CURRICULUM POLICY

Reviewed:	May 2026
Next Review Due:	June 2027
Applies To:	All Teaching Staff, Students and Parents
Owner:	Deputy Head of School
Approved By:	Board of Directors

Mission, Vision and Values

Mission

To inspire our children to reach their full potential by fostering curiosity and an interest in learning, awakening their minds and illuminating their world.

Vision

To create an affordable international secondary school with a high standard of education where children learn through practical and project-based work. To develop our students' moral and intellectual capacity, and to encourage creativity and adaptability.

Aim

An education that is broad, balanced and challenging, with an emphasis on developing strong connections to our host country, Uganda.

Values

Desire for lifelong learning; an ability to adapt; be innovative and reflective thinkers; open minded, and empathetic while achieving high academic success according to individual potential.

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1. Introduction

At 7Hills International School (7Hills), we believe that the curriculum is the totality of the learning experiences planned and delivered by the school to develop students intellectually, socially, emotionally, physically, creatively, and ethically.

Our curriculum is designed to provide a broad, balanced, inclusive, and internationally minded education that prepares students to thrive in a rapidly changing global society. We aim to nurture confident, compassionate, reflective, and academically successful learners who are equipped with the knowledge, skills, values, and attributes needed for lifelong learning and responsible citizenship.

The curriculum at 7Hills is underpinned by:

- High academic expectations for all learners
- Inclusion and equity of access
- Student wellbeing and personal growth
- International mindedness and intercultural understanding
- Inquiry, reflection, and critical thinking
- Literacy, numeracy, and communication across the curriculum
- Preparation for future study, careers, and life beyond school

The curriculum includes:

- The formal taught curriculum
- Co-curricular and enrichment opportunities
- Service learning and leadership opportunities
- Careers and university guidance
- PSHE and wellbeing provision
- Experiential and project-based learning

2. Curriculum Vision and Intent

The curriculum at 7Hills is designed to:

- Develop knowledgeable, skilled, and reflective learners
- Encourage independence, creativity, and resilience
- Promote curiosity, inquiry, and problem-solving
- Foster international mindedness and global citizenship
- Prepare students successfully for external qualifications
- Support students in becoming effective communicators and collaborators

- Ensure progression and continuity across all phases of learning
- Provide meaningful pathways for diverse learners

We believe all students can succeed when provided with:

- High-quality teaching
- Appropriate challenge and support
- Clear curriculum sequencing
- Strong relationships and pastoral care
- Opportunities for reflection and self-improvement

3. Curriculum Structure

The curriculum is organised into the following phases:

Key Stage 3	Years 7–9	International Middle Years Curriculum (IMYC)
Key Stage 4:	Years 10–11	Pearson Edexcel and Cambridge IGCSE
Key Stage 5	Years 12–13	Pearson Edexcel International A Level and Cambridge International A Level

3.1 Key Stage 3 Curriculum (IMYC)

Students in Years 7–9 follow the International Middle Years Curriculum (IMYC), which is designed specifically for adolescent learners and combines:

- Academic rigour
- Inquiry-based learning
- Personal development
- International mindedness

The IMYC framework supports the development of:

- Subject knowledge
- Conceptual understanding
- Learning skills
- Personal dispositions
- Reflective practice

The curriculum is organised around thematic units and “Big Ideas” that create meaningful connections across subjects while maintaining strong disciplinary learning. Subjects may include:

English
Mathematics
Science
Geography
History
Computing
Art and Design
Music
Drama
Physical Education
Modern Foreign Languages
PSHE / Learning for Life

The IMYC Personal Goals are embedded throughout the curriculum, and have been adopted as the school values and personal learning goals. These include:

Adaptable
Confident
Collaborative
Proactive
Resilient
Respectful
Responsible

3.2. Key Stage 4 Curriculum (IGCSE)

Students in Years 10 and 11 follow a broad programme of study leading to internationally recognised Pearson Edexcel and Cambridge IGCSE qualifications. The curriculum includes a combination of:

- Core subjects
- Option subjects
- Personal development programmes

3.2.1 Core Subjects

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Single or Double Award Sciences
- PSHE / Careers

3.2.2 Optional Subjects

May include:

- Physical Education
- Business Studies
- Economics
- Geography
- History
- ICT / Computer Science
- Art and Design
- Psychology
- French
- Spanish
- German

The school reserves the right to adjust option blocks according to student demand and staffing. Students receive guidance throughout the options process to ensure informed decisions aligned with:

- Interests
- Aptitudes
- University aspirations
- Career pathways

The IGCSE Programme also includes:

- Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Work Experience
- University and Careers Guidance and Counselling
- Leadership Opportunities

3.3 Sixth Form Curriculum (A Level)

The Sixth Form curriculum provides academic challenge, independence, and preparation for university and future careers. Students follow Pearson Edexcel International A Level and/or Cambridge International A Level programmes. Courses may include:

- Mathematics
- Further Mathematics

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- English Literature
- Psychology
- Business
- Economics
- Geography
- History
- Sociology
- Computer Science
- Art and Design
- ICT

The Sixth Form programme also includes:

- University and Careers Guidance and Counselling
- Leadership Opportunities
- Community engagement
- Study skills and independent research
- Enrichment activities

Students are encouraged to become reflective, independent learners capable of managing increasing academic responsibility.

