CASTLE COURT
SCHOOL

CURRICULUM POLICY

(Curriculum Statement for Parents)

Under Review: October 2026
Due for review: September 2027

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Aims and Rationale

Our vision is for each pupil to receive an outstanding, all-round and innovative education in an inspiring and naturally beautiful learning environment. We want to cultivate a love of learning and enable each child to grow and flourish in all areas of life within a loving, nurturing community. Castle Court has the Christian faith at the centre of its foundation, and as such, family values are at the core of school life.

At Castle Court, we aspire to provide a broad education of the highest quality. Consequently, our curriculum from Year 1 to Year 8 not only includes all the subjects in the National Curriculum but extends well beyond its boundaries. