



# DANES HILL SCHOOL

STRONG & SAGACIOUS

## Curriculum Policy

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**This policy is reviewed and updated annually**

**This policy is applicable to all pupils including those in EYFS (Early Years and Foundation Stage)**

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## **1. Introduction**

Danes Hill School seeks to provide a broad and balanced education for all children between the ages of 3 and 13. The driving principle behind our curriculum is to guide children so that they become independent and confident individuals who enjoy succeeding. We aim to be a community of learners, excited by the opportunities that new skills, knowledge and experiences can bring.

The school aims for academic excellence. This means that results do matter, but these results reflect breadth and opportunity across the curriculum.

Danes Hill achieves excellent results in 11+, Common Entrance and Public-School examinations, together with a variety of nationally recognised tests and examinations.

The curriculum is under constant review and change is actively promoted.

### **Regulatory requirements and Statutory Guidance**

Our curriculum is designed to fulfil the regulatory requirements of a curriculum as outlined in the ISI documentation (Handbook for the Inspection of Schools – The Regulatory Requirements) and at: The Independent School Standards - Guidance for independent schools ([publishing.service.gov.uk](http://publishing.service.gov.uk)).

### **Aims and Objectives**

We aim to provide an exciting and rigorous curriculum built upon a broad base that stretches each individual pupil academically and holistically and equips them for an ever-changing world.

The school will ensure that all children develop the skills they need to become confident, self-motivated learners, who can engage with and solve challenges innovatively so that they become independent, responsible, valuable and confident members of the community.

The curriculum seeks to develop the intellectual, social, personal, moral/spiritual, linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, physical, aesthetic and creative awareness of each pupil through the promotion of a wide range of appropriate opportunities across each curriculum area. This broad range of opportunities should enable a child to develop and acquire appropriate skills in speaking and listening, literacy and numeracy at a level commensurate with national standards and in many cases well beyond.

The school aims to foster curiosity, enquiry and problem-solving in all. We aim to instill in each pupil the perseverance, determination, grit and commitment that will make them successful at any endeavour. A nurturing culture is actively promoted that safely allows each pupil to take risks and to try new activities and skills.

The aspiration for excellence begins with the adoption of a growth mindset, which equips children with the confidence and self-belief needed to solve problems and overcome difficulties. Pupils are inspired and engaged, so they develop a desire to learn that is born out of the magic of discovery. Learning will be contextualised so that children see a reason for new skills and knowledge and can celebrate the feeling of achievement gained from their successes.

The learning environment aims to encourage questioning, critical, divergent thinking and the freedom to learn from mistakes.

We differentiate learning in an innovative and imaginative way, depending on particular learning needs, to ensure that all are challenged. Specific needs are communicated with staff through the use of Pupil Passports, in accordance with the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) policy. In particular, we are committed to making appropriate provision for SEND, EAL and G + T students, both in lessons and beyond.

The school prepares pupils for success in their 11+ and 13+ examinations and for entry to the next stage of their education.

The fact that the school is not highly selective means there is a wide ability range within each year group. Teaching and learning arrangements aim to ensure that all pupils reach their potential in academic, physical, spiritual, emotional, creative, technical, and aesthetic realms.

Our Personal Development (PD) curriculum reflects the aims and ethos of the school, and encourages respect and tolerance for others, paying regard to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act (2010). The curriculum is designed to develop in every young person the values, skills and behaviours they need to get on in life through a rich provision of classroom and extra-curricular activities that develop a range of character attributes.

## **2. CURRICULUM OVERVIEW**

In common with many independent schools, Danes Hill implements a modified National Curriculum academic programme across the Pre-Prep and the Junior and Upper Schools. Some statutory assessments may be used, where appropriate. Danes Hill aims to provide an appropriate education for all pupils considering their age and ability and employing varied methods to achieve this, including streaming, setting and specialist individual support as required by an EHC Plan or appropriate internal or external assessment. When required, some children have individual and specific intervention to support their access to the curriculum, and on occasion this takes the form of a 1:1 learning support assistant, when deemed necessary and in collaboration with parents.

The school recognises the need for each pupil to have the opportunity to learn and make progress at a level suited to them and to achieve the necessary level required to reach the school of their (guided) choice.

