



# **Curriculum Policy**

**Last Updated: September 2023**

**To Be Reviewed: September 2025**

## **Context**

The curriculum of Al Risalah recognises that all knowledge is sacred and worthy of pursuit and that learning is a lifelong tradition in Islam.

Al Risalah's curriculum is designed to foster thought, curiosity and a desire for learning in all students, regardless of their backgrounds, strengths and needs. The curriculum should be a gateway to opportunity and a knowledge-based vibrant community in the United Kingdom and beyond.

The curriculum of Al Risalah will serve the aims of the school and its community. This is defined through the school's mission statement:

*'Excellence in education, values and community engagement'*

The curriculum is reflective of our vision-

Our vision for Al-Risalah Trust schools is to establish 'Islamic faith schools' achieving excellence academically, spiritually, morally and socially. To ensure ALL children – those of faith and none – have access to an outstanding curriculum to achieve their full potential and develop as excellent role models and confident individuals who are ambitious and successful in their present and future lives.

As well as serving the broad aims of the mission statement and our vision, the school's curriculum aims to:

- Mould students into good citizens, with a sense of responsibility for their actions;
- To encourage social participation within their community;
- To promote the welfare of young leaders;
- To give students a practical and more successful understanding of their religious and social rights and responsibilities in society;
- To allow students to develop their spiritual and moral individuality so that they become true models of Islam, as well as respecting the individuality of others and other cultures and faiths; and
- To empower students with the necessary skills and abilities to play a full and inclusive role within society, consistent and comfortable with their beliefs and principles.

## **Communication, Mathematical and Scientific Skills**

Communication skills at Al Risalah will be enhanced by **English Language** and **Literature** courses upto GCSE and the provision of **Arabic** upto GCSE. All subjects will support learners to have excellent speaking and listening skills.

Numerical and mathematical skills are a critical aspect of the curriculum. This will be provided through **Mathematics** upto and beyond GCSE level. Higher ability students will also study **Additional Maths** to prepare them for A Level studies. Mathematical skills will also have a focus on the application of Mathematics in everyday life and functional skills as part of revisions to the new curricula. **Numeracy** will also be developed across the curriculum as a core skill that enhances employability and supports attainment

**Science** will be taught upto GCSE level, including **Biology, Physics and Chemistry**. At GCSE level, all three sciences will be taught separately as well as through the Core Science and Additional Science courses. There will be an emphasis placed on greater depth of knowledge and understanding in Science, the History of Scientific thought and how everyday science is applied. Aspects of the **sex and relationship education** will be offered through the **Science** and IS curriculum.

## **Humanities, Faith, PSHE and RSE**

The teaching of **History** up to GCSE level will allow students to undertake an understanding of modern world History with a specific focus on British History over the last millenia.

At Key Stage 3, all learners will have separate specialist teaching of **History, Geography and PSHE**.

The PSHE and Citizenship curriculum at Key Stage 3 and beyond will include a focus on knowledge of the public institutions and services in England and abroad and understanding of different cultures and faiths, will be taught in lessons in school. Learners will be taught about parliament and how laws are drafted and approved, how the democratic institutions function and the role of media and voluntary bodies. Other aspects of the PSHE and Citizenship curriculum, such as distinguishing right from wrong; respect for the law; tolerance for, and respect for the rights of others and their cultures and faiths; accepting personal responsibility within their communities will be delivered through **PSHE and Citizenship** lessons as well as the school's assembly programme. **Relationship and Sex education** will be delivered through the cross curricula links mainly through PSHE curriculum, Islamic Studies and with some input from Science.

At GCSE, all students will study subjects related to **Humanities and Faith education**. All students will complete a **GCSE in Religious Studies** and **GCSE History**.

**Religious studies** up to GCSE level and beyond will include an understanding of the beliefs and practices of major world faiths, such as Islam, Judaism, Christianity, Buddhism and Hinduism as well as understanding the nature of faith itself and respecting those of all faiths and none.

