanbul, Madrid and Mashhad.

Pupils are also given the opportunity to partake in public events organised by the North London Citizens and the 3 Faiths Forum. This has proven to be a real success as pupils are given the opportunity to be at the forefront of promoting community cohesion and active citizenship. Our pupils have been invited to a memorial service for the victims of the Grenfell Tower and sang at St Pauls Cathedral in the presence of the Prime Minister and members of the Royal Family. Our choir regularly performs at the Mayor's Eid festival in Trafalgar Square each year and last year were invited to the 'United for Peace' conference.

The Fundamental British Values are embedded in our curriculum and evidenced through our teaching of the Islamic values. This year we will be launching our Drop-Down Days which will also cater for topics on democracy, healthy eating, career guidance and RSE to name a few. We have an allocated lesson for PSCH and every Thursday during extended Form time, our girls have the opportunity to discuss contemporary issues with lessons prescribed by Votes for Schools and are able to cast their vote on the issue being discussed which is then displayed.

Taking on school responsibility is encouraged through the election of the School Council, where representatives from each class have regular meetings and then present their ideas for school improvements to the Head teacher. Prefects are appointed in Year 11 and every year elections are held for Head girl position.

Every year the school hosts a Charity Day for the Al Kawther Charity where pupils are given the opportunity to raise funds through sponsorship, football tournaments, plays and fashion shows and this year, we are planning to reach out more globally with our projects.

Pupils are also provided with Career Guidance in their PSHE lessons. Career Days are also planned with visits from a wide range of professions to give pupils an insight into different career options. Every year we host a College Information Evening for Year 11 pupils and parents/ carers where we discuss college applications, A level choices and alternative pathways to higher education.

The school hosts an Annual Sports Day where the pupils have an opportunity to compete in track and field events and sports tournaments. Often the winning team has the privilege of playing the last match with the teachers and this event is thoroughly awaited by all.

Trips are an integral part of the curriculum and provide our pupils with the relevant cultural capital to understand the wider world. Our Enrichment Policy and our SMSC folder further cover detail of all our trips and activities and should be read in conjunction with this policy.

4. Additional Information

i. Extra-Curricular

A variety of after school clubs are offered to Primary and Secondary pupils and they form an integral part of enriching the curriculum. This year the school is successfully running a variety of after school clubs including Football, Taekwondo, Art, Arabic, French and Persian. The clubs on offer vary every year depending on the demand and the school continually endeavours to provide pupils with a variety to choose from every term.

ii. Staff Training and Issues

In order to keep up with the new 9-1 GCSEs all staff were sent on training in accordance with their exam board. Furthermore, our staff are continuously encouraged to keep up with current legislation and support is provided for all staff through lesson observations, CPDs and line manager meetings.

All our teachers are encouraged to pursue a QTS and their ECT where applicable. This enables them to enhance and enrich their professional development, while at the same time give back to the school.

A few of our staff have also been trained as mental health first aiders and are able to provide early help for pupils.

The school has employed a new Health and Safety Officer to help with meeting building and maintenance regulations and compliance.