

COGNITA

Curriculum Policy

THE ENGLISH MONTESSORI SCHOOL SPAIN

2026 – 2027

EUROPE

1 Introduction

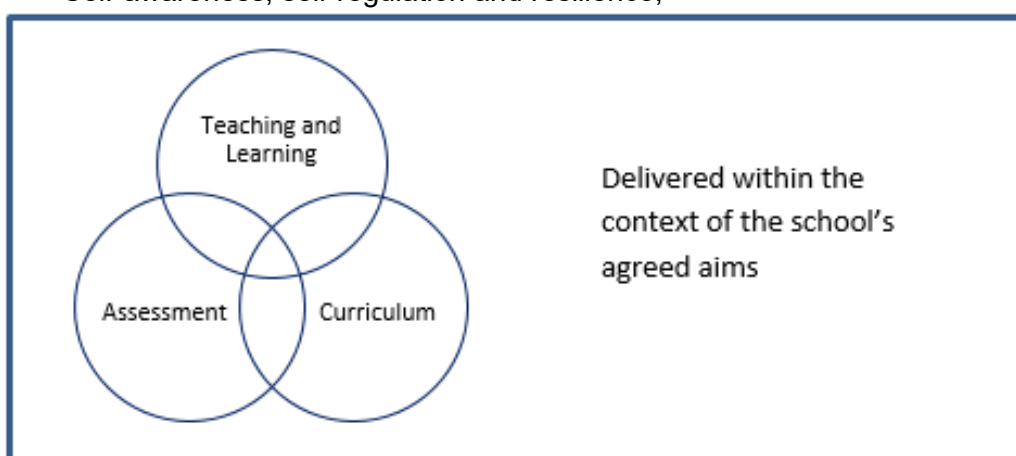
- 1.1 The purpose of this policy is to ensure that our curriculum supports our school ethos and fulfils our school aims, which are defined as:

Our Mission	Our Values	
TEMS is committed to developing caring, confident and independent individuals.	Academic	Foster a passion for learning by encouraging exploration and curiosity. Encourage independent thinkers who feel confident in making mistakes and learning from them.
	Character	Nurture a caring community, where respect for one another and our environment is tangible. Develop positive relationships both locally and globally based on empathy, collaboration and trust. Build our children's self-confidence through practical life skills with the aim of equipping them to face a rapidly changing future.
	Global	Deliver a trilingual education which by building oracy, debate and conversation across the globe builds an understanding of diversity. Forge strong links with Cognita family.

In order to ensure that TEMS is providing the highest quality education possible, our curriculum is designed not only to fulfil statutory requirements, but also to give our students a genuine thirst for learning, a love of challenge, and the confidence to grow towards their best. Rooted in Montessori philosophy and our school mission — Rooted in Respect and Kindness, Growing Towards Our Best — our curriculum develops the whole child across four dimensions: Knowledge, Character, Skills and Metalearning. The curriculum at all Key stages (EYS to KS5) is planned to deliver relevant sections of the English and Welsh National Curriculum. It is of primary importance however that the curriculum operates in a way that ensures all students can complete the requirements of the Spanish Government and Madrid education authorities for 'Infantil' and 'Primaria' (Nursery to Year 7), as well as achieve the Spanish ESO (Secundaria) and Bachillerato, if they complete the relevant courses and assessments throughout Years 8–13. At Key Stage 5, students may follow A Levels or the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP). All students who graduate from TEMS will do so in both the Spanish and UK education systems.

- 1.2 This policy applies to all pupils, including those in the Early Years.
- 1.3 We see the curriculum as, 'The total learning experience for our pupils, which includes not only the taught lessons but also the routines, behaviours, events, activities and other opportunities that our pupils experience on a daily, weekly and yearly basis in order to ensure that all of them make the best progress possible and attain high standards'.

- 1.4 A well-structured and coherent curriculum is a fundamental element of the tripartite of education that underpins all successful schools and includes Teaching, Learning and Assessment as in the following model:
- 1.5 We aim to provide a curriculum to develop pupils who love learning. We understand that the curriculum, both within taught lessons and beyond them, and in everything we say and do, should create an environment where academic risk-taking, questioning and debating, challenging thinking and the freedom to learn from mistakes are all encouraged.
- 1.6 Our curriculum offers all pupils the opportunity to experience linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical, aesthetic and creative aspects of education. We intend that our curriculum should imbue in our pupils:
- A passion for life-long learning;
 - A capacity for independent and critical thinking;
 - Self-awareness, self-regulation and resilience;