## **Schemes of Work**

Our schemes of work (SoW) are based initially on National Curriculum principles where appropriate. Heads of Department oversee the continuity and progression across the age range.

The SoW for each department are regularly reviewed and updated to meet the needs of each cohort of pupils.

Any changes to the curriculum are determined by the Danes Hill Leadership Team, with other key stakeholders consulted, such as Heads of Department.

## **The Foundation Stage**

The Foundation Stage Curriculum is organised into three prime and four specific areas of learning. The EYFS profile sums up and describes each child's development and learning achievements at the end of their Reception year. It is based on ongoing observation and assessment in the three prime and four specific areas of learning and development.

The three prime areas are:

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development

The four specific areas through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied are:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding of the World
- Expressive arts and design

See EYFS Policy for further detail.

## **Non-Core National Curriculum subjects**

The school seeks to give significant curriculum time to non-core National Curriculum subjects that include a general humanities course in the Pre-Prep and Years 2 and 3, encompassing History, Geography and Religious Studies. All Danes Hill Prep School pupils follow courses in Art, Design and Technology (including Food Technology from Year 4), Drama, Music, ICT, Physical Education, Swimming and Games. PD; including RSE (See RSE Policy).

## **Citizenship**

Citizenship, is embedded throughout our Personal Development (PD) curriculum, which is delivered to children from Reception to Year 8.

Citizenship education at Danes Hill is:

- active: emphasises learning by doing;
- interactive: uses discussion and debate;
- relevant: focuses on real-life issues facing young people and society;
- critical: encourages young people to think for themselves;
- collaborative: employs group work and co-operative learning;
- participative: gives young people a say in their own learning.

Citizenship education involves a wide range of different elements of learning, including:

- knowledge and understanding: e.g., about topics such as Britishness, laws and rules, the democratic process, the media, human rights, diversity, money and the economy, sustainable development, and world as a global community; and about concepts, such as democracy, justice, equality, freedom, authority, and the rule of law; skills and aptitudes: e.g., critical thinking, analysing information, expressing opinions, taking part in discussions and debates, negotiating, conflict resolution and participating in community action;
- Fundamental British Values: e.g., respect for justice, democracy and the rule of law, openness, tolerance, courage to defend a point of view, and a willingness to listen to, work with and stand up for others. Refer to SMSC section.

### **Careers / Future Schools?**

Throughout the school pupils are encouraged to think about the future career paths they may wish to follow. In the Upper School they are given specific guidance and advice in group and individual sessions. This is presented in an impartial manner, enabling pupils to make informed choices about a wide range of career options. This is supplemented by outside speakers who come from a range of professions. In this way pupils are effectively prepared for the opportunities, responsibilities, and experiences of life in British society. See Careers and Further Education Policy.

### **Examination Preparation**

From Year 5 until the end of the first term of Year 6, a significant emphasis is placed upon preparing the pupils for the various pre-tests for senior school entry. Year 7 and 8 are also prepared for CE and scholarships as appropriate to their individual needs and educational journey.

### **Additional Curriculum Opportunities**

The school seeks to provide additional curriculum opportunities for its pupils with the study of classics and modern languages. French and Spanish are taught throughout the Pre-Prep and Prep School, and Classical Civilisation/basic Latin in Year 6. Children in Years 7 and 8 have the option of choosing two of languages from French, Spanish and Latin. Other linguistic provision such as Ancient Greek may be provided.

The curriculum encompasses a comprehensive programme of social and cultural visits and internal and external speakers that prepare the children for both their senior school and indeed their life beyond the confines of traditional education. It is also recognised that extra-curricular activities of all types have a significant role to play in a child's education. Danes Hill makes extensive use of day and residential trips as a useful teaching tool and means to broaden the range of educational experience and spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. A full range of educational and co-curricular trips are organised to build upon learning within the classroom and a full range of educational material is provided for each trip, with specific learning objectives being set. Each year group from Year 4-8 has an annual residential trip in June, with the children in Year 3 camping on the school site overnight.

