

The Wallace High School

Curriculum Policy 2026-2027





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The Curriculum Policy is approved by the Board of Governors and implemented and delivered by the Principal and staff of the school.

The policy is developed by the Leadership Team in consultation with the staff. The curriculum meets statutory requirements as identified by DENI.

In order to meet current and anticipated statutory requirements, together with meeting the needs and aspirations of the pupils, the school curriculum is reviewed annually, and proposed updates are brought to the Education Committee of the Board of Governors, and the full Board, in turn for approval.

GCSE Curriculum Rationale

All pupils will follow the core curriculum of English, English Literature, Religious Studies (Short Course) and Mathematics. Pupils will select six additional GCSE from the options blocks as indicated in the subject choice letter.

Further Mathematics GCSE (Linear)

The top seventy candidates in the Year 10 summer Mathematics examination will be offered the opportunity to study GCSE Further Mathematics. This involves an extra single period of Mathematics in lieu of one period of non-exam PE. The GCSE Maths course is completed in Year 11.

Mathematics (Statistics) GCSE (Linear)

The top ranked pupils (70-100th) in the Year 10 summer Mathematics examination will be offered the opportunity to study GCSE Statistics. GCSE Maths is studied over the two-year period of study.

Religious Studies GCSE (Long / Short Course) (Linear)

The Religious Studies course is an introduction to Christian ethics exploring personal and family issues, matters of life and death, care for the environment, equality, war and peace. Studying these themes can enhance personal, social and cultural development. It is an opportunity to reflect on and develop values, opinions and attitudes.

Key Stage 3 Curriculum

(Period allocation in brackets. 1 Period: 35 minutes)

Year 8	
Subject	Periods
Art	2
Biology	2
Chemistry	2
Computing	1
Drama	2
English	5
French	4
Games	2
Geography	3
HE	2
History	3
Maths	6
Music	2
PE	1
Physics	2
RE	2
RSE/LLW	1
Reading for Pleasure	1
Technology	2

Year 9	
Subject	Periods
Art	2
Biology	2
Chemistry	2
Computing	1
English	4
French	4
Games	2
Geography	4
German / Spanish	3
HE	2
History	4
Maths	5
Music	1
PE	1
Physics	2
RE	2
RSE/LLW	1
Reading for Pleasure	1
Technology	2

Year 10	
Subject	Periods
Art	2
Biology	2
Chemistry	2
English	6
French	4
Games	2
Geography	4
German / Spanish	3
HE	2
History	4
Maths	6
Music	1
PE	1
Physics	2
RE	1
RSE/LLW	1
Technology	2

Key Stage 4 Curriculum

GCSE (Year 11 & 12)

(4 periods per subject)

Pupils select one subject from each option group.

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6
Agriculture & Land Use	Art	Biology	Biology	Art	Drama
Biology	Bus Studies	Digital Tech	Bus Studies	Chemistry	Business Coms
Chemistry	HE	History	Chemistry	French	French
Motor Vehicle & Road User Studies.	Geography	HE	Digital Tech	Geography	German
Physics	History	Music	Geography	History	Leisure and Tourism
	Technology	PE	Technology	MIA	Spanish
		Physics		Physics	

Curriculum Structure:

Subject	Periods
English	7
Games	2
Maths	6 (Non-Further Maths) 7 (Further Maths)
Option Subjects x6 (Above)	4 periods assigned to each option block
PE	2 (Non-Further Maths) 1 (Further Maths)
RE	3
RSE/LLW	1

Sixth Form Curriculum

A-Level

(9 periods per subject)

(10 for Further Mathematics)

Pupils are required to choose one subject from each of at least three boxes. These three subjects are studied continuously across both Year 13 and Year 14.

A	B	C	D
Biology Computing /SSD English Literature French Digital Technology Mathematics PE (A-level) PE (Extended Cert.)* Religious Studies	Further Maths Biology Business Studies Geography German History Mathematics Moving Image Arts	Art Biology Chemistry English Literature Nutrition & Food Science Politics Technology Music PE (Diploma)**	Business Studies Chemistry Geography History Digital Technology Physics Spanish Health & Social Care

Curriculum Structure:

Subject	Periods
Games	2 (Optional at Year 14)
Options	9 assigned to each option block*
Private Study	Varies.
RSE/LLW	1
Young Enterprise	2 (alternative to Games in Year 13)

* BTEC Extended Certificate (equivalent to a single A-level)

**BTEC Diploma (equivalent to two A-levels). Pupils must also select the Extended Certificate PE in block A.

*Classes with less than 10 pupils may receive a curriculum reduction by one period.