



Notre Dame High School

Wider Achievement Policy

April 2016



Building the Curriculum 3 describes the curriculum as;

“the totality of experiences that a young person can expect to encounter during their school life.”

It also describes how young people’s learning should take place across four different contexts:

- Programmes and Courses
- Inter-disciplinary Learning
- Ethos and life of the school
- Wider Achievement

Whilst Notre Dame High School’s curriculum pays due attention to all of the above, this document is designed to outline our approach, the range of experiences our pupils encounter within the context of **Wider Achievement** and describes how they benefit from these experiences.

Rationale

Staff, pupils and parents have spent some time considering our curriculum rationale and during session 2015/’16 designed a model which is both comprehensive and realistic, addressing the following key characteristics:

- Gospel Values
- Highest quality learning and teaching
- Raising attainment and closing the gap
- Support for EAL pupils
- Developing the four capacities
- **Opportunities for wider achievement**
- Developing skills for work/future study
- Building resilience

We recognise that for our young people to flourish in modern society and within the 21st century job market, they need to have a wide range of key skills, capabilities, experiences and attributes; qualifications alone are no longer sufficient.

At Notre Dame High School we aim to promote a culture of Wider Achievement which is inherent throughout the whole school community. We aim to raise achievement and attainment of all pupils through the Wider Achievement programme by seeking to effectively develop a wider range of skills through participation in various activities and experiences.

What is Wider Achievement?

In addition to the skills developed within our courses and programmes of work, **Wider Achievement** opportunities provide an alternative way to develop skills for LEARNING, LIFE and WORK. Notre Dame's Wider Achievement programme aims to ensure that all young people have equal access to a wide range of activities which complement their studies, whilst laying the foundation for the development of skills throughout their lives.

As outlined in Building the Curriculum 5, achievement is not restricted to formally assessed learning in the classroom and can take a wide variety of forms. For instance:

- some young people will achieve through formally recognised awards, such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award
- some will achieve through arrangements which do not lead to an accredited award but which are formally organised, for example while undertaking voluntary work or leadership roles within in the school
- Alternatively, some pupils will develop skills and capabilities through achievements in the school, home or wider community – for example, through participation in sport, the arts or activities in the community, or through assuming positions of responsibility, such as young carers.

These types of achievement are not exclusive and learners will achieve in a range of ways and in a variety of contexts.

Our Approach

As one of our key curriculum characteristics, opportunities for Wider Achievement are a critical component of the Notre Dame pupil experience, i.e. staff at all levels recognise these activities as just as important as traditional learning within the classroom. They also provide great opportunities to further develop the four capacities; Successful Learner, Confident Individual, Effective Contributor, Responsible Citizen through the Broad General Education and in the Senior Phase.

Our commitment to continuous improvement in this important aspect of the pupil experience is demonstrated by the design of a promoted post remit. Mrs Pauline Kelly, Principal Teacher of Pastoral Care, assumes responsibility for the strategic direction of this curricular characteristic.

Our staff are committed to providing appropriate, high quality opportunities for pupils at all stages of their secondary education. For the last two years, we have been successfully in formally recognising wider achievement for pupils in S4 through a timetabled period each week. Volunteer staff have used their own expertise and interests to enhance the accreditation of this group.

These include;

- Spanish for learning, life and work
- Dance and Sports Leadership
- Dynamic Youth Awards and,
- Employability units

We are able to further support these through a range of effective partnerships with business, voluntary organisations and Glasgow Life. In S5/6, the curriculum offers a diverse range of qualifications which meet the needs of our young people. In recent years these have been supplemented by Youth Achievement Award, employability awards and a number of vocationally-focused part-time college options.

Within Broad General Education, all year groups experience a double period of Masterclass, a skills-based programme which includes personalisation and choice of activity. These short courses are designed to provide challenge, independent learning and enjoyment and choices include, Outdoor Learning, Musical Theatre, Scottish Architecture, Trampolining and World Music.

Profiling

Using our pupil planner, all young people are encouraged to record wider achievement activities throughout their school experience.

