



# Unity College Blackpool

## Curriculum Policy

The Governors and staff of Unity College will aim:

- To provide a broad, balanced, relevant and differentiated curriculum.
- To create entitlement for all pupils.
- To promote partnership between pupil, parent/carer, teacher and community.
- To ensure continuity and progression within the school and between phases of education.
- To foster teaching styles which will offer and encourage a variety of relevant learning opportunities.
- To encourage a respect for the school and its environment so that learning is a positive and pleasurable experience.

In particular, the Governors and staff believe that the curriculum should aim:

- To help the pupils develop lively, enquiring minds, an ability to question and argue rationally and an ability to apply themselves to tasks and physical skills.
- To help pupils acquire understanding, knowledge and skills relevant to adult life and employment in a fast changing world.
- To help pupils to use language and numbers effectively.
- To help pupils to develop personal moral values, respect for religious values and tolerance of other races, religions and ways of life.
- To help pupils understand the world in which they live and the inter-dependence of individuals, groups and nations.
- To help pupils to appreciate human achievements and aspirations.

The National Curriculum will be the delivery in Key stage 3 and 4. The school will also incorporate additional elements for the curriculum to create diversity and balance, for example, subjects such as BTEC, GNVQ and GCSE Applied courses.

Pupils are placed in two bands and the pupils in each band are placed in a set according to their academic ability so that their needs can be met. The sets in year 7 are determined by the key stage 2 SATs results. Setting is reviewed on a regular basis and changes made as appropriate. Pupils are organised into vertical teams and each team is allocated an Achievement Leader who is responsible a child's academic progress.

The pupils receive 25 x 1 hour lessons per week and 20 minutes registration every morning. Personal Development and additional Literacy and Numeracy are delivered in a floating lesson.

### **Business & Enterprise**

As a Business & Enterprise College all pupils in key stage 4 will study a business related subject, for example, Business Studies, Leisure & Tourism, Statistics, ICT or

a vocational subject such as Hair and Beauty, Construction, Painting and Decorating, Food Preparation, Horticulture.

All pupils will be provided with opportunities to take part in enterprise activities within lessons or as an extra-curricula activity.

## **The Arts**

Unity College is committed to offering a wide ranging arts programme to all of its pupils. Art, Drama and Music are taught in both key stages. In Art the pupils experience work in a wide range of media and in music pupils are encouraged to sing, use glockenspiels and keyboards Drama encourages pupils to perform and looks at different types of Theatre.

## **Sport**

Unity College has the Sports Mark and each pupil receives at least two hours per week of PE in additional to a wide range of extra curricular activities. There are extensive individual and team programmes outside school hours, strong links with the community such as the town's football and cricket clubs and a floodlit Astro turf.

### **Facilities**

The PE facilities at Unity College are outstanding:

- large sports hall
- gymnasium
- a floodlit Astro turf
- fitness room
- extensive playing fields
- artificial cricket wicket
- BTEC/GCSE Theory classroom

All pupils get the opportunity to take part in football, hockey, cricket, tennis, dance, gymnastics, badminton, basketball and athletics. Girls also do netball and rounders and the boys do rugby, cross country and circuit training.

## **The Key Stage 3 Curriculum**

### **Year 7**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Hours per week</b>
Communication (English 3 and MFL 1)	4
Maths	3
Science	3
Creative Technologies	2
Physical Education (PE)	2
HUB – PLTS based curriculum	6
Creative Arts	2
Challenge (including Licence to Cook)	3

### **Year 8**

#### **B Band**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Hours per week</b>
Communication (English 3 MFL 2)	5
Maths	3
Science	3
Creative Technologies	2
Physical Education (PE)	2
HUB – PLTS based curriculum	5
Creative Arts	2
Challenge (including Licence to Cook)	2
ICT	1

## **H Band**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Hours per week</b>
English	3
MFL	2
Maths	3
Science	3
Creative Technologies	2
Physical Education (PE)	2
History	2
Geography	2
RE	1
Creative Arts	2
Challenge (including Licence to Cook)	2
ICT	1

## **Year 9**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Hours per week</b>
English	3
MFL	2
Maths	3
Science	3
Creative Technologies	2
Physical Education (PE)	2
History	2
Geography	2
RE	1
Creative Arts	2
Enrichment (additional MFL, Arts or Vocational)	2
ICT	1

## **The Key Stage 4 Curriculum**

Years 10 and 11

The compulsory subjects are English Language, Maths and Science and most pupils will study English Literature and every pupil will continue to study PE, ICT, RE and PE. Pupils not studying English Literature follow a Business and Enterprise course.

