



Curriculum Policy

September 2026

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this policy is to ensure that our curriculum supports our school ethos and fulfils our school aims, which are defined as:

Our Purpose and Vision:

We want all children at Polam to have the following mind-set during their time at Polam

***I am** safe, happy and healthy*

***I can** be kind, curious and learn from my choices*

***I will** always believe in myself*

Our Aims:

- *To teach children to understand how to look after themselves, stay safe and make healthy choices*
- *To ensure children are caring, kind and respectful to those around them*
- *To give children opportunities to be curious, make good progress and enjoy their learning*
- *To ensure children feel confident, independent and resilient*

Our Values:

1. Curiosity
2. Optimism
3. Resilience
4. Empathy

- 1.2 This policy applies to all pupils, including those in the Early Years.
- 1.3 We see the curriculum as, 'The total learning experience for our pupils, which includes not only the taught lessons but also the routines, behaviours, events, activities and other opportunities that our pupils experience on a daily, weekly and yearly basis in order to ensure that all of them make the best progress possible and attain high standards'.
- 1.4 A well-structured and coherent curriculum is a fundamental element of the tripartite of education that underpins all successful schools and includes Teaching, Learning and Assessment as in the following model:

- 1.5 We aim to provide a curriculum to develop pupils who love learning. We understand that the curriculum, both within taught lessons and beyond them, and in everything we say and do, should create an environment where academic risk-taking, questioning and debating, challenging thinking and the freedom to learn from mistakes are all encouraged.
- 1.6 Our curriculum offers all pupils the opportunity to experience linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical, aesthetic and creative aspects of education. We intend that our curriculum should imbue in our pupils:
- A passion for life-long learning;
 - A capacity for independent and critical thinking;
 - Self-awareness, self-regulation and resilience;
 - Self-confidence without arrogance; and
 - Genuine interests that extend beyond the confines of the classroom.
- 1.7 British values, which are; democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs, are actively promoted in every aspect of school life.
- 1.8 Our curriculum is compliant with the following regulatory requirements as outlined in the Independent School Standards:

The written policy, plans and schemes of work:–

- (i) take into account the ages, aptitudes and needs of all pupils, including those pupils with an EHC plan; and*
- (ii) 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.*

For the purposes of paragraph the matters are:

- (a) 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;*
- (b) that pupils acquire speaking, listening, literacy and numeracy skills;*
- (c) personal, social, health and economic education which:*
- (i) reflects the school's aim and ethos; and*
 - (ii) encourages respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the 2010 Act(a);*
- (d) Where the school has pupils below compulsory school age, a programme of activities which is appropriate to their educational needs in relation to personal, social, emotional and physical development and communication and language skills;*
- *that all pupils have the opportunity to learn and make progress and*
 - *effective preparation of pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in British society.*

2 Taught Curriculum

- 2.1 Our taught curriculum broadly follows and, at times, goes beyond the EYFS in the Early Years, National Curriculum in KS1 and is formally assessed at the end of Years R – 2 by GL summative assessments in English and Mathematics.
- 2.2 Time awarded to each subject in each year group is visually explained in the curriculum model in appendix 1.

- 2.3 Details of how the taught curriculum is translated into subject Schemes of Work (SoW) and lesson plans.
- 2.4 Taken together, the taught curriculum will ensure that by the time they have completed their time with us, all pupils are able to demonstrate the knowledge, skills and understanding to enable them to move onto the next stage of their education at the highest level.

3 Special Educational Needs and Disability - SEND

- 3.1 Our curriculum is inclusive. For those pupils with special educational needs or specific learning difficulties, the school has a trained SENCo and children are supported in the classroom in a variety of ways such as intervention groups and targeted teaching. Staff work with outside agencies to support children where necessary to support and extend learning.
- 3.2 Further details of this provision can be found in our Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Policy.