### **Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development**

The Personal Development (PD) curriculum, form periods and assemblies are instrumental in helping pupils understand the school's aims and ethos in respect of SMSC, and strongly encourage respect for others (please also see the Pre-Prep Spiritual and Moral Wellbeing Policy). Across the curriculum and through opportunities afforded to Danes Hill pupils, we seek to actively support our pupils' development in these aspects:

- Spiritually: Explore beliefs and experience; respect faiths, feelings and values; enjoy learning about oneself, others and the surrounding world; use imagination and creativity; reflect.
- Morally: Recognise right and wrong; respect the law; understand consequences; investigate moral and ethical issues; offer reasoned views.
- Socially: Use a range of social skills; participate in the local community; appreciate diverse viewpoints; participate, volunteer and cooperate; resolve conflict; engage with the 'British Values' of democracy, the rule of law, liberty, respect and tolerance.
- Culturally: Appreciate cultural influences; appreciate the role of Britain's Parliamentary system; participate in culture opportunities; understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity.

### **3. TEACHING AND LEARNING AT DANES HILL**

A learning school is more effective than a teaching school. All schools teach but not all schools teach children to learn. Danes Hill aims to create the best ethos and climate for learning, to raise the self-esteem and standing of each child and to provide a full range of activities to allow children to succeed in their own way.

The teaching and learning processes are significant in determining pupil progress through the curriculum. Teachers have high expectations of their pupils and use a range of teaching methods. We believe that active learning should involve multi-sensory dimensions across the curriculum. As children learn using a variety of techniques, the school's role is to provide them with as many opportunities as possible to experience diverse styles of learning, to maximise their enjoyment and success.

Training and professional development are provided to ensure that teachers are informed of current initiatives and developments in their subject areas. Heads of Department are responsible for preparing Schemes of Work that ensure that the curriculum is delivered effectively to all pupils, including the most able and those with specific learning support needs.

In the Upper School, focus is also put on study skills to help the pupils learn how to revise and maximise their learning preferences.

### **Monitoring and Assessment**

Teachers use on-going monitoring and assessment to gauge pupil progress, identifying existing knowledge whilst pinpointing any gaps to inform planning and responsive teaching; It is important to recognise that assessment alone does not improve learning; instead, it is the actions taken based on assessment that make a difference in enhancing learning. Further detail can be found in the school's Assessment Policy.

### **Groups for Learning**

Danes Hill aims to provide a broad and inclusive curriculum, offering as much opportunity as possible for the children to experience different subjects and meet with success. To allow each pupil to access the curriculum provided by Danes Hill, the school groups the children by many means – setting, differentiation, inclusion and, where appropriate, extra tuition. This enables the children to work to the best of their ability in a group of like-minded children and to receive the appropriate level of support necessary to achieve their full potential.

### **Meeting Individual Needs – Differentiation and Inclusion**

The school seeks to modify its overall curriculum in the light of each pupil's age, ability and aptitude in English, Maths and Science and other areas. It is accepted that considerable differentiation should be practised at each stage in the educational process so that the curriculum meets the needs of pupils with special educational needs including more able and talented children (see relevant policies), pupils with specific learning difficulties and behavioural and/or emotional needs.

The curriculum seeks to provide equal opportunity of access to the curriculum for children, bearing in mind the different physical and emotional stages of pupils. Detailed information about the school's use of differentiation within the curriculum can be found in Appendix 1.

### **Inclusion**

Where children with a recognisable specific learning difficulty find access to the Danes Hill curriculum problematic, regular consultation takes place with the child and parents to plan a way forward. Additional provision can include appropriate individual specialised support, extra-time in examinations or dropping a particular area of curriculum activity (e.g. a modern Language). Central to teaching and learning is the notion that all pupils can experience success in the classroom notwithstanding their individual strengths and weaknesses. Equally, each pupil should receive unambiguous feedback about ways forward for future development.



Children have considerable equality of opportunity across the curriculum in every possible degree. The school, however, enjoys a tradition of excellence in certain team sports, and fixtures take place against both single-sex and co-educational schools. Appropriate opportunities are therefore provided in Games where there is increasing parity across most sports. The school provides as many opportunities as possible for children to represent the school in matches. The range of sports on offer is wide and expanding. The achievements of all are celebrated publicly within the school community.

