



Key Stage 3 Curriculum

An assessment of pupils entering Key Stage 3 at Portland shows us that Boys' literacy levels are often significantly below expectation.

In Year 7 we maintain the primary model of most lessons being delivered by the classroom teacher. We operate a 'literacy immersion approach to planning. Where students choose the text or texts they wish to study that half term. Essential literacy and numeracy skills are delivered as discrete lessons. Other lessons are planned around the text and theme. Strands from the full range of the Key Stage 3 Program of Study (with the exception of modern foreign languages, which we offer as an option on a Wednesday morning) are drawn into planning the other lessons.

In Year 8 and Year 9 we still follow the Key Stage 3 program of study (with the exception of modern foreign languages, which we offer as an option on a Wednesday morning). However, we give pupils access to more subject specific teaching in order to prepare them for accredited courses in Key Stage 4. We also move away from 'literacy immersion curriculum to a more traditional mainstream model.

We operate a Year 8/Year 9 nurture group which are taught aspects of the Year 7 and Year 8/9 model. This allows us to target pupils who require a more nurturing environment with staff that are skilled in meeting their needs.

Not all of our students have low literacy skills and we plan in activities/ differentiation in lessons to ensure they make progress.

We assess pupils termly against National year expectations or objectives we have taken from the Key Stage 3 program of study. Our aim is to ensure all pupils make at least good progress. We target those who do not meet that expectation with:

- Teacher/Teaching Assistant support in class
- SOS Spelling
- Switch on reading
- Intense differentiated work in mathematics

Reading – we encourage every pupil to read for at least 20 minutes daily. Reluctant readers are encouraged to access reading through newspapers and news websites. This facilitates discussions around current affairs and areas of interest to our young people.

We have a small number of girls at the school who are able to access a variety of external agencies which look at personal and social areas. There is a specific intention to look at online and personal safety, covering grooming, CSE and positive, healthy relationships.

For more information about the Key Stage 4 curriculum please contact Mrs Dudko.