At the end of year 9 pupils select the subjects they would like to continue to study in key stage 4. They can then choose 4 subjects from the list below:

Subject	Type of Qualification available		
	GCSE	GCSE Applied	Vocational
Art and Design	✓		
ASDAN			Bronze and Silver Awards
Business Studies		✓	BTEC First Cert.
Child Development	✓		BTEC First Cert.
Construction			BTEC First Cert.
Food Preparation			NVQ Level 1
French	✓		
Geography	✓		
Graphics	✓		
Hairdressing			Level 2 Diploma
History	✓		
Horticulture			Level 1 and 2
ICT			Certificate in ICT
Travel & Tourism			BTEC First Cert.
Media Studies	✓		
Music	✓		
PE	✓		BTEC First Diploma BTEC First Cert.
Performing Arts		✓	
Resistant Materials	✓		
Textiles	✓		

Different types of qualification are available for some subjects including GCSEs and BTEC First Diploma equivalent to 4 GCSEs and BTEC First Certificate equivalent to 2 GCSEs.

In addition, pupils are offered full access to the Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Consortium's Diploma Lines and Young Apprenticeships.

### **Work Related Learning**

In order to meet pupil needs it is possible to arrange work related learning where a pupil will study English, Maths and Science and then spend up to three days in work experience.

There are numerous extra curricular activities which take place at Unity College.

### **Music**

- Music lessons are available in Brass, Woodwind, Percussion, Strings, Piano, Keyboards, Guitar and voice.

- A choir
- An orchestra
- Theory Club
- Drama club
- Annual concerts at Christmas and in the summer term

## **Sport**

Teams are entered in local leagues and competitions in many sports. The school has an excellent sporting reputation and each student is expected to enhance this through appearance, attitude, self-discipline and good behaviour.

Lunchtime and after school clubs/teams include: badminton, table tennis, cross-country, football, rugby, basketball, netball, hockey, cricket, rounders, athletics and dance.

## **Other activities include:**

Art Club  
 Chess Club  
 Theatre trips  
 School Magazine  
 French trip  
 Dance Club  
 Craft Club  
 Drama  
 Sculpture activity

## **Examinations**

The school aims to enter as many as possible of the year 11 pupils in appropriate external examinations. Many of these will be GCSEs, however some may be externally accredited certificate courses or vocational qualifications.

Mr Southam is the Examinations Officer

The majority of these examinations are held in May or June of the pupil's final year. However a substantial amount of coursework or module tests take place throughout KS4. The policy of the school is that if a pupil has followed a two year course in a subject, then he/she should be entered for the examination unless there are extenuating circumstances e.g. absence leading to poor attendance record or failure to meet entry requirements

All other years will be formally examined towards the end of the school year. The Year 10 examinations will take place in the Drama Hall. Every opportunity will be taken to introduce pupils to formal examination procedures in Years 7 and 8. Informal assessments take place throughout the year in most subjects.

## **Homework**

Homework:

- will serve to instill good habits for independent learning
- will provide an opportunity for additional practice and a wider range of work
- will involve parents/carers in the process of their child's education

- will be used for completing some GCSE coursework
- will be set by all departments
- should be tailored to individual learning needs
- should help pupils learn independently
- should be regularly and constructively marked
- will be recorded in the pupil's planner to ensure that parents/carers and form tutors know what homework is being set.

Homework will be set in the subjects and according to the frequency shown below:

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Years 10 and 11</b>
	<b>Number of homeworks per week</b>
English	2
Mathematics	2
Science	2
ICT	1
Options	1-2
RE	1 for GCSE

In years 10 and 11 homework may relate to coursework and the time and frequency of setting will then differ.

In Key Stage 3 pupils are set a piece of project work for each week which is expected to take approximately 2 hours to complete. Science and Mathematics set weekly tasks.

If a pupil fails to complete 3 homeworks satisfactorily, parents/carers should be informed by use of a standard letter and form tutors should be told. Continued failure to do homework should be referred to the Head of Department who will contact parents/carers and try to resolve the problem.

The Learning Resource Centre (LRC) is available before, during and after school so that pupils can complete their homework. The LRC has the facilities necessary for pupils to complete work, for example, computers, internet access and books. Achievement Leaders and the SEN department also run Homework Clubs.