

SHIMNA INTEGRATED COLLEGE

CURRICULUM POLICY

At the foundation of the college, the curriculum was based on the statutory curriculum for Northern Ireland (NI). The curriculum also strongly reflected input from the founding parents.

The curriculum has been revised regularly, in the light of developments within the council for Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment and also in the light of the growing experience among our staff of learning experiences appropriate to an integrated environment.

Recent developments in the design of our curriculum include:

- The demands of the revised curriculum and our work towards 24 subjects at GCSE level and 27 at A-level;
- The need to re-balance our curriculum to include a wider range of vocational courses alongside our academic curriculum;
- Our continued belief that the whole curriculum, academic and vocational, should be open to all students;
- Our status as a specialist languages school; and
- Our continued commitment to all-ability education.

Key Stage 3

We offer the full Northern Ireland revised curriculum.

Learning for Life and Work, is now in place in years 8-10.

Key Stage 4

Learning for Life and Work is in place for years 11 and 12.

We have a small number of students successfully working within an Occupational Studies consortium at South Eastern Regional College

Sixth Form

We have extended our range of vocational A-levels to include ICT; Business Studies; Travel and Tourism; Sport Studies, Moving Image Arts and Public Services.

We have improved the quality of delivery of distance learning A Level by ensuring support for the students from a member of Shimna staff. Subjects currently offered are Sociology and Health and Social Care.

Our Key Stage 4 and A-level curriculum is recorded through the annual DENI audit. Every opportunity is taken to extend the range of our curriculum through capitalising on our Specialist School status: additional languages and international experiences are

offered to our own students, to our primary partners, to our post primary partners and to our parent and community classes.

The curriculum provided for our students is enhanced by the provision of a broad range of extra-curricular sporting, cultural and other activities and by subject-based and other out-of-college visits and experiences.

The curriculum is reviewed regularly through questionnaire exercises with the staff, and through the work of the Education Committee of the Board of Governors.

The Board of Governors agrees with, and fully supports the contents and implementation of this policy.