Inclusion and differentiation are integral to lesson planning throughout the school. Danes Hill acknowledges that children learn in many ways and the school tries to develop many strategies to allow the children to do this in ways that suit them best. These forms of intelligence are considered in the provision of a variety of learning styles e.g:

- investigations
- whole class activities
- role-play
- problem solving
- group activities
- fieldwork and trips
- research
- paired activities
- creative activities
- ICT/DVD/music
- independent work
- sporting activities
- questions and answers led by the teachers
- talks and debates
- questions and answers led by the children
- presentations

In practice, therefore, children's activities are planned to challenge individuals via a whole pattern of different activities and opportunities. Pupil self-esteem is built up by a varied and enjoyable curriculum which seeks to promote identifiable success for individuals both in and out of the classroom.

### **More Able and Talented Children**

Danes Hill is committed to equal opportunities and aims to maximise the potential and achievement of each individual pupil. Through its NACE accreditation award, it seeks to establish a rigorous, systematic, and effective response to the challenge of providing for the very able. More able and talented pupils need identification and monitoring in order that the school may provide such pupils with an appropriately challenging education and opportunities, to develop their talents to ensure that their potential is translated into performance. It is recognised that such pupils may display exceptional ability and talent in some curriculum areas such as Mathematics, Music, or Art, whereas pupils whose all-round performance is well above average respond well to the rich, comprehensive, and stimulating education offered by Danes Hill School. (See More Able & Talented Policy).

#### **4. ICT AT DANES HILL**

Danes Hill has always taken positive steps to embrace and utilise ICT in teaching and learning. Tentatively, current research indicates that schools “rich in ICT” can make marked improvements in pupil attainment across the curriculum as well as preparing children for the world of study and further education and work. This two-pronged approach underlines the way in which the school is formulating its current strategies towards ICT. Cyber safety is paramount and several steps are taken to maintain it. (See Digital Safety Policy)

It therefore follows that the school teaches ICT formally to all pupils in purpose-built ICT suites, in addition pupils in Years 5 and 7 have one to one devices, and this provision will extend to all pupils in Years 5 and above in September 2024. During lessons, children are taught ICT skills according to National Curriculum and ISEB schemes of study. These main skills include:

- Word Processing (incl. ‘Touch Typing’)
- Spreadsheets
- Databases
- Desk Top Publishing
- Presentations
- Control Technology
- Graphic Skills
- Internet and E-mail Skills.
- Coding

All Schemes of Work throughout the school are expected to integrate ICT as a tool for learning and all subjects use subject specific software or scaffolded tasks to enable children to find out information in a directed way using the internet.

New uses and applications are continually sought; for example, banks of iPads/ Surface Go’s across school have been introduced into each building in the school, which staff can book out for use with classes. Introduction of one-to-one devices in some year groups has further strengthened integration of technology in the curriculum. Following online learning on MS Teams, the school has moved its virtual learning platform to SharePoint – linked to MS Teams. This enables both the delivery and recording of work, as well as independent study for the pupils.

It is an expectation that all members of staff continuously update their ability to teach using ICT as a medium. For extended details, including resources and pupil ICT safety issues, see the Digital Strategy Policy.

#### **5. OTHER FACTORS WHICH PROMOTE TEACHING AND LEARNING AT DANES HILL**

##### **The School Environment**

Danes Hill believes children learn most effectively in a stimulating, vibrant yet safe environment. Within the Pre-Preparatory School, most pupil activity is classroom-based with classroom arrangements facilitating both independent and co-operative learning.

The curriculum allows for extensive outdoor provision. Wherever possible, dedicated rooms are used for specialised teaching, such as ICT. There is a constant drive to renew, improve and create outstanding facilities to facilitate and support the teaching and learning in the school.

On the Prep School site, many departments enjoy spacious specialist accommodation. Whilst Years 2, 3 and 4 children pursue most of their activity in the form base, science, art, DT, music, ICT, drama and PE take place in dedicated areas. All subjects have designated areas and rooms as bases, although not necessarily exclusive use.

