

Curriculum Policy
Erdington Academy
Part of Fairfax Multi-Academy Trust
July 2021

Document Owner:	Andrew Wright: Deputy Head
Ratified By:	Simon Mallet: Head of Academy
Date Ratified:	July 2021
Review Date:	July 2022

1 Intent

We are committed to giving our students the very best opportunities in life. Our students come from a wide range of ethnic backgrounds and a significant proportion are Pupil Premium; there is the full range of High, Middle and Middle and Lower Prior Attainers at the end of Key Stage 2. Key Stage 2 starting points are below National Expectations across all year groups in all measures; reading is the most significant gap. We provide education to students in an area of high deprivation (0.36 School Deprivation Indicator). Contextual deprivation and safeguarding issues are themed around Neglect, Abuse, Housing and Crime.

Erdington Academy supports all of our students in achieving their full potential by offering a curriculum that includes academic, creative and vocational subjects that are both relevant and engaging for all our students. The wide range of these subjects allows different pathways that suit our students' needs to ensure they are both stretched, challenged and supported in their studies. All subjects, from Year 7 to Year 11, offer progression into the next stage of education, for example Religious Education can be studied in Year 7, at GCSE and then is often studied at A-level by students after leaving Erdington Academy.

Our intent is that the curriculum underpins our “3 Cs” principles of Currency, Character and Culture.

Currency: Students acquire relevant qualifications which allow them to progress into all levels of education, training and employment.

Character: Students develop their character to be strong of heart, mind and will.

Culture: Students embed an attitude of kindness and respect.

Therefore, Erdington’s curriculum is:

- Student-centred - offering differentiation and personalisation. Not just about preparing students for examinations – a highly effective preparation for a successful adult and working life in a 21st century global society
- Focused on scholastic excellence and outcomes to make best use of every opportunity for students to exceed national standards in attainment and progression
- Nurturing the talents of all and celebrating success at every opportunity
- Good value for money
- Not part of a “game playing” curriculum that promotes opportunities to improve the academy’s performance over students’ individual needs
- Equitable for all students and accessible by all.

These key principles reflect our academy’s ethos of ambition, dedication, excellence, integrity and tradition:

- **Excellence:** We strive for the highest quality to ensure excellent outcomes and personal achievements.
- **Dedication:** We believe there is dignity in hard work and effort.
- **Ambition:** We aim to be the best that we can be, in all that we do.
- **Integrity:** We believe in openness, honesty and have a real sense of moral purpose.
- **Tradition:** We believe in good manners, kindness and respect.

2 Implementation

Students in all year groups experience a diverse curriculum that encourages students to develop their cultural capital and a wider knowledge of the world. Therefore, the curriculum offers students the opportunity to study a wide range of subjects and engage with many opportunities such as visits, external speakers, activity days and work experience placements. Curriculum pathways from Years 7 - 11 ensure continuity of study for all students and that they are challenged in their learning.

Students are encouraged to take part in activities beyond the classroom where they learn about effort and teamwork. The wide variety of activities encourage students to discover recreational interests which they can take into adult life or deepen their understanding in a subject or particular interest. Erdington offers a diverse array of clubs at lunch time and after school, as well as weekend and holiday clubs, plus a number of residential trips. Students are consulted regularly on opportunities they would like to be made available within school.

Enrichment activities are offered to students in all subject areas and include opportunities to take part in Maths Challenges, STEM visits, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award and our Debating Society. These greatly enhance student experience, enjoyment and understanding.

There are a wide range of sporting opportunities available for all students. These clubs include individual and team sports, providing broad and balanced opportunities for students of all aptitudes and abilities to participate in, promoting a positive, healthy lifestyle through participation and competition. Links with external providers ensure that there is a wide variety of sporting opportunities outside of the academy, for example Aston Villa FC provide weekly evening training for 30 students using the academy's facilities.

Our performance and sport faculty provide opportunities for all with a popular music and drama timetable encouraging the creative side of Erdington's students to grow.

These activities help promote students' leadership skills will ensure our students achieve the best they can when they leave Erdington.

Enrichment days

Three enrichment days take place at well-spaced intervals during the academic year for all year groups. These days incorporate careers education as well as having a focus on wellbeing and

staying safe, further enhancing and linking all aspects of CEIAG, SMSC and PSHE covered during the year in addition to learning experiences from the tutorial programme and in lessons. The expertise of outside providers is used throughout the year and on these days to ensure students are educated by experts in their field and understand the relevance of what they are learning.

Sex and Relationships education

The academy also provides sex education throughout the curriculum for all students, in which students are encouraged and guided by moral principles and taught to recognise the value of family life.

Healthy lifestyles: Mental, Emotional and Physical wellbeing

The academy promotes a healthy lifestyle. All students in Years 7 -11 follow the National Curriculum. There are many enrichment opportunities provided through the lunchtime and extra-curricular programmes.

Careers education and work related learning

Careers education is delivered to all students in Years 7 – 11 through every subjects and careers education elements of enrichment and multi-agency days. Erdington's alumni regularly visit and give talks to students, providing an ideal opportunity for direct and networking opportunities to access relevant career professionals.

e-safety

Students are regularly made aware of how to be safe when interacting with the wide range of ICT resources that are part of our technological society. Students are taught as part of their curriculum about how to recognise and avoid danger when using ICT resources. Through its Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policies the academy works to prevent any member of its community becoming the victim of online exploitation and/or cyber-bullying. Staff follow the Acceptable Use Policy regarding ICT in the academy and are expected to role model the safe use of ICT.

Equal opportunities

Our entire curriculum is available to all, regardless of sex, race, disability, religion or belief. Entry to all our programmes of study are based on academic suitability and appropriateness.

Disabilities: In accordance with the statutory requirements the academy aims to make the curriculum accessible to all students as far as is reasonably practicable.

Gifted, More Able and Talented students

As an aspirational academy, we seek to meet the needs of students of all abilities through a wide range of well thought out strategies and opportunities.

Gifted students are encouraged to maximise their academic potential through experiences that are both challenging and varied, incorporating a range of higher order thinking skills. Students who are talented in the arts, music, drama and sports for example, are given the opportunity to develop their expertise to the full.

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

Our curriculum meets the needs of our students with special educational needs or disabilities by ensuring we have a deep understanding of how they learn best and what support they need the most. Working closely with parents, our SEND team ensures students have the appropriate support for their individual needs, including additional literacy lessons, one-to-one tutoring and homework support sessions.

Other additional needs

Where students are finding accessing the curriculum challenging they are able to spend time working in The Learning Zone with specialists in behaviour and engagement. These staff work with individuals and their parents on bespoke courses that result in students engaging more fully in lessons and obtaining qualifications to support their career pathways; for example, in Year 9 students can achieve the Prince's Trust Level 1 Award in Personal Development as part of their work to address any engagement issues from classroom learning.

The curriculum in action

Erdington operates a 1-week timetable, comprising five one-hour lessons, a total of 25 lessons per week.

Impact

The curriculum has ensured that students are well rounded and are increasingly educationally successful as well as equipped for the world of work and their place in society.

The vast array of enrichment activities available to students have been proven to have a huge impact upon our students' wellbeing, enthusiasm and progress.

The rate of exclusions is well below national average, and students' attendance is well above national average, demonstrating that the curriculum is relevant, engaging and impactful.