



Millom School Curriculum Rationale

2017-2018

Date: September 2017

Review: August 2018

Millom School Vision and Values

All children and young people at Millom School will have access to appropriate high quality education in a community that enables them to achieve the skills, knowledge and qualities to become responsible and successful citizens.

We will achieve our vision by providing learning that shows:

- Millom School is a place for the whole community, with a local, national & international dimension
- Millom School is a place for personal growth, friendship, a place that encourages tolerance, understanding, respect for others, and the area in which you live.
- Millom School is a place for preparing you for the rest of your life.
- Millom School is a place to develop your talents and skills, along with the independence and self-discipline needed to be happy and successful.
- Millom School is a place for the present, today, as well as the future.

We aim to:

- Improve educational outcomes for all learners
- Improve the performance of every subject department
- Train and develop our staff to be the best they can be
- Develop the school site, buildings and classroom equipment (within budgetary constraints)
- Maintain and develop a positive, outward facing and inclusive school
- Ensure school leavers know right from wrong, have respect for themselves & others and are well skilled (particularly in literacy, numeracy, and ICT) and employable

At Millom School we believe:

1. A strong community of student and adult learners is based on mutual respect, empathy and personal integrity.
2. Students should be empowered, develop curiosity and foster their creativity to make a difference to society.
3. Happy, confident and secure students will learn more and will achieve greater things.
4. That to improve all of us need to work hard, play hard and push our boundaries.
5. Students who pursue their interests and talents will be happier, will have a sense of purpose and will develop a love of learning for life.
6. That to be successful in life all of us need to develop leadership and teamwork skills.

Our Key Stage 3, 4 and 5 curricula are exceptionally varied for a small school as we firmly believe in providing a range of opportunities for our young people, allowing them to explore their creativity, become independent lifelong learners and leave school having developed key skills for employability. Our curricula meet the needs of our local area and are enriched with STEM activities preparing the young people of Millom and surrounding areas for work in design, manufacturing, engineering and project management. Our curriculum model also prepares students for success in a variety of progression pathways, including apprenticeships, further and higher education and technical routes.

The curriculum structure from year 7 right through to year 13 supports the school's vision and core values, in particular, preparing skills for life, developing talents and pursuing interests, demonstrating employability skills and developing teamwork and leadership. There are several factors that have shaped our curriculum model and these include: transition from Year 6 into Year 7; progression to Key Stage 4 and 5; the needs of the pupils; staffing, facilities and resources; input from the wider community; input from supporting agencies and school partners, including employers; guidance from the Local Authority; Government policy. Millom School recognises the importance of allowing students to explore creative subjects so we have invested in offering subjects like music and drama at Key Stage 4 as well as Key Stage 3. We have also recognised the importance of pupil choice at Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5, and as such, we have developed a large range of vocational and academic courses to ensure that our students continue on an appropriate progression plan.

The Breadth of Our Curriculum

Pupils in Key Stages 3 and 4 have 25 lessons per week of one hour duration. Pupils in Key Stage 5 have between 14 and 18 lessons per week of one hour duration with timetabled study periods for each subject, including two hours per week of tutor time (personal development).

In Years 7, 8 and 9 students study the following subjects:

English

Mathematics

Science

Information Technology, including Computer Science

Technology

Art

Drama

Geography

History

French

Music

PE & Games
Personal Development (Including PSHE and RE)

The table below shows the number of lessons allocated to each subject in Key Stage 3:

Subject	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
English	4	4	4
Maths	4	4	4
Science	3	3	3
Geography	1	1	2
History	2	1	1
French	2	2	2
IT/Computing	1	2	1
Music	1	1	1
Art	1	1	1
Drama	1	1	1
Technology	2	2	2
PE/Games	2	2	2
Personal Development	1	1	1

In Year 9 students choose their options for Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11). Currently all students are required to take the following subjects:

GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature
GCSE Mathematics
Combined Science – 2 GCSEs (or Triple Science, which is three GCSEs)
Information Technology (BTEC Level 1/2 Award) or GCSE Computer Science
Games
Personal Development (Including PSHE and RE)