All classrooms are equipped with appropriate resources. In the Pre-Prep and Year 2, 3 and 4 classrooms, these can include class libraries, (there are also well stocked reading areas for the Junior School), specialist reference books and integrated ICT facilities. All classrooms are equipped with interactive white boards. Each classroom has access to ICT, including wireless internet via iPads and laptops. Purpose built ICT suites are also used.

The children enjoy access to excellent library facilities both at the Pre-Prep and the Prep School. A fully qualified librarian keeps a detailed record of a child's leisure reading activities and are available to offer advice daily. They also offer advice to parents, run parent and child book groups, and play a key role in the promotion of reading in the school through competitions, charity readathons and author visits.

The children have access to an outdoor learning environment, The Paddock, set in an idyllic, secure place within the school grounds. Outdoor learning is an integral part of learning at Danes Hill and is embedded throughout the broad and rich curriculum on offer.

## **Teaching Support**

Danes Hill recognises that there is more to effective teaching and learning than the teacher alone can provide. Danes Hill deploys a variety of support staff throughout the school, who work with individual children or small groups and provide essential support for subject teachers. In particular;

- At the Pre-Prep and in Year 2, the school provides full-time Teaching Assistants who offer support with reading, preparation of classroom materials and display. Year 3 share teaching assistants.
- All teaching staff can access a reprographics service, which delivers a full range of photocopying and in-house publishing services to provide high-quality resources for teachers.
- A laboratory technician services the science laboratories so that teaching staff can take full advantage of the wide range of practical equipment available. Danes Hill believes that experimental work enhances the learning process. Art and design technology departments also have the support of a technician to enhance the range of activities offered as part of the varied teaching programmes.
- IT services offer technical support to staff throughout the school.

- The maintenance and grounds staff teams make extensive contributions to the sports provision, drama productions and special educational events.

## **Homework**

Well-planned homework is used by the school to encourage pupils to develop the practice of independent study, perseverance and self-discipline. It allows them to complete the work started in school, to practise skills or to learn vocabulary taught in class.

It also allows more ground to be covered by enabling pupils to concentrate during lessons on those activities requiring the teacher's presence and can exploit materials not accessible in the classroom. See the Homework Policy.

## **Children**

The school has high expectations of the children who attend the school. An ethos of responsible behaviour and positive commitment during the learning process is encouraged (see Behaviour, Rewards and Sanctions and Pastoral Care policies).

Children are taught key skills as defined by the National Curriculum incorporated into subject areas. There are 6 main areas:

- Communication – to develop skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing.
- Application of number – to develop skills in mental calculations and their application in a variety of contexts.
- Information and Communication Technology – to develop the ability to use a range of information resources and ICT tools to find, analyse, evaluate and present information for a range of purposes.
- Working with others – to develop the skills to contribute to small group or whole class discussions, to work with others and to meet a challenge.
- Improving own learning and performance – to develop the ability to reflect on and critically evaluate their own work. To identify ways to improve their own learning and performance.
- Problem solving – to develop the skills and strategies to help solve problems they face in learning and life.
- Thinking skills – to develop the ability to know what to learn and how to learn.

## **Parents and Guardians**

Danes Hill acknowledges the importance of learning at home and values parental support in assisting children to learn effectively. In this sense, parents are a valued resource. This resource is utilised both by keeping parents fully informed about their children and by encouraging support for the school's homework policy (see section on Homework).

The homework timetable, drawn up by the Deputy Head Academic, in collaboration with Heads of Department, is issued at the beginning of each academic year to keep the parents informed of the subjects and quantities set each night.

In addition to the homework timetable, at the beginning of each term, curriculum notes are made available to all parents informing them of the topics to be covered in each subject during the term and to enable parents to support the learning process via trips to museums and theatres, etc. Both documents are available on the Danes Hill website. Homework is communicated to children on SharePoint and supported by prep diaries.

Danes Hill offers many opportunities for parents to discuss their child's progress and encourages parents to make full use of them (see Assessment policy). Danes Hill also holds a series of Information Evenings each September for parents from Transition to Year 8, to explain the year ahead in both academic and pastoral terms, and to enable parents to meet the teachers.