4 SMSC

- 4.1 Our policy follows the advice given by the DfE in the non-statutory guidance of November 2014 and meets the requirements of the Independent School Standards. Aspects of SMSC are infused within the day to day operation of our school; incorporated through the curriculum, both in content included in subject schemes of work and through other planned learning opportunities in the school. They are captured in our written aims and expressed in the ethos and behaviours of everyone. Our approach to SMSC ensures that principles are actively promoted which:
 - Enable pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence;
 - Enable pupils to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England;
 - Encourage pupils to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative and understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality in which the school is situated and to society more widely;
 - Enable pupils to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England;
 - Further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling pupils to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures;
 - Encourage respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the 2010 Act; and
 - Encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic process, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England.
- 4.2 Discriminatory or extremist opinions or behaviours are challenged as a matter of routine.
- 4.3 In addition, our approach to SMSC ensures that all pupils will gain an:
 - Understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process;
 - Appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their well-being and safety;
 - Understanding that there is a separation of power between the executive and the judiciary, and that while some public bodies such as the police and the army can be held to account through Parliament, others, such as the courts, maintain independence;
 - Understanding that the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law;
 - Acceptance that people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour; and

- Understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination.

5 Religious Education and PSHEE

- 5.1 Our school chooses to respond to the legal requirement in maintained schools to teach Religious Education and Sex and Relationships Education, and to non-statutory guidelines to cover other aspects of Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHEE). Our programme encourages respect for other people, with particular regard to the protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010
- 5.2 Our PSHEE course is delivered to all pupils through discrete PSHEE lessons taught by our teachers. There is one lesson of taught PSHEE a week. Elements of the programme may be supported through the bringing in of additional expertise, such as outside speakers, or the use of teachers with a particular interest or knowledge in a specific area. In addition to these discrete sessions, PSHEE is also dealt with across the curriculum (e.g. Social issues through the teaching of English Literature; Health through Biology and PE; Citizenship through History & RE).

6 Co-curricular

- 6.1 A wide range of enrichment activities supplements the timetabled curriculum. Our pupils are encouraged to take part in an extensive range of art, drama, music, sport and other activities and clubs. Regular themed days and weeks are held. These may include Book Week, Maths Week, Science Week, Anti-Bullying Week or Art Week.
- 6.2 Pupils are taken to places of interest on a regular basis. Visits, including residential opportunities, are organised annually, which help to develop independence, teamwork and responsibility in a different environment to that in school.

7 Other Opportunities

- 7.1 Our school aims to provide an education for life. Other aspects of our curriculum which enable our pupils to gain the skills, knowledge and experience to be successful adults include:
- Pupil Councils;
 - Extra-curricular activities;
 - Charity involvement;
 - Expeditions and trips;
 - Fundraising Activities;
 - Various Societies and Activities;
 - Sport.

8 Responsibility

- 8.1 The person with responsibility for the overview and yearly evaluation of this policy is the Teaching and Learning Lead. However, all staff are responsible for ensuring this policy is implemented and acted on.
- 8.2 When evaluating the use and impact of this policy, our school leaders will evaluate the extent to which there is evidence of a curriculum which:
- Fulfils the aims of the school;
 - Embeds aspiration, attributes and the expectation to achieve high standards and high rates of progress; and
 - Provides engagement and excitement for learning.

Appendix 1

Curriculum Plan

Weekly timetable without lunch/break – 28.75

Subject Area	Year Groups	
	Y1	Y2
Literacy	28%	28%
Numeracy	17%	14%
Topic Work*	15%	16.5%
Music	3.5%	3.5%
PE	8%	8%
MFL	3.5%	3.5%
Computing	2.5%	3%
Swimming	1.5%	1.5%
PSHE, RE & SMSC, Wellbeing, (including assembly)	21%	22%

*Topic Work – we choose termly topics and take a cross curricular / creative curriculum approach which covers the following subject areas:

- Humanities (History & Geography)
- Science
- Art & Design and DesignTechnology

Ownership and consultation	
Document author (role)	Darren O’Neil
Implementation date September 2026	
	Review date September 2027

Curriculum - September 2026 update

The underlying policy wording is retained. The following amendments record statutory/guidance changes that took effect for the 2026/27 academic year and supersede any inconsistent earlier references.

- **2026 statutory update - this section supersedes any inconsistent earlier wording in this policy.**
- Early-years curriculum and welfare arrangements will follow the **EYFS statutory framework in force from 1 September 2026.**
- Relationships and health education will have regard to the revised DfE statutory guidance in force from **1 September 2026**, with age-appropriate teaching on healthy and respectful relationships, boundaries, online safety and harmful influences.

Review: September 2027

Prepared as a 2026 annual policy update. School-specific names, roles and procedures otherwise remain as stated in the policy unless separately amended by the school.