Our curriculum has been designed to allow us to devote six consecutive double periods to the creation of the S3 profile. The six lesson block takes place during our timetabled Masterclass curriculum near the end of S3. On leaving school in S6, pupils are presented with a record of all achievements from their school years during a personalized awards ceremony.

While the creation of the profile is important, it is the process of profiling that is both crucial and challenging.

Tracking Pupil Participation

The “Learning Path”, our approach to tracking progress in Broad General Education, is a highly accessible and functional database system which allows staff at all levels to record, monitor and make judgments on pupil progress across their learning in third and fourth level. We are currently adapting this software, allowing it to capture the range and depth of wider achievement activities by individual. This increased functionality will allow us to target opportunities and to identify gaps in provision.

Recognising and Celebrating Achievement

The school has a number of both formal and informal ways in which we recognise the achievements of our pupils.

- Formally, our BGE and Senior Phase Awards ceremonies provide a platform for young people and their families to celebrate achievements together. In BGE, pupils are recognised as “Successful Learners”, not by their attainment or ability in class, but by their attitude, effort and determination to succeed. Every awards presentation is supported by a number of special awards which identify and recognise the young people who have made a valuable contribution to either wider school life or an aspect of the local, national or global community. An example of this is the annual S6 Values in Action award.
- Our award-winning and comprehensive newsletter, circulated to parents three times each session, is full of news items relating to young people’s achievements either in groups or on an individual basis, within the curriculum and beyond.
- By utilising a range of digital media, we are able to reach and promote our pupils’ work through the school website and twitter accounts.
- Our weekly Bulletin for both staff and pupils is circulated during Personal Support time
- Within departments, staff are able to recognise individuals through “Pupil of the Week”
- Broadcasting successes in school in announcements and during year group Assemblies

Moving Forward

As we continue to develop and enhance our Wider Achievement provision at Notre Dame High School, Mrs Kelly has already identified a number of opportunities which will be of benefit to our pupils. These include the Junior Award Scheme, Saltire Awards and the potential to extend our Duke of Edinburgh experience to include Bronze and Silver awards.

The pages which follow are designed to provide a flavour of the range of Wider Achievement opportunities which currently exist in Notre Dame High School. In addition to the formal curriculum, they provide an opportunity for our young people to develop their skills within the four capacities. In addition, they demonstrate the commitment of school staff and our profitable work with partner agencies in providing a comprehensive programme which continues to evolve and grow.

S1 Wider Achievement

Business Studies

S1 Outdoor Learning - Finding ways to improve our school environment and learn new skills. Pupils involved in making decisions on what should be done. So far we have been gardening, painting and investigating our ecosystem with the help of an Environmental Scientist.

Maths

Glasgow Schools' Math Challenge - A team represent our school at our Local Authority competition.

Glasgow University Maths Challenge - S1 volunteers participate in this problem solving challenge.

Religious Education

The S1 Youth Team has over ten members who have been actively involved since joining in January 2016. Since the Youth Team was established in January, the girls have been involved in a 5k fun run raising money for cancer research as well as leading prayer services for Morning Prayer during Holy Week. The Youth Team meets every Wednesday for a lunchtime meeting to discuss fundraising ideas and future projects.

Science

Science Club – pupils are introduced to a wider variety of science experiment and techniques which are not part of the core curriculum.

Social Subjects

All S1 pupils participate in an IDL project on Climate Change led by the Social Subjects Faculty. Pupils have the opportunity to learn about the effects of Climate Change

Fairtrade club – S1 and S2 pupils are working on the Fairtrade status of our school.

S2 Wider Achievement

Religious Education

THE S2 Dorothy Stang Youth Team was established in February 2015 to coincide with the 10 year anniversary of the murder of Sr. Dorothy Stang, SND, in Brazil. The Team comprises of 15 S2 pupils who meet on a weekly basis to pray, organise school Liturgies and reflect on the issues related to the rainforest in Brail and other ECO projects. The Team have created their own Youth Team badges as well as their own prayer which is said regularly at meeting. To

end the session members of the Team will attend an Aid to the Church in Need event in Carfin in June 2016. All of the team will visit the stained glass window dedicated to Our Lady, which is on exhibition in the Kelvingrove Art Galleries.