Students also have a choice of up to 3 option subjects from the following:
GCSEs in Triple Science
GCSE Art / Art Photography

Performing Arts (BTEC)
 Sport (BTEC)
 GCSE Media
 GCSE Music
 GCSE Design and Technology
 Hospitality and Catering (Level 1/2 Award)
 Health and Social Care (BTEC)
 GCSE French
 GCSE History
 GCSE Geography
 Asdan Certificate of Personal Effectiveness

Students are encouraged to take a range of 'facilitating subjects' to maximise their progression choices at Post-16. We ask students to choose a range of science and humanities GCSEs, however, we do not require students to study a language at GCSE. The option of GCSE French is available should pupils wish to choose this as part of the Year 9 options process.

The table below shows the number of lessons allocated to each subject in Key Stage 4:

Subject	Year 10	Year 11
English	4	4
Maths	3	3
Science	4	4
IT/Computing	3	3
Options	9	9
Games	1	1
Personal Development	1	1

At KS5, students are able to opt for the following subjects:

AS-Level / A-Level English Literature
 AS-Level / A-Level Mathematics
 AS-Level / A-Level Biology
 AS-Level / A-Level Chemistry
 AS-Level / A-Level Physics

 Certificate / Extended Certificate in Applied Science (BTEC)
 AS-Level / A-Level History
 AS-Level / A-Level Geography

AS-Level / A-Level Fine Art / Art Photography
A-Level Design and Technology: Product Design
AS-Level / A-Level Media
Extended Certificate Sport (BTEC)

Certificate / Introductory Diploma Business (Cambridge Technical)
Certificate / Extended Certificate Performing Arts (BTEC)
Certificate / Extended Certificate Information Technology (Cambridge Technical)

Generally students opt for four qualifications in Year 12 and take three qualifications on into Year 13. However, students have the option of studying four subjects in Year 13 if they choose to. All Year 12 and 13 students also have two hours of tutor time per week, where they study life skills and aspects of personal development, including progression planning. All 6th form students are also expected to complete 35 hours of voluntary activities per year.

Students who do not gain a grade 4 in GCSE English or Mathematics (equivalent to a grade C) at Key Stage 4 are required to re-sit during Key Stage 5.

Students have a wide range of courses to choose from in Key Stage 4 and 5 to allow them to pursue the subjects they are interested in or have a particular talent for, but this also allows them to explore the more academic and creative subjects, developing a host of skills for future progression or employment, including further study at college or university, technical routes and apprenticeships. Parents are well informed of options choices, as we publish this information in 'Options Booklets' on our website. Parents are also invited into school to attend our Year 9 Options Evening and our Sixth Form Evening where parents and pupils can talk to teaching staff about the courses we offer. Pupils are well supported through this process and every pupil in Years 9 and 11 have at least one progression interview with a senior member of school staff, which is linked to careers and pathways post-16 and post-18.

The Balance of Our Curriculum

Our current curriculum model shows strong continuity between Key Stages. Students study specific subject content and develop key skills for those subjects from Year 7. From the onset, students are aware of progression pathways and understand that they may continue studying those subjects through to Year 13 should they choose to do so. This encourages and motivates them to develop interest and expertise in those subject areas from early on in their academic career. Teachers assess pupils' progress in Key Stage 3 using criteria that have been developed from the GCSE and vocational programmes at Key Stage 4 and 5 to ensure that pupils are developing skills that will set them in good stead should they study that subject further.

Our students participate in PE and Games throughout Key Stage 3 and 4 as we recognise the importance of developing a healthy lifestyle and allowing students time to develop a stronger 'work-life balance'. Students study Art, Music and Drama at Key

Stage 3 to allow them to investigate and explore their creativity, which they may choose to follow further at Key Stage 4 and 5. We have included personal development within our curriculum model for each Key Stage to promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all students, including British Values.

