



**Cokethorpe**  

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**SCHOOL**

# Curriculum Policy

September 2025

Policy Lead: Mr Andrew Uglow, Deputy Head Academic  
Reviewed: October 2025  
Next review: September 2026

## FOREWORD

This document contains the current Curriculum of the School and is reviewed annually by the Senior Leadership Team.

Revision and refinement is sometimes necessary at other times of the year, subject to changes in the curriculum. Where appropriate, the policies are reflected in the Departmental Handbooks. Heads of Department are expected to advise the Deputy Head Academic of any revisions that they feel should be made to the policies.

These policies are accessible to all members of the teaching staff for guidance. A copy of the Academic Policy is available on the School website.

Cokethorpe offers a range of subjects which, while interesting and valuable in their own right, also serve as means of expression and development. The broader the range of subjects we can offer, the greater the chances that a child will find the appropriate means by which to show their ability and so grow as individuals.

This policy, the School's schemes of work and other plans take into account the ages, aptitudes and needs of all pupils, including those pupils with an EHC plan, and do not undermine the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Cokethorpe affords full-time supervised education for pupils of compulsory school age (construed in accordance with section 8 of the Education Act 1996), which gives pupils experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative education. We ensure:

- that pupils acquire speaking, listening, literacy and numeracy skills
- that Cokethorpe provides personal, social, health and economic education (through our LIF-Ed) which reflects the School's aims and ethos and encourages respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the 2010 Act(a)
- that Cokethorpe provides access to accurate, up-to-date careers guidance through the Futures department that is presented in an impartial manner; enables them to make informed choices about a broad range of career options; and helps to encourage them to fulfil their potential
- that all pupils have the opportunity to learn and make progress
- that there is effective preparation of pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in British society.

## CURRICULUM POLICY

The curriculum at Cokethorpe School exists to enable our pupils to make the most of their potential. The curriculum acknowledges the national context and is designed ensure that the education offered by the School is relevant, viable and accessible.

The Cokethorpe Curriculum aims to encourage young people to become:

- Successful learners who enjoy learning, make progress and achieve
- Confident individuals who are able to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives
- Responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to society

Across the whole School, the core curriculum of subjects provides the opportunity for pupils to acquire skills in speaking and listening, literacy and numeracy. These are further developed in their other subjects.

For pupils in Reception to Fifth Form, the curriculum contains compulsory subjects which provide experience in the following areas:

**Linguistic:** English Language and English Literature form a compulsory part of the curriculum through to GCSE. On entry to the Senior School through to the end of the Third Form, it is compulsory for pupils to study at least one Modern Foreign Language. Pupils in the First and Second Form also study Latin before it becomes optional at Third Form. Whilst it is not compulsory for pupils to take a Modern Foreign Language at GCSE level, it is highly encouraged. In the Prep School, pupils learn French from Reception, and are introduced to a short course of Spanish, Italian and German in years 4 – 6, as well as Latin in Year 6, in preparation for Senior School.

**Mathematical:** Mathematics and Science are studied throughout the School to GCSE. Computer Science is studied in First and Second Form and optionally thereafter to GCSE. Computing is also learnt in the Prep School from Year 1 to Year 6.

**Scientific:** Pupils up to Second Form study 'General Science' which exposes them to learning from each of the disciplines. At Third Form, they are taught the Science separately and can proceed to either the Separate or Combined pathway, depending upon aptitude.

**Technological:** all pupils in First and Second Forms follow courses in Computer Science and Design and Technology (including CAD) and many continue one or both of these in Third Form and to GCSE. Design and Technology is also taught alongside Art in the Prep School.

**Human & Social:** all pupils study History, Geography and Religious Studies in Prep School and in First, Second and Third Form. Whilst it is not compulsory, many pupils take at least one of these subjects to GCSE.