Science

Go4SET – is a 10 week project focusing on creating eco-friendly solutions to topical problems. Pupils work as part of a team and individually, developing time management, presentation and design skills. Pupils gain a silver crest award (accredited by British Science Association- TechFest).

Outdoor Learning - Environmental sampling - Pupils develop skills in sampling organisms outdoors, gaining an insight into local ecosystems.

Ship building with BAE systems - Pupils work as part of a team and individually, developing time management, presentation and design skills. Pupils receive an Award from a BAE representative.

Social Subjects

Fairtrade club – S1 and S2 pupils are working on the Fairtrade status of our school.

Anne Frank Memorial - Pupils trained as guides and peer mentors to escort pupils, staff and visitors around the exhibition.

S3 Wider Achievement

Business Studies

S3 Enterprise - Taking part in Coca-Cola's "The Real Business Challenge" - a competition which involves groups of pupils in forming a company and developing a new, sustainable, healthy juice drink brand with a strong emphasis on ethical decision-making.

Maths

Maths Masterclass - Pupils attend Glasgow University lectures over a period of 6 Saturday mornings to enhance their Maths skills.

Religious Education

Youth Team - The current S3 Youth Team comprises 20+ members who have been actively involved since joining in S1 (2013-14).

Their main role is to lead the school community in events of a liturgical and spiritual nature. For example, during the Holy Seasons of Advent and Lent they led a weekly session of prayer and reflection in the school Oratory.

During Lent, in particular, their focus is on the Passion and Death of Jesus. They lead us in an annual moving dramatised version of the Stations of the Cross, performed for each of the year groups. This year, for the first time, this was taken beyond the school boundaries when it was performed for all of Notre Dame Primary School in St.Peter's Parish, Partick.

In addition, they have been involved with AGAP (Archdiocese of Glasgow Arts Project). They joined renowned actor and artist, John Cairney, in presenting his art exhibition on the life of Our Lady. As a result of this project Mr. Cairney's publication on the exhibition has been dedicated to the pupils of Notre Dame High School.

The girls meet on a regular basis in the RE department to plan their various projects. They also spearhead fundraising campaigns for SCIAF and the St. Nicholas Care Fund.

Science

Virus hunters (as part of Glasgow Science week in June). Pupils experience advanced microscopy techniques and complete problem solving activities.

Vision Science @ Glasgow Caledonian University. Pupils participate in a visit to the Optometry Department and experience eye tests and equipment used in lab and in the health sector.

S4 Wider Achievement

Youth Achievement and Dynamic Youth Awards

Youth Achievement and Dynamic Youth Awards offer significant opportunities for young people to develop the four capacities of **Curriculum for Excellence**: successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens. Senior pupils have the opportunity to contribute in a variety of settings including;

- youth work
- volunteering
- active citizenship
- formal education

The Awards recognise four levels of responsibility taken by young people participating in activities that interest them.

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

Pupils have the opportunity to develop skills, become physically active, give service to others through volunteering and experience outdoor adventure. The Award can play a critical role in their development outside the classroom. It also allows their achievement to

be consistently recognised worldwide, giving young people unique international accreditation of their experiences.

S5/S6 Wider Achievement

Modern Languages

Strathclyde University – Pupils experience studying languages at University/ Career prospects.

Religious Education

S6 CARITAS Award - The Caritas award takes a snap-shot of a young person's faith journey. Through the programme, pupils recognise that they are part of a community of living faith and consider how they can share their gifts and talents in school and beyond. It is open to all faiths. The high-profile, national awards ceremony takes place in June each year.

Science

Microbiology labs - Senior Phase pupils use lab techniques in line with first year biology courses.

Partnership with Glasgow Life

Since its establishment over five years ago, our Local Learning Forum has been driving forward our commitment to community learning and development. With our partners in Glasgow Life, we have designed a number of innovative programmes which support members of our local community.