### **Islamic studies**

This subject is taught in great detail in both KS3 and KS4. Students cover the following subject content:

- The Qu'ran and Hadith
- The Life, Teaching and Achievements of the Prophet.
- Worship and beliefs
- The Kalimah and the Duties of the Believer
- The Pious Caliphs
- The Wives and Children of the Prophet
- The Companions, Exiles and Helpers.

The curriculum plan ensures children fully comprehend religious responsibility and requirements required of believing men and women and develop closeness to Allah and our dear Nabi pbuh.

### **Technological and Creative Education**

Learners will experience a "Digital Life" through the teaching of **ICT** and the new **Computer Science** curriculum. This will include developing a sound knowledge of: Technical aspects of ICT and computing, core applications and how to use them effectively, safety, security and the law, business aspects of ICT, digital literacy and personal use of ICT.

At KS3 and KS4, **Art and Design and Technology** has been introduced to accommodate the aesthetic and creative part of the curriculum. This will include project work and have links to the STEM.

### **Physical Development**

The physical well-being of pupils will be encouraged through the provision of **Physical Education** for all students. Pupils will also develop an understanding of issues such as drugs, exercise and good nutrition.

### **Careers Guidance and Work-Related Learning**

**Careers guidance** will be provided in two areas: Students will receive advice and guidance on career progression at regular intervals throughout the year. The school will provide the provision of careers guidance and development of work-related skills in the PSHE curriculum.

The second strand of Al Risalah's careers guidance comes from the provision of community service opportunities for students at Key stage 4.

### **Enrichment through the Curriculum**

The school has a firm commitment that learning in each curriculum area should not just be about delivering a scheme of work or programme of study to achieve outstanding examination results, but should also be about students enjoying learning and developing creativity within that subject.

**Each curriculum area will be expected to develop enrichment activities for learners and to signpost these activities.**

Enrichment within curriculum areas should be aimed at:

- Increasing enjoyment within that curriculum area
- Providing challenge and developing independent learning in gifted and talented students in the curriculum area
- Developing the profile of the curriculum area or particular skills and themes within that area

Each curriculum area will develop their enrichment activity in the coming academic year. Enrichment will include:

- Development of clubs linked to one or more curriculum areas
- Development of faculty-based trips and outdoor learning opportunities
- Identifying external facilitators to engage learners at Al Risalah.
- Celebrating a particular 'National Day' or 'World Week' related to an issue of relevance to the curriculum area

Some ideas for enrichment include:

In **English and communications**, enrichment can include:

- Poetry, Drama or Book Clubs
- Publication of the school newsletter on a termly basis
- Celebration of 'World Book Day' or 'Poetry Week' etc
- Faculty trips to venues related to study in English and the languages e.g. a world war museum when learning about war poetry

In **Mathematical and technological subjects**, enrichment can include:

- 'Puzzles' or 'IT' Club
- Participation in 'National Maths Challenge' and other online competitions
- Contribution of mathematical puzzles and conundrums for the school magazine
- Contribution of e-safety and e-advice section for the school magazine

In **Scientific subjects**, enrichment can include:

- Celebration of National Science and Engineering Week
- Science Clubs
- Identifying external facilitators such as for 'Forensic Science Day'

- Faculty-trips to Science museums, power stations etc.

In **Aesthetic areas**, enrichment can include:

- Celebration of the school's annual 'Art Days'
- Visiting Museums and galleries
- Identifying external facilitators to lead learning on different cultures
- An 'Art and Design Tech Club' to prepare material for display across the school buildings
- An 'Al Risalah Got Talent' Day where learners rehearse and exhibit artistic performances on a chosen theme.

In the **Humanities** curricula, enrichment can include:

- Celebration of 'World Environment Day', Fair Trade Day', 'Citizenship Day' and other related events
- 'Humanities Club' 'Green Club' or related clubs
- Development of inter-faith forums
- Faculty Trips to war museums, orienteering locations and other venues related to Humanities subjects
- Linking students to other young people in poverty, marking the 'Global Week of Action Against Poverty'
- Developing a student 'Debating Society' or 'Student Parliament'

In the **Sports** curriculum, enrichment can include:

- Celebration of 'World Health Day' etc.
- 'Sports Club' for learners i.e Judo, Football etc
- School's termly 'Sports Days'.