4. Curriculum Design Principles

The 7Hills curriculum is built around the following principles:

- **High Expectations -** All students are entitled to access ambitious and challenging learning experiences.
- **Curriculum Sequencing -** Learning is carefully planned and sequenced to ensure progression in knowledge, understanding, and skills.
- **Knowledge and Skills Development -** The curriculum develops both disciplinary knowledge and transferable skills.
- **Literacy Across the Curriculum -** Reading, writing, speaking, and listening are explicitly taught across all subjects.
- **International Mindedness -** Students are encouraged to understand and appreciate different cultures, perspectives, and global issues.
- **Inclusion and Equity -** The curriculum is designed to ensure access and success for all learners.
- **Assessment for Learning -** Assessment is used to support progress, identify gaps, and inform teaching.
- **Student Wellbeing -** The curriculum supports students' emotional, social, and personal development.

5. Curriculum Implementation

Learning and teaching at 7Hills International School are informed by evidence-based practice and high-quality pedagogy.

Teachers are expected to:

- Deliver engaging and purposeful lessons
- Use assessment to inform planning
- Build positive classroom relationships
- Provide appropriate challenge and support
- Develop students' independence and resilience
- Promote active participation and discussion
- Use questioning effectively
- Model high-quality thinking and learning processes
- Provide timely and constructive feedback

Teaching approaches may include:

- Inquiry-based learning
- Direct instruction
- Collaborative learning
- Retrieval practice
- Project-based learning
- Reflection and self-assessment

Departments are responsible for:

- Curriculum mapping
- Schemes of work
- Assessment design
- Moderation
- Quality assurance
- Curriculum review and refinement

6. Assessment and Curriculum Impact

Assessment at 7Hills International School is designed to:

- Monitor student progress
- Inform teaching and intervention
- Support student reflection
- Measure attainment against curriculum expectations
- Prepare students for external examinations

Assessment includes:

- Formative assessment
- Summative assessment
- Internal examinations
- Standardised assessments
- Coursework and practical assessment where applicable

Departments use assessment data to:

- Identify strengths and gaps
- Adapt curriculum delivery
- Support targeted intervention
- Monitor progress over time

Student progress is communicated regularly through:

- Reports
- Parent-teacher conferences
- Progress updates

- Academic review meetings

7. Inclusion and SEND

7Hills International School is committed to inclusive education and ensuring all students can access the curriculum.

Provision may include:

- Differentiated support
- Scaffolding
- Intervention programmes
- English as an Additional Language (EAL) support
- Individual education plans
- Examination access arrangements
- Collaboration with external specialists where appropriate

Teachers are responsible for ensuring that learning is accessible while maintaining high expectations.

8. Personal Development and Wellbeing

Personal development is an integral part of the curriculum. Students participate in programmes related to:

- Wellbeing
- Relationships education
- Mental health awareness
- Safeguarding
- Online safety
- Careers education
- Global citizenship
- Leadership and service

The school promotes the development of:

- Respect
- Responsibility
- Integrity
- Empathy
- Resilience
- Independence

9. Careers and University Guidance

The school provides a structured careers and university guidance programme that supports students in making informed decisions about future pathways. Students have access to:

- Careers education
- University guidance
- Work-experience learning opportunities
- Guest speakers
- Career fairs
- Internship and service opportunities
- Individual counselling

Guidance is aligned with students' strengths, aspirations, and interests.

10. Extra-Curricular and Enrichment Opportunities

7Hills recognises the importance of learning beyond the classroom. Students are encouraged to participate in:

- Sports
- Performing arts
- Music
- Academic clubs
- Competitions
- Student leadership
- Service learning
- Educational visits
- Community projects

These opportunities enhance personal development and contribute to a well-rounded education.

11. Roles and Responsibilities

The School Board is responsible for:

- Approving and monitoring this policy
- Ensuring statutory and accreditation requirements are met
- Holding school leadership accountable for curriculum quality

The Head of School is responsible for:

- Overall curriculum leadership
- Ensuring effective implementation
- Monitoring curriculum quality and impact

The Academic Leadership Team is responsible for:

- Curriculum development and review
- Quality assurance
- Assessment oversight
- Professional development

Heads of Department are responsible for:

- Subject curriculum planning
- Assessment design and moderation
- Monitoring standards and progress
- Supporting teaching quality

Teachers are responsible for:

- Delivering the curriculum effectively
- Planning high-quality learning experiences
- Monitoring student progress
- Providing feedback and support

12. Monitoring and Review

The curriculum is subject to ongoing review to ensure:

- Academic rigour
- Relevance
- Inclusivity
- Alignment with international best practice
- Compliance with accreditation and examination board requirements

Monitoring may include:

- Learning walks
- Book and planning reviews

- Assessment analysis
- Student voice
- Parent feedback
- Department reviews
- Accreditation preparation

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Academic Leadership Team and School Board.

13. Distribution and Access

This policy is available to all staff, students, and parents via the school website and on the school Google drive. Printed copies can be requested from the school reception.