We believe in students having choice and the ability to personalise their education. Consequently, we have a range of GCSEs, AS and A-Level and vocational qualifications for students to choose from to allow every student to maximise their full potential no matter their specific strengths. This allows students to balance the skills needed to be successful in examinations and non-examination assessments. The intended outcomes of this are linked to successful progression – we want our students to leave us with the qualifications, expertise and skills needed for their next steps.

Students with Special Educational Needs also have the option of choosing the ASDAN Certificate of Personal Effectiveness (CoPE) programme in Year 10, which is done by negotiation with the Special Educational Needs Coordinator as part of the Year 9 options process. This programme allows the pupils to develop life and study skills and helps balance the rigour of their academic courses.

The Delivery of Our Curriculum

Our teachers deliver the curriculum at each Key Stage in a variety of ways to maximise the engagement of learners. This may involve hands on activities, practical work where appropriate, group work, use of IT, presentations and written tasks. The progress of pupils at each Key Stage is tracked against prior attainment – Key Stage 2 results for pupils in Key Stage 3 and 4 and attainment at Key Stage 4 for those pupils in Key Stage 5. Pupils are informed of their targets and assessments are tracked against target. Pupils are given specific advice and guidance to meet or exceed targets. Form tutors and Directors of Learning and Standards track the pupils' overall performance. Including enrichment and contribution to the school community.

The Head of Mathematics has developed 'Maths Across the Curriculum', a document outlining key mathematical principles and strategies for teaching maths to improve consistency across the different subject areas. We also have a literacy policy to ensure that marking for literacy is rigorous and consistent across the departments and across the Key Stages helping pupils to accelerate their literacy skills.

Heads of Department and subject leads have input into the decisions made regarding qualification and exam board choices. Each Head of Department has a specific rationale for the ways in which the teachers plan, deliver and assess the subjects at Key Stage 3.

How Our Curriculum Improves Outcomes

Our range of qualifications at Key Stages 4 and 5 and high quality teaching and learning have allowed us to improve pupil outcomes, meaning that the pupils are leaving school better qualified for further study or employment. This can be attributed

to several factors including: expert delivery by teaching staff (including decisions made on qualification types, exam boards assessment methods and optional units that match staff expertise), improved pupil choice, the ability to select a mixture of academic and vocational qualifications, careers advice and guidance that supports the curricula at each Key Stage and the continuity of the curriculum model from Key Stage 3 to 5.

This has led to significant improvements in outcomes at the end of Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5. Millom School also have an excellent track record in supporting learner progression and the percentage of pupils in sustained education or employment with training has been 99% for the last 3 years, which is above the national average for 2015 and is the best figure of all schools in the Furness area.

Millom School recognises that it is also important for learners to develop other outcomes including creativity, independent learning, team/community skills, British values, employability skills and life skills. Where possible these skills are developed through the curricula in a variety of subject areas, as well as in personal development lessons. However, there are also a wealth of other opportunities in school where pupils can excel and develop their talents and interests. This includes:

- A programme for gifted pupils
- 'Chill Zone' enrichment clubs and activities
- STEM club, roadshows and competitions
- The Garden Bungalow Project where pupils learn about growing their own produce and maintaining the land
- The Hardknott Forest Project, which includes learning about sustainability (removal of tree species, tree planting, bridge building using sustainable sources)
- Bike Club, which includes bike maintenance and repair and a group cycling the Coast-2-Coast
- The Duke of Edinburgh programme
- Educational trips and visits e.g. London Docklands trip, geography field work
- Residential trips and visits e.g. trip to Cambodia, Iceland, London, Conway
- Activity Week
- CEIAG Strategy e.g. Year 11 Mock Interviews, Year 10/12 Work Experience, careers fair, Unifrog careers platform
- Sporting opportunities e.g. cross-country, team sports, competing at local, county and national level
- Performing arts opportunities e.g. drama production, music concerts
- Leadership opportunities e.g. Student Council and 6th Form Charity Committee
- Charity events e.g. Comic Relief, Children in Need, Macmillan coffee morning

The extra-curricular programme at Millom School is sustained and varied, allowing out students to explore many opportunities to learn both within and outside the classroom and to develop key employability skills for future progression.