- Self-confidence without arrogance; and
 - Genuine interests that extend beyond the confines of the classroom.
- 1.7 British values, which are; democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs, are actively promoted in every aspect of school life.
- 1.8 Our curriculum is compliant with the following regulatory requirements as outlined in the BSO Standards:

The written policy, plans and schemes of work: –

- (i) take into account the ages, aptitudes and needs of all pupils, including those pupils with an EHC plan; and*
- (ii) do not undermine the fundamental values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.*

For the purposes of paragraph, the matters are:

- (a) full-time supervised education for pupils of compulsory school age, which gives pupils experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative education;*
- (b) that pupils acquire speaking, listening, literacy and numeracy skills;*
- (c) personal, social, health and economic education which:*
 - (i) reflects the school's aim and ethos; and*
 - (ii) encourages respect for other people, paying particular regard to protected characteristics*

(d) for pupil receiving secondary education, access to accurate, up-to-date careers guidance that:

- (i) is presented in an impartial manner
- (ii) enables them to make informed choices about a broad range of career options and
- (iii) helps to encourage them to fulfil their potential
 - where the school has pupils under the age of 5, a programme of activities which is appropriate to their educational needs in relation to personal, social, emotional and physical development and communication and language skills;
 - that all pupils have the opportunity to learn and make progress and
 - effective preparation of pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in society.

2 Taught Curriculum

- 2.1 Our taught curriculum broadly follows and, at times, goes beyond the National Curriculum at KS1, 2, 3 and 4 and is formally assessed at the end of KS2 using GL PTE/M; at KS4 by IGCSEs; and at the end of KS5 by A Levels, the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP), or by the Spanish national examinations described as EVAU (Bachillerato). The details of which exam boards are used at IGCSE and A Level by our different subjects can be found in the individual subject information section on our website. All pupils across the school take the CAT4 baseline assessment; outcomes are used by staff to inform discussions about each pupil's potential and to ensure the curriculum offer is individualised to need.
- 2.2 All pupils take the CAT4 baseline assessment: pupils entering the school in Years 7–9 take the CAT4 in the final week of September in their year of entry; all pupils take the CAT4 at the start of Year 10; and pupils entering the Sixth Form take the CAT4 in Year 12. The outcomes of CAT4 assessments are not shared with pupils and parents, but are used by staff to help create informed discussions about a pupil's potential and to ensure the curriculum offer is individualised to need.
- 2.3 Time awarded to each subject in each year group is visually explained in the curriculum model below for secondary. In Primary and Secondary there is a one-week timetable, 6 lessons a day of between 55 and 60 minutes. At KS4, all students study a core curriculum of: Mathematics, English Language, English Literature, Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics), Spanish Language and Spanish Literature, and French. Students then choose two additional option subjects. Y11 students may choose from 6 option subjects; Y10 students choose one option and have the opportunity to study a further option during enrichment.

6x55mins	Number of Classes	Math	Eng Lang	Eng Lit	Sci	Bio	Chem	Phys	Leng	Soc	Comp	Art	Fre	Geog	Hist	Mus	PSHE	Explore	PE	Op 1	Op2	Enr/RR
2025/26																						
7	3	5	4		4				4	2	1	1	2	2	2	1		2.5	2			2
8	2	4	4		4				4	2	1	1	2	2	2	1	0.5	2.5	2			2
9	3	4	4		4				4	2	1	1	2	2	2	1	0.5	2.5	2			2
10	1	4	3	3		2	2	2	4	2			2.5				0.5	2.5	2	2.5	2	2
11	3	4	3	3		2	2	2	4	2			2.5				0	0.5	2	2.5	2.5	2

Time awarded to each subject in each year group, in other phases of the school is visually explained in the timetable maps and further explained in the departmental SOWs, planning documents and individual lesson plans

- 2.4 Details of how the taught curriculum is translated into subject Schemes of Work (SoW) and lesson plans can be found in the individual subject information section on our website.
- 2.5 Taken together, the taught curriculum will ensure that by the time they have completed their time with us, all pupils are able to demonstrate the knowledge, skills and understanding to enable them to move onto the next stage of their education at the highest level.
- 2.6 Our curriculum includes those compulsory elements of the Spanish curriculum as required by the Spanish Ministry of Education and local education authorities.

3 Special Educational Needs and Disability - SEND

- 3.1 Our curriculum is inclusive. For those pupils with special educational needs or specific learning difficulties, the school has a well-established Learning Support department, led by the SENCO.
- 3.2 Further details of this provision can be found in our Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Policy.