Units of Sound – S6 pupils have been trained as mentors, supporting young people and their families through a dyslexia support programme at Hillhead Library.

Chatterboooks/Artastic – S6 pupils provide after-school clubs in local libraries for primary age children. The aim is to develop their interest in books and reading.

Whole School

Drama (S1 – S6)

Film Club - Film club gives pupils the opportunity to gain valuable skills and experiences that will help any students who want to further their learning into Film and TV. It also allows pupils to gain confidence, team working and technology skills. From setting up the equipment and performing in front of the screen to the final editing process, students will experience inside knowledge into some of the key aspects film and TV companies encounter in the professional world.

Drama Club - Drama club allows BGE pupils to experience fun interactive drama lessons which are led by senior pupils. Pupils gain confidence, team working and performance skills.

Senior Phase pupils will gain experience in planning and carrying out 50min drama sessions/workshop which will benefit them if they want to take on any leadership/teaching role in the future.

School Show - Pupils have to opportunity to take part in the school show. This activity is not only focused on performance experience but instead pupils are given the opportunity to gain experience and skills needed in many of the production areas required to stage a live musical.

English

Aye Write Festival, West End Festival and Edinburgh Book Festival - Pupils go along to hear a published author and participate in Q&A forum. It is an opportunity to learn about the daily life of a writer and gain valuable and practical tips on writing and publishing. These visits increase pupil's awareness of the importance of writing and literature to an audience and society.

University of Glasgow Link - Working with the department of English Language in University of Glasgow on a short linguistic project. This project is currently in the planning stage for next session.

GFT/Grosvenor Trip - Pupils are taken to watch films relating to literature they may be studying in class or topics they may be covering.

Maths

Barclays Lifeskills - S1-S3 take part in debate and discussions on money matters.

UK Maths Challenge - Pupils attempt a series of maths problems in class - UK competition.

Modern Languages (S1 – S6)

Annual Residential Educational Excursion - improve cultural awareness and pupils are able to practise their language in French or Italian.

Annual Italian Mass - IDL with Music & RE at Glasgow Cathedral.

Languages Week - broadens cultural & linguistic awareness of Italian.

Physical Education (S1 – S6)

Contemporary Dance Club - The contemporary dance club was set up due to popular demand from the young people in the school. It is a new club but the numbers are increasing every week with a mixture of all girls from S1 to S6 attending. The pupils are

taught contemporary dance technique ranging from Graham to Cunningham and then have the opportunity to express their ideas through choreographic tasks. Many of the girls attending are preparing themselves for auditioning for our musical production of Annie.

Street Dance Club - A mix of girls from S1-S4 attend the club learning various warm ups and different street dance styles such as popping and locking, house, krumping, tutting and whacking. The club is run by Mrs Barnet and one of our S6 Dance Leaders Aisha Merrilees. The pupils also have many opportunities to take part in creative choreography tasks and enter local competitions in the Glasgow area.

UDO Dance Competitions - Notre Dame High School has had huge success in the UDO and Scottish Schools Street Dance Championships. Our junior street dance crew 'New Domination' were 4th in the Scottish Schools Street Dance Championships. In addition our senior street dance crew 'Authentic's' came 1st in Scotland and 4th the British UDO Dance Championships.

The Young Ambassadors Programme - The Young Ambassadors is a programme for young people in school between the ages of 14 and 17. Their role is to motivate and inspire other young people from primary and secondary schools across Scotland to get involved in sport within their schools. As part of the role the pupils have wonderful opportunities to develop their leadership, resilience and independence skills, in addition to gaining coaching qualifications.

Annual Ski Educational Excursion – Pupils can gain a Ski Award by the Italian Ski School.

Social Subjects (S1 – S6)

Debate Club - Pupils develop critical thinking skills and work on their presentation skills.

Meeting MSPs in school and at the Scottish Parliament – The pupils are given a great opportunity to ask MSPs questions. This supports learning in N4/5 in Modern Studies.