



ALDENHAM
SCHOOL

Curriculum Policy

**Reviewed January 2026
by Deputy Head (Academic)**

Policy Owner	Deputy Head Academic
Last Amended	Christmas Term 2025
Last Review	January 2026
Review schedule	Annual

1. Curricular aims

Aldenham School's primary objective is to motivate and support our students to thrive within an truly holistic educational environment. Our teachers encourage curiosity and foster a love for learning among the students. We provide an educational setting that enhances growth in many areas whilst attempting to optimise each student's academic potential.

Our mission is to cultivate well-rounded, confident, and thoughtful young people equipped with strong academic credentials, who are ready to take the opportunities and manage the challenges presented to them in a rapidly changing world. Every student at Aldenham School receives a comprehensive, well-rounded education that promotes progress, personal growth, and respects diversity, enabling everyone to succeed.

The Aldenham School curriculum is not limited to what goes on in the classroom. In our curriculum we undertake:

- To realise the potential within each student and to inspire all students to try their best in everything they do
- To foster a spirit of enquiry amongst students and inspire them to engage with a range of contrasting viewpoints
- To improve academic results continually across our broad subject range
- To increase student participation in a variety of activities
- To provide a safe school environment for all students with an atmosphere of tolerance and mutual respect
- To provide teaching and facilities of the highest quality, to stimulate students' curiosity
- To promote independent learning and appropriate use of Information Technology

2. Regulatory matters relating to the curriculum

Aldenham School satisfies the regulatory requirements for the quality of education we provide in the following ways:

This document outlines the school's curriculum policy, supported by additional academic policies detailed in section 3. Section 4 provides an explanation of the curriculum's structure. Additional resources, including schemes of work, are available within each Department's handbook.

The school's curriculum policy, along with curriculum plans, schemes of work, and lesson plans, is thoughtfully designed and continually refined to address the ages, abilities, and needs of all students, including those with an Education and Health Care (EHC) plan.

In line with our curricular aims, Aldenham School's curriculum supports core British values, including democracy, rule of law, individual freedom, and respect and tolerance for diverse faiths and beliefs. We encourage our students to exemplify qualities such as inquiry, knowledge, critical thinking, communication, principles, open-mindedness, compassion, courage, balance, and reflection.

The school provides full-time supervised education for students from Year 7 to Year 13. We give students experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative education, as outlined in section 4.

Our students develop skills in speaking, listening, literacy, and numeracy through subjects such as English, Mathematics, Modern Foreign Languages, and Science. Departmental schemes of work are structured to ensure well-planned lessons with appropriately paced instruction. The language of instruction at Aldenham School is English but we do also support examinations in native languages whenever possible.

In line with our aims, we have a full program of personal, social, health and economic education. The PSHE programme encourages respect for other people and pays particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the 2010 Act(a). More detail is given about our PSHE programme.

The school has a dedicated careers program staffed by a full-time Head of Careers. This program provides accurate and current guidance on university admissions (alongside the UCAS team) and career options with a specific bi-weekly lesson for Year 12 students and supporting activities in the tutor program for all years. This support empowers students to make informed decisions across a wide range of higher education and career paths. The guidance process begins with GCSE options advice delivered by both departments and tutors in Year 9 and includes a large Careers Fair in Year 11, featuring a wide range of external speakers. Students considering Oxbridge and Medical applications benefit from a specialised HSU (highly selective universities) program led by the Assistant Head Student Progress.

Every student at Aldenham School has the opportunity to learn and progress. Our approach to reporting and tracking enables timely interventions and adjustments to student programs to meet individual needs. Using baseline assessment data, we attempt to monitor and intervene effectively where support to progress is needed.

Aldenham School equips students for the opportunities, responsibilities, and experiences of life in British society through its lesson content, the Enrichment program, various clubs and societies (including the Combined Cadet Force and DofE), numerous offsite trips, and visiting speakers who engage with students in our regular assemblies and Chapel services.