At TEMS Secondary, our SENCO works closely with class teachers, Heads of Year and parents to ensure that all students with SEND or NEAE (Necesidades Específicas de Apoyo Educativo) receive appropriately adapted provision. All behaviour decisions for NEAE students are made in consultation with the SENCO, and the three-step behaviour system is adapted where needed to ensure every student is supported, not simply sanctioned.

4 SMSC – Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development of Pupils

- 4.1 Our policy follows the advice given by the DfE in the non-statutory guidance of November 2014 and meets the requirements of the Independent School Standards/BSO Standards. Aspects of SMSC are infused within the day-to-day operation of our school; incorporated through the curriculum, both in content included in subject schemes of work and through other planned learning opportunities in the school. They are captured in our written aims and expressed in the ethos and behaviours of everyone. Our approach to SMSC ensures that principles are actively promoted which:
 - Enable pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence;
 - Enable pupils to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England;
 - Encourage pupils to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative and understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality in which the school is situated and to society more widely;
 - Enable pupils to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England;
 - Further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling pupils to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures;
 - Encourage respect for other people, paying particular regard to protected characteristics; and
 - Encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic process.
- 4.2 Discriminatory or extremist opinions or behaviours are challenged as a matter of routine.
- 4.3 In addition, our approach to SMSC ensures that all pupils will gain an:
 - Understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process;
 - Appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their well-being and safety;

- Understanding that there is a separation of power between the executive and the judiciary, and that while some public bodies such as the police and the army can be held to account through Parliament, others, such as the courts, maintain independence;
- Understanding that the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law;
- Acceptance that people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour; and
- Understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination.

5 Religious Education and PSHEE

- 5.1 Our school chooses to respond to the legal requirement in maintained schools to teach Religious Education and Sex and Relationships Education, and to non-statutory guidelines to cover other aspects of Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHEE).
- 5.2 In Secondary, PSHE follows the British National Curriculum framework and is delivered through dedicated sessions in tutor time across all year groups. The programme includes emotional education sessions that support students' personal development, wellbeing and self-awareness, in line with our school values of Care, Confidence and Independence. Elements of the programme may be further supported through subject lessons, assemblies, visiting speakers and enrichment activities across the school year.

6 Co-curricular

- 6.1 A wide range of enrichment activities supplements the timetabled curriculum. Our pupils are encouraged to take part in an extensive range of art, drama, music, sport and other activities and clubs. Regular themed days and weeks are held. These may include Book Week, Maths Week, Science Week, Anti-Bullying Week or Art Week.
- 6.2 Pupils are taken to places of interest on a regular basis. Visits, including residential opportunities, are organised annually, which help to develop independence, teamwork and responsibility in a different environment to that in school.

7 Other Opportunities

- 7.1 Our school aims to provide an education for life. Other aspects of our curriculum which enable our pupils to gain the skills, knowledge and experience to be successful adults include:
- Careers and Higher Education;
 - Leadership Training;
 - Pupil Councils;
 - Community Service;
 - Duke of Edinburgh;
 - CCF;
 - Expeditions and trips;
 - Fundraising Activities;
 - Various Societies and Activities; and
 - Sport.

8 Responsibility

- 8.1 The person with responsibility for the overview and yearly evaluation of this policy is the Headteacher. However, all staff are responsible for ensuring this policy is implemented and acted on.
- 8.2 When evaluating the use and impact of this policy, our school leaders will evaluate the extent to which there is evidence of a curriculum which:
- Fulfils the aims of the school;

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- Embeds aspiration, attributes and the expectation to achieve high standards and high rates of progress; and
- Provides engagement and excitement for learning.

Ownership and consultation	
Document sponsor (role)	Group Director of Education
Document author (name)	Karen Nicholson, ADE
Consultation – May 2017	Consultation with the following schools: Long Close School, Charterhouse Square School, Quinton House School, El Limonar Murcia, Cumnor Boys' School, Downsends Leatherhead Pre-Prep School, Oakleigh House School and El Limonar Villamartin. Education Team representative: John Coleman, ADE.
Updated – April 2018	James Carroll, ADE
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Review – May 2025	Sarah Reynolds, Regional Director of Education

Audience	
Audience	All school staff

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Wales	Yes
Spain	Yes
Italy	Yes
Switzerland	Yes
Greece	Yes

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Related documentation	
Related documentation	Curriculum Policy Assessment Policy Teaching and Learning Policy SEND Policy EAL Policy Prevent Duty Early Years Policy, where relevant Independent School Standards