**Aesthetic & Creative:** in addition to creative writing in English, all pupils in Reception to Second Form follow courses in Music, Drama, Art, Design and Technology and Computer Science. Many continue with at least one of these to GCSE. Many pupils learn a musical instrument and/or take LAMDA lessons.

**Physical:** all pupils have timetabled PE and Games from Reception through to Second Form, and timetabled Games in the Third Form to Upper Sixth Forms. From the Third Form, PE is available as an option for pupils, including a focus on theory as well as practical work. Forest School and Outdoor Learning opportunities are timetabled in the Prep School.

**Spiritual:** all pupils have lessons in Religious Studies from Reception through to Second Form, and Civics in the Third Form. They attend regular assemblies, which collectively provide a key means of developing human and social education and promoting spiritual, moral, social and cultural

development. Timetabled LIF-Ed lessons are provided across the school. Forest School in the Pre Prep is a further opportunity for spiritual and social education.

Cokethorpe School offers a range of subjects designed to inspire pupils and provide them with the opportunity to explore and expand their academic potential. While the subject offering is regularly reviewed, it consistently reflects the School's commitment to a broad and stimulating curriculum, underpinned by high academic standards. Most subjects are taught in mixed-ability groups. However, in certain subjects, such as Mathematics and Latin, setting may be used at the discretion of the Head of Department. These sets are flexible, and pupils may move between them as appropriate.

In the Third Form, pupils begin considering their GCSE subject choices. All pupils study English, Mathematics, and Science. The default pathway is Separate Sciences, unless it becomes clear that an alternative route would better suit the pupil's needs. While a Modern Language is not compulsory, pupils are strongly encouraged to choose at least one. The selection of optional subjects follows a collaborative consultation process involving the pupil, parents, teachers, tutors, and the Deputy Head Academic. Every effort is made to accommodate pupil preferences, though not all subject combinations may be possible due to scheduling or resource constraints.

Formal selection of A Level subjects begins at the end of the Fourth Form. However, younger pupils with a clear academic direction are encouraged to seek informal guidance from teaching staff, tutors, and even prospective universities.

Heads of Department are responsible for selecting appropriate examination boards for both GCSE and A Level courses. Any proposed changes must be discussed with the Deputy Head Academic and should be made early in the academic year to allow for adequate preparation. All curriculum changes must be communicated to the Deputy Head Academic by the end of the Michaelmas Term prior to their implementation in the following September.

### **External examination**

- GCSE
  - The majority of pupils will take 9 or 10 GCSEs at the end of the Fifth Form. For some pupils, alternative arrangements may be made to ensure that they achieve grades that enable them to progress onto more appropriate routes of study.
  - The School reserves the right to refuse entry to an exam if it is felt that sitting the exam would not be in the best interests of a pupil. This will only be done after consultation with the pupil and parents or guardians
- A Level
  - Depending upon their GCSE profile, students either begin with four or three subjects and are encouraged to carry out an EPQ.
- BTEC
  - For those students for whom the A Level programme is not appropriate, the School offers the Extended Diploma BTEC qualification in Business. Where appropriate, it is possible to study the Foundation Diploma alongside a carefully selected A Level. Typically, students would be expected to have a minimum of five 9-4 grades. Whilst the majority of this programme is made up of assessed coursework, there are examined components.

It is assumed that all Fifth Form pupils will wish to continue into the Sixth Form at Cokethorpe; therefore, no formal application is required. After completing their Mock GCSE Examinations, pupils submit their subject preferences for Sixth Form study. These preferences are reviewed in a meeting with either the Deputy Head Academic or the Head of Sixth Form, during which adjustments may be made if necessary.

The School is committed to helping pupils make informed and suitable choices. However, access to specific courses may be declined if entry requirements are not met. Offers of Sixth Form places are

made following these discussions and are based on appropriate A Level subject choices and performance in the mock GCSEs. All offers are conditional upon achieving the required grades in the final GCSE examinations. The School also reserves the right to decline entry to the Sixth Form if it is believed that a pupil may not contribute positively to the academic environment.

