



# SEDBERGH INTERNATIONAL

## SUMMER SCHOOL

| Curriculum Policy |                                      |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Version           | 2020.2                               |
| Effective from    | October 2020                         |
| Extent of policy  | Sedbergh International Summer School |
| Policy owner      | Gemma Newton                         |
| Review by         | September 2021                       |
| Frequency         | Annual                               |
| Circulation       | Teaching staff; Parents (by request) |
| Publication       | Teaching staff induction             |

### Introduction

The curriculum aims to fulfil some of the aims of the Summer School and to uphold British and moral, social and cultural development values. Those aims being:

1. to identify and develop the potential of its pupils in a variety of areas: academic (relating to the English language skills of the pupil), artistic, cultural, sporting, personal, social and moral and to prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life (some of this is detailed in the staff handbook);
2. the purpose of this document is to look at the academic side of the school. To provide a welcoming, friendly and supportive environment which recognises the worth of each individual within the collective atmosphere of the Summer School;
3. to provide a fulfilling working environment for its staff, both teaching and support staff; to liaise closely with the parents of its pupils and allow them to share in the life of the Summer School and the House via email and our social media network.

It also aims to allow all pupils to learn and make progress and

- provide a communicative, relevant and interesting range of English lessons
- give pupils experience of interactive classroom and other activities that inspire them to continue learning English and to develop their own creativity and independence
- provide subject matter appropriate for the ages and aptitudes of the pupils
- encourage pupils to gain skills in speaking and listening, reading and writing in English

- provide a range of extra-curricular activities
- give appropriate guidance for exams undertaken (IELTS)
- prepare pupils for the next stages in their English education and for adult life, as far as reasonably expected in as little as two weeks.

### **English Curriculum**

Each teacher is given a Teacher's Handbook and has access to the Summer School Curriculum. This is a collection of materials, resources, lesson plans, games, suggestions and ideas, grouped around weekly themes and linked where possible to weekly excursions. Teachers are encouraged to adapt and supplement the Curriculum where necessary or to suit the students' varying needs.

### **Extra-curricular programme**

The Course Schedule outlines the weekly afternoon and evening activities, which aim to provide a range of interesting recreational activities, which allow students to practice their English outside the classroom, make friends, practice working in a team, learn and develop new skills and unwind after their lessons.

### **Organisation of Education**

There are 22 formal academic teaching periods each week. Three one-hour lessons take place each morning (Monday to Saturday, not including Thursdays). One lesson takes place each of these days after lunch (this is called Language Activities and lasts 45 minutes). Afternoon lessons are taught on two afternoons (Tuesday and Saturday). The afternoon sessions are off-site community projects (for Juniors) or extended classroom projects (Seniors).

Pupils are divided into age groups of Juniors (aged 8-12) and Seniors (aged 13-17). They are then grouped by English level following a brief placement test the day after they arrive on the course. The standardised tests are marked by staff (Teachers or Activity Staff), lead by the DOS, and group placement decisions are made by the DOS, with assistance from the ADOS and Teaching staff.

Students attend all lessons in their assigned group and will stay with their group and teacher for excursions and, at times, some activities. Student of the Week awards are employed as a way of encouraging pupils and rewarding good effort, both in the classroom and in House.

An IELTS course was held for the first time in 2019. This two-week course runs alongside the General English course and also consists of 22 sessions per week. Pupils attending the IELTS course will join the other students for afternoon and evening activities and any excursion which does not fall on the examination day. All administration for the official examination will be overseen by the Summer School and transport and food will be provided on the examination day.

Comments from Teachers and House Parents on a pupil's performance and attitude, as well as their English level in each key area (listening, reading, writing and speaking), is communicated to parents at the end of the course using an End of Course Report.

All resources for English lessons (pens, paper, notebooks, etc) are provided for students throughout the course.

### **Learning Support**

The Summer School strives to ensure that all pupils are provided for and have an opportunity to learn and make progress. Any special educational need that is announced to the Summer School before a pupil's arrival is assessed as to whether the Summer School is able to provide adequate support. Where a pupil arrives with a previously unknown special educational need, the Summer School will endeavour to provide adequate support, however in extreme cases where no support is available the pupil may be asked to depart the course. There is no specialised Learning Support Department within the Summer School.

Where appropriate, and in agreement with parents, alternative lessons can be arranged (for example, a student has a very low or high level, or parents would like to prepare them for a specific exam before their return home). This is discussed before the course, agreed with and provided by with DOS, and is subject to having adequate staff numbers.