## **Community**

In recent years, and in response to initiatives within the educational sector, Danes Hill has aimed to increase and broaden children's awareness and understanding of the wider community in which they live. The school provides opportunities for children to learn more about local, national and global issues and to participate in several projects.

- Within the Pre-Preparatory School children learn to take account of issues of personal responsibility and the feelings of others via regular PSED (EYFS) and PD (KS1), participation in school assemblies and the application of behaviour and bullying policies.
- In Years 2 and 3, Form Teachers are responsible for developing pupil awareness of wider issues through designated time for PD.
- In Years 5 – 8, Personal Development is implemented and managed by the school's Head of PD. In general, children consider:
  - Citizenship – this course provides children with the knowledge, skills and understanding to enable them to play an effective role in society in local, national and global contexts. It allows them to learn their own individual rights and to understand Britain's economy, democratic institutions and values (see Pastoral policy).
  - Revision and Thinking skills – time is spent prior to examinations teaching children how to learn independently and to spend their revision time using a variety of techniques.
  - Discussion – children are encouraged to research topics, form arguments and to listen to the views of others.

## **6. FURTHER INFORMATION**

Further information can be found in the following school policies and documents:

- Assessment Policy
- Behaviour, Rewards and Sanction Policies
- Pre-Prep Spiritual and Moral Well-Being Policy
- Careers and Further Education Policy
- Differentiation within the Curriculum (Appendix 1)

- English as an Additional Language Policy
- EYFS
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Homework Policy (Appendix 2)
- Digital Safety Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy
- More Able and Talented Policy
- Pastoral Policy
- RSE Policy
- SMSC

## Appendix 1

### **DIFFERENTIATION WITHIN THE CURRICULUM**

The following section deals with the extent to which programmes of study embrace principles of differentiation and inclusion to achieve maximum pupil performance and participation.

It is a truism that all children are different. Yet equally, society expects all children to have equal access to areas of opportunity within the curriculum so that each child may achieve their potential. This is particularly true in the context of a co-educational school. All pupils can learn and make progress. At Danes Hill, differentiation still reflects the curriculum notion that 'results do matter' – for the child, home and school. We wish children to be the best that they can be. Inclusion is governed to some extent by personal choices made by pupils, whether in the realms of modern foreign languages, sport, or activities programmes.

Differentiation must take several factors into account:

- A child's attainment within one subject area may be obscured by specific learning needs.
- Different children react favourably to distinct styles of teaching either preferring, for example, visual stimuli or alternatively speaking and listening.
- Levels of cognitive maturation differ – and therefore children progress at quite different rates.
- A school must be prepared to challenge the more able as well as support the less able. 'Each according to their need' is a maxim which is valued and acted upon fully.

### **DIFFERENTIATION IN THE PRE-PREPARATORY SCHOOL**

- Year 1 may, where appropriate, divide children in the classroom into groups of similar ability so that children can study at an appropriate pace within a context of co-operative learning.
- Based on diagnostic testing (see Assessment Policy) pupils with evidence of specific learning needs are given appropriate support both within and outside the classroom. There are several extension and support groups for example, for reading and basic literacy and numeracy skills.
- Considerable opportunities are given to pupils to develop their talents in technology, art, music, gymnastics, dance, and other creative activities.

### **DIFFERENTIATION ACROSS KEY STAGES TWO AND THREE**

Danes Hill operates a system of setting across all core subjects by the beginning of Year 5. In practice, the school tries to achieve a balance between the pastoral security provided for children by a form-based system and providing appropriate teaching strategies for children, which challenge the most able and provide the weakest with support. Setting also gives the school the opportunity to provide smaller teaching groups for many core subjects.

Setting takes place as follows:

Year 2	Mathematics, English
Year 3	Mathematics, English
Year 4	Mathematics, English
Year 5	Mathematics, English, Science
Year 6	Mathematics, English, Science and languages
Year 7/8	Mathematics, English, Science and languages. Where possible, potential scholars will be set in top sets for all subjects.

