

Princes Risborough School

KS3 Curriculum Summary



Aspire & Achieve

Our Curriculum Intent

The aim of our curriculum is to ensure that all students leave Princes Risborough School with **excellent academic outcomes** and go on to be:

- **Positive** in their future choices and ambitions
- **Responsible** and active citizens in their communities
- **Successful** in the world beyond the school gates

Aspire & Achieve

The Curriculum at Key Stage 3

A revised National Curriculum was introduced by the Department for Education (DfE) in September 2014. Schools are expected to offer a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, social and physical development of students as well as preparing them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

Schools are expected to follow the statutory national curriculum. As an academy Princes Risborough School could exercise the freedom to deviate from the national curriculum; however, we choose not to do so and all subjects follow the prescribed programmes of study at Key Stage 3.

Key Stage 3 is defined as Years 7 to 9 and therefore is studied over the first three years of secondary school as a preparation for Key Stage 4, which is studied in Year 10 and 11 and is assessed through GCSEs and BTEC Level 2 examinations. Our KS3 curriculum is designed to be unashamedly ambitious for all of our students, regardless of their barriers or starting points. We deliberately pitch our learning to 'the top', accepting that it will take some pupils longer to get there and they will require more support, but that every pupil will get there eventually. The core subjects at Key Stage 3 are the same as those as Key Stage 2 – English, Maths and Science.

The core subjects are supplemented by the foundation subjects in Key Stage 3, namely Art and Design, IT, Design and Technology, MFL, Geography, History, Music and Physical Education, Religious Studies. All students study two languages. In Year 7 students learn both French & Spanish then have the opportunity to specialise within one language from Year 8 onwards.

The Performing Arts (Music, Dance & Drama) are taught as separate subjects with the opportunity to specialise in one in Year 9 to enable students to explore their areas of interest in greater depth. Students study Food Technology, Product Design, Textiles & Graphics on a carousel in Years 7-8, again with the option to specialise in one during Year 9. Where students are keen to continue with two Performing Arts or two Arts and Technology Options, it will be possible to request this. IT, Literacy, Numeracy and Citizenship are also incorporated into every department's schemes of work.

At Princes Risborough School Citizenship and Relationship and Sex Education are predominantly delivered through the PSHE programme, which is taught one hour per fortnight. In Year 9 students begin the Citizenship curriculum which includes aspects of the PSHE curriculum. In Year 9 additional information is covered through a series of drop-down days.

Timetable at Key Stage 3

The school operates a two week timetable cycle. There are five one hour teaching periods each day and therefore fifty periods in total per fortnight. A significant proportion of the teaching time at Key Stage 3 is devoted to the core subjects of English and Maths.

This is to support students in developing the high standards of literacy and numeracy Re which will underpin their access to the broader curriculum and therefore form a basis for wider learning and high achievement. Key numeracy and literacy skills will be identified to be mastered within each academic year and where mastery of these skills proves to be a challenge to an individual additional support will be provided to boost progress. The remaining core subject of Science also receives a substantial lesson allocation. Biology, Chemistry & Physics are taught as separate sciences by subject specialists.

KS3 Lesson Allocation

Subject	Number of periods per fortnight (1 period = 1 hour)		
	Y7	Y8	Y9
English	8	8	8
Maths	7	7	8
Biology	2	2	3
Chemistry	2	2	3
Physics	2	2	3
Geography	2	3	3
History	3	3	3
French/Spanish	3	3	3
PSHE/Citizenship	2	2	2
RE	1	1	Taught via CZ
IT	2	2	2
Performing Arts • Dance • Drama • Music	2 2 2	2 2 2	Performing Arts Specialism 4
Art	2	2	Art & Technology Specialism 4
Technology Carousel • Graphics • Product Design • Food Technology • Textiles	4	4	
Physical Education	4	4	4
Total	50	50	50

Setting

With the exception of maths all subjects are entirely delivered to mixed ability groups throughout the course of Key Stage 3. In most instances these are based on their tutor groups.

Homework at Key Stage 3

Homework is a central element of the school's Teaching and Learning Policy.

Google Classroom

Staff assign homework through Google Classroom and students will be able to access the details via the internet and on their devices. Google Classroom can also send push notifications to students to remind them of deadlines. Parents will also be able to see what is set. In some cases, homework will also be submitted via this platform.

Parents are requested that if their child has been absent from school, to ensure that they catch up on the work missed as soon as possible on return, prior to the next lesson if possible. Google Classroom is the first port of call for this. Teachers can explain the work if the student requires additional support.

Assessment at Key Stage 3

Student attainment can be assessed in a variety of ways. Homework submissions, tests and examinations can all be marked and then an attainment level assigned. However, in a number of subjects such as Drama, Dance, English, Languages, Music and Physical Education the performance of a task or skill can also be assessed by the teacher in lessons.

Written work will routinely be assessed for the accuracy of literacy and/or numeracy in addition to subject specific criteria and teachers will provide written/verbal feedback in the form of a target. Students will then often be provided with time in lessons to act on the suggestions they have received from their teacher. Periodically written work, tests or examinations will receive graded feedback.

Reporting in KS3

Princes Risborough School is keen to ensure that parents & carers are kept informed about their child's progress by providing regular information on progress and effort in class. In KS3, parents will receive:

- Assessment Point 1 Report (AP1): Progress Target & Learner Profile
- Assessment Point 2 Report (AP2): Progress Target & Learner Profile
- Assessment Point 3 Report (AP3): Progress Target & Learner Profile
- Progress Evening
- An annual written report

The Assessment Point reports will also provide information about attendance, minutes late, Achievement Points & Behaviour Points. Depending on the time of year the report may also include Winter & Summer Assessment Grades with the average for each subject. To ensure that students do not miss key parts of the curriculum, it is important that all students aim for 100% attendance with no lates. The school target is to achieve a minimum of 96% attendance.

Progress Target

In each subject at KS3 students are assessed relative to externally-set target grades. Reports will show the KS4 target grade for each subject. For each Assessment Point, students will be given a 'Progress Target' showing how they are progressing relative to this target.

- **Above (A)** = The student is on track to exceed their KS4 target in this subject
- **On (O)** = The student is on track to meet their KS4 target in this subject
- **Below (B)** = The student is not on track to meet their KS4 target in this subject

Learner Profile

PRS 1 students: You always invest in your own learning. You ..

- Complete **all** work to the best of your ability
- Always meet deadlines
- Follow instructions from staff
- Show respect to staff and students
- Show a willingness to learn
- Contribute positively to your class and school

Students who meet every expectation. You do everything your parents, carers, and staff expect; you are a role model for other students.

PRS 2 students: You usually invest in your own learning. You ..

- Complete most work to the best of your ability
- Always try your best to meet deadlines
- Follow instructions from staff
- Show respect to staff and students
- Show a willingness to learn
- Contribute positively to your class and school

Students who show staff, parents, carers and other students that they want to learn and meet most expectations.

PRS 3 students: You are neglecting your learning in some way. You sometimes (do **one or more** of the following) ...

- Fail to complete work
- Fail to follow instructions from staff
- Show a lack of respect to staff and/or students
- Fail to make positive contributions to your class and school
- Arrive late or truant lessons.
- Distract other students and get distracted

You may also exhibit other behaviour which prevents learning for yourself or others.

PRS 4 students: You require help in valuing your own learning. You regularly disrupt the learning of yourself or others. You frequently (do **one or more** of the following) ...

- Fail to complete work
- Fail to follow instructions from staff
- Show a lack of respect to staff and/or students
- Fail to make positive contributions to your class and school
- Arrive late or truant lessons.
- Distract other students and get distracted

You may also regularly exhibit other behaviour which prevents learning for yourself or others.

When deciding upon a Learning Profile for a student, staff will take a 'best fit' approach. In addition, staff may indicate a further two concerns on the AP reports to help students and parents/carers understand areas for improvement.

Homework concern

You have failed to hand in or complete homework assignments on more than one occasion in the assessment period.

Attendance Concern

Your attendance is less than 90%. As a result, staff are concerned about the impact this could have on your learning.

Staff at Key Stage 3

Contact details for Heads of Year & Heads of Department can be found via our [website](#).