### **Entry Requirements**

- Four A Level Subjects: An average of at least 7 points across the pupil's best 8 GCSEs
- Three A Level Subjects: An average of at least 6 points across the pupil's best 8 GCSEs
- BTEC Extended Diploma: An average of at least 5 points across the pupil's best 8 GCSEs

Subject-specific requirements are detailed in the Sixth Form Information Booklet. Generally, pupils should have achieved at least a grade 6 in any subject they wish to continue at A Level.

- Mathematics: Minimum grade 7 at GCSE
- Physics and Chemistry: Minimum grade 7s in the relevant GCSEs
- Psychology: Minimum grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics due to the subject's analytical nature

## **Human, Social, and Economic Education**

Cokethorpe School is committed to delivering a curriculum that reflects our core values and ethos, ensuring that all pupils receive a well-rounded education that prepares them for life in modern Britain. Our approach to human, social, and economic education is embedded across the curriculum and supported by robust planning and schemes of work.

### **Respect for Others and Protected Characteristics**

We actively promote respect for all individuals, with particular emphasis on those with protected characteristics as defined in the Equality Act 2010. Through LIF-Ed, tutor time, and cross-curricular themes, pupils explore issues of diversity, inclusion, and equality, developing empathy and understanding for others.

### **Promotion of Fundamental British Values**

Our curriculum actively promotes the fundamental British values of:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

These values are integrated into lessons, assemblies, and school life, helping pupils to become responsible and engaged citizens.

### **Social and Cultural Knowledge and Understanding**

We provide rich opportunities for pupils to develop their social and cultural understanding through:

- The study of History, Geography, and Religious Education
- Engagement with the arts and literature
- Participation in community projects and cultural events

This helps pupils appreciate the diverse society in which they live and understand their role within it.

### **Impartial Careers Guidance**

From Reception onwards, pupils have access to accurate, up-to-date, and impartial careers education and guidance. This includes:

- One-to-one careers interviews at appropriate times
- Access to Unifrog
- Employer engagement activities
- Work experience opportunities

- Information on a broad range of post-16 and post-18 pathways
- Guidance around futures and next steps within school, such as transition to Senior School and subject choices
- Workshops and talks

Our careers programme is designed to help pupils make informed decisions and fulfil their potential, regardless of background or starting point.

### **Physical and mental health and emotional wellbeing**

Cokethorpe School takes seriously its responsibility to ensure that the curriculum promotes physical and mental health.

### **Games and PE**

The Games programme is extensive and provides opportunity for a range of experience appropriate to the needs and abilities of the pupil. Games is taught twice a week. Alongside traditional team sports, children are able to choose to pursue kayaking, climbing, rifle shooting, outdoor education, or supervised strength and conditioning work. Whilst there is a strong sense of competition, there is also an emphasis on inclusion and engagement.

All pupils in Year 1 through to Second Form also have PE lessons twice a fortnight, in which they learn core skills. Children in Reception to Year 4 also have a weekly swimming lesson. PE becomes optional at Third Form, but it remains very popular through to A Level.

### **Early Years Foundation Stage**

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) represents the period from birth to age 5 years old. At Cokethorpe School we follow the EYFS curriculum in the Reception class. Further details can be found in our EYFS policy.

### **LIF-Ed**

The LIF-Ed programme is the vehicle through which Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is delivered (see the RSE Policy for more detail). Alongside this, lessons focus on issues such as mental and physical health and wellbeing, digital literacy and safety, transitions, independence and financial planning.

All pupils have a lesson a week, and there is a strong emphasis on understanding the law, listening to each other and discussing opinions.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Leadership ensures the effective implementation of this policy through:

- Regular curriculum reviews
- Staff training and development
- Pupil voice and feedback
- Monitoring of teaching and learning
- This ensures that our curriculum remains relevant, inclusive, and impactful.