At every stage of the setting and streaming processes, arrangements are made as flexible as possible. Scholarship entry can depend on the choice of the pupil's senior school and/or the extent to which that school has a particularly competitive entry. Considerable attention is given to the needs of pupils with special educational needs. Whilst there is no doubt that the setting system embraces their needs, individual pupils receive extensive support from the school's Learning Support Centre. The school uses evidence from Educational Psychologists' Reports to obtain amanuenses or laptop usage in important examinations in compliance with the Joint Council for Qualifications guidelines. (See LSC Policy)

N.B. Whilst setting remains central to the school's differentiation policies, staff use a plethora of methods and activities to develop further pupil response. These include:

- By OUTCOME – giving a common task to elicit diverse levels of response.
- By RATE OF PROGRESS – allowing children to work at their own pace.
- By ENRICHMENT – giving children extra tasks intended to broaden their understanding of the material.
- By SETTING DIFFERENT TASKS – such tasks would be based upon a common topic but allowing children to work at various levels.
- By UTILISING PERSONAL PUPIL PREFERENCE (e.g., competitive versus solo situation) to enhance individual and group understanding.

Differentiation is considered a crucial element in school life but is weighted with the desire to provide appropriate pupil opportunity across the curriculum. Equally, it is felt important to identify and harness pupil talents. Appropriate opportunity for talented pupils is provided in the following forms:

- Extension activities in all subjects.
- A timetabled provision and/or after school provision for talented individuals to prepare for Public School Art, DT and All-rounder awards in Years 7 and 8.
- Individual instrumental tuition and appropriate opportunity for ensemble/orchestral work (classical, jazz, pop) and regular performance opportunities for pupils of varying degrees of musical ability.
- There are choirs in the Junior School, and a Chamber Choir in the Upper School. Each performs for parents throughout the year and competes in local and national competitions, with the Chamber Choir touring abroad annually.
- Regular and extensive pupil participation in national and regional competitions across the full range of sports activities undertaken by Danes Hill pupils. These include gymnastics, swimming, athletics, and indoor rowing as well as team sports.



- Individual pupils sit LAMDA exams in Speech and Drama. Extensive work is carried out by the Drama Department to provide considerable pupil opportunity to perform on stage through school productions.

## **HOMEWORK POLICY**

Well-planned homework encourages children to develop the practice of independent study, perseverance and self-discipline. It allows children to complete the work started in school, to practise skills or to learn vocabulary taught in class. It also allows more ground to be covered by enabling pupils to concentrate during lessons on those activities requiring the teacher's presence and can exploit materials not accessible in the classroom. The Education Endowment Foundation reports that research has shown the value of homework is terms of increased pupil progress.

Homework must be set according to the homework timetables issued at the beginning of the academic year by the Deputy Head Academic and must not be set on any nights other than those stipulated. Homework is to be handed in either to the appropriate member of staff in person or during the lesson. Some homework will be set for completion by the next day, whilst others will have an extended deadline of up to a week. The amount of homework set depends on the year group and set, and ranges from 20 minutes to 40 minutes per subject per night. In addition to this, it is expected that each child should, wherever possible, read for 15-20 minutes each night. Homework should not be set on the week of whole year Drama productions or when there are other approved school activities, such as evening theatre trips or outings, major sporting events or other special circumstances.

Good reading habits not only develop the children's reading skills, but also help to improve comprehension and written work across the curriculum.

All homework should be related to the teaching in the class and should have its purpose explained to the children. Brief but clear instructions for it should be written on MS Teams and noted in the Prep diaries. Throughout the term, there should be a broad range of well-structured tasks set to include reading, writing, learning and analytical assignments.

All homework should be marked and returned to the children as quickly as possible and certainly before the next homework is set. The teacher should include an accurate, positive comment to show where improvement is needed or where progress has been made. All homework marks should be recorded in a mark book so that they can be used to monitor and evaluate the children's progress throughout the year, for reports and for setting purposes.

Homework will be differentiated to meet the needs of the year group and set.

Parents should endeavour to provide their child with a suitable, quiet environment and the time needed for the child to complete their homework. They should be aware of their child's homework timetable so they can check that all the work has been completed. They should also be aware of when they can be actively involved with the homework, for example, by helping to test vocabulary or re-interpreting questions and brainstorming solutions but should realise that it is not helpful to do their child's homework for them.