



Curriculum Policy

Reviewed by (Head Teacher/DSL):

Date: April 2021

Review Date: April 2023

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Rationale

Bristol Steiner School (BSS) practices a curriculum adopted by over 1,000 Waldorf/Steiner schools worldwide, which has been successfully implemented since 1919 and adapted to meet local conditions. We are committed to offering an education designed at every level to meet the needs of the pupils at their various stages of emotional, intellectual and physical development.

At BSS, there is an understanding that:

All students are entitled to, and should be offered, a comparable range of equal educational opportunities. Every child is unique, having individual aptitudes, abilities, interests and other characteristics, which need to be catered for.

The interplay between what lives within the pupils and what is to be brought to them as lesson content and skills requires constant flexibility, and how a topic is presented to one particular class by one particular teacher will be quite individual. This relationship to the class is a crucially important factor; it allows the teacher to be aware of each child's inherent capacities and of how these are being fostered through what is taught. The teacher can then set expectations which are appropriate for the pupil's ability and developmental stage.

Steiner education is divided into three phases corresponding to three seven-year phases of childhood as Rudolf Steiner outlined. i.e. Kindergarten for young pupils up to age seven, lower school from age seven to fourteen and upper school for fourteen plus. BSS comprises a Kindergarten and lower school (known as the Primary School) up to age 11.

Our Curriculum policy is an essential part of our Safeguarding practice. BSS is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults. We believe the welfare of the child is paramount and that no child should suffer harm of any form, either at home or at school. Everyone who works at or visits our school has the responsibility to make sure all our pupils are safe.

For the purposes of this policy, 'staff' also includes agency staff, volunteers, and students working in our Schools, and 'parents' includes carers and legal guardians – unless this is clarified further within the text.

Aims

BSS aims to provide an education according to the understanding of the developing human being as set out in the education lecture cycles and books by Rudolf Steiner. The traditional Waldorf Steiner curriculum has been developed to include content relevant to life in the 21st century. Our education delivers age-appropriate content, building on the connection between each child's personal development journey and humankind's shared cultural heritage and development. Our education is rooted in the belief that healthy and sustained enthusiasm for learning is achieved by introducing the right content and developing the right skills at the right time: not always at the earliest opportunity.

The Steiner Waldorf Curriculum is not prescriptive. It is used as a source of inspiration and guidance to stimulate the creativity of the teacher. While doing our utmost to remain true to the spirit of Steiner Waldorf Education, we recognise that modifications to the curriculum may be necessary to meet the needs of the present children in our school. The academic, social, moral, and spiritual growth of every child is held as a central objective of our education. Children's capacities and personal abilities are helped to unfold by providing them with a rich and carefully planned curriculum that enhances their own natural developmental growth.

Bristol Steiner School, Redland Hill House, Redland Hill, Redland, Bristol. BS6 6UX

Telephone: 0117 933 9990 Facsimile: 0117 933 9999

E-mail: reception@bristolsteinerschool.org Website: www.bristolsteinerschool.org

Member of the Steiner Waldorf Schools Fellowship Company Number 1131462 Charity Number 310257

- To provide our pupils with a broad and integrated curriculum, paying attention to the social and emotional development of the pupils alongside their academic achievement, with a creative and explorative approach to learning.
- To deliver an integrated curriculum where cross curricular links are made in different lessons and which ensures that pupils are engaged and motivated in their learning, that they feel involved and listened to, that they have valuable opinions and that the things that they study are relevant in their lives.
- To ensure all pupils receive an active and experiential learning programme which involves the development of practical skills as well as academic learning.
- To give pupils responsibility in their own learning through a project based approach. To stretch and challenge each child in an age appropriate and relevant way.
- to develop healthy young humans who are confident and conscious of their own uniqueness, skills and abilities and who have a healthy orientation to the world that they are moving into.
- to make possible the experience of life as a purposeful journey on which everyone may discover their gifts and talents and their capacity to bring relevant and worthwhile contributions to the world.
- to enable pupils become free, resilient, creative human beings who lead lives of purpose and direction, who encourage independent thought and the pursuit of truth and are respectful of the rights of others.
- to develop the highest human capacities and become citizens of the world, respecting and celebrating diversity.

The School aims to implement this Curriculum Policy through the schemes of work detailed in “The Educational Tasks and Content of the Steiner Waldorf Curriculum” edited by Martyn Rawson and Tobias Richter.

Leadership

The Head teacher is responsible for overseeing and developing the curriculum of the School, supported by the Senior Management Team (SMT).

Implementation

This policy is the responsibility of everyone who works at, volunteers for or visits BSS. The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will ensure that arrangements will be made to bring this policy to the notice of all staff (including new, temporary, and part-time employees), agency and other contract staff, volunteers, visitors and students during Induction and throughout their time at the School so that they fulfil their duties to co-operate with this policy. This policy and procedure will apply in all these contexts, including school activities taking place offsite. BSS delivers services at various venues, and this policy will apply in all these contexts. BSS expects services delivered by partner organisations to have safeguarding procedures in place. This policy should appear on the School website.

The curriculum will be monitored by a schedule of monitoring visits by leadership and the Standards Committee.

Other policies

This policy works in conjunction with the following School related policies and procedures:

1. *Anti-bullying*
2. *Behaviour*
3. *Complaints*
4. *Equalities*

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5. *eSafety*
6. *Health and Safety*
7. *Parent Handbook*
8. *Parent Prospectus*
9. *Safeguarding and Child Protection*
10. *Staffing*
11. *SEN, disability, SEND, and Inclusion*
12. *Volunteers*
13. *Peer on peer abuse*

Monitoring and review

BSS will seek to continually improve all its policies, procedures and guidelines. BSS will review this policy on a regular basis to confirm that content and approach is still appropriate. The review will take place whenever there are significant changes and not later than 12 months from the previous review date.