3. Organisation of the curriculum

3a. Years 7 & 8

All students study the following subjects: Art, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Drama, Design Technology, English, French, Geography, History, Maths, Music, Personal Social and Health Education, Physical Education and Games, Physics, PRE (Religious Studies) and Spanish.

3b. Year 9

In Year 9 the curriculum model is similar to that in Year 7 & 8 but students may now make a choice between Music and Design Technology and Spanish or French.

3c. Year 10 & 11

Students at Aldenham study a number of important compulsory subjects and choose additional optional subjects to broaden their learning and provide a firm foundation for further study. The compulsory subjects are:

English: Leading to IGCSEs in English Language & Literature

Science: Taught as three separate sciences leading to two or three GCSEs.

Mathematics: Leading to one or two GCSEs.

PSHE: non-examined

Games and PE.

Students are then required to take 4 optional GCSE subjects. We make adaptations to this requirement where appropriate (e.g. where students have a SEN or a significant outside sporting commitment).

We recommend that students choose four subjects from the option subjects as follows:

- Continue with their Modern Foreign Language (this is not compulsory but is recommended)
- A humanity (e.g. History, Geography, PRE)
- A creative or performance-based subject (e.g. Art, Design & Technology, Computer Science, PE, Music, Drama, Dance)
- A free choice from the following list of subjects:

PRE, Physical Education, Computer Science, Art, Drama, Dance, Spanish or French, History, Geography, Music, Design & Technology

Science

All three science disciplines are taught to GCSE, but there are two different routes that students follow after Year 9. Most students will follow the Trilogy combined science syllabus means studying the core content in each science and leads to two grades at GCSE calculated from the combined performance in all three sciences. This is usually sets 3 to 6/7. Sets 1 and 2 follow the Triple award science syllabus which involves studying the core and additional content in each science to lead to three grades at GCSE, each science subject being graded independently of the other two.

Modern Foreign Languages

The majority of students will choose to study a Modern Foreign Language (French or Spanish) as one of their options. However, we recognise that this may not be an appropriate or desirable choice for all students and hence students may study an option subject in place of a Modern Foreign Language if they wish.

3d. Sixth Form

We ask students to select four subjects and then we design the final 4 blocks to suit their preferences. Most students begin with four A-levels and then decide on their final three in the period leading up the parents' evening by October of Year 12. Students who wish to continue with all four A-levels may do so if they maintain a sufficiently high academic standard. As a matter of course many that have chosen to study Further Maths will continue with 4 A Levels all the way through the Sixth Form. We are offering the Cambridge National Level 3 Applied Science course for the first time from September 2026

We offer a wide range of subjects at A Level. The finalised blocks for the academic Year 2025-26 are shown below and is typical of our A Level offering.

Finally, we offer the EPQ, Subsidiary Mathematics and native language A-Levels (where we are able to support (e.g. Chinese, Russian, Turkish etc.). Finally, students in Year 12 have specialist careers, Skills and PSHE lessons once a fortnight as well as games lessons each week.

BLOCK A	BLOCK B	BLOCK C	BLOCK D
Business	Art	Biology	Drama
Chemistry	Biology	Business	English
Government & Politics	Business	Chemistry	Further Mathematics
History	Economics	Computer Science	Geography
Mathematics	French	Drama	History
Media Studies	Further Mathematics	Economics	Mathematics
Physics	Geography	English	Psychology
Psychology	Mathematics	Media Studies	Sociology
	Psychology	Music	Spanish
		Philosophy	
		Physical Education	

4. Inclusion

Admission to courses at Aldenham School is based solely on academic suitability, irrespective of race, gender, or other personal factors. The Deputy Head Academic assesses academic suitability in consultation with the Admissions dept. Head of Sixth Form and the House teams.

5. Communication about the curriculum

The school communicates with its stakeholders about its written curriculum by means of a variety of electronic material available from our Admissions dept. or our website. There is also plentiful supplementary information available on our website. We hold regular parents' evenings and curriculum information evenings each year to update parents and guardians on how their children are doing and what the next steps are for each key stage change. Parents and guardians are also freely invited to consult with teachers and House staff in person, on the telephone or via email with the tutor being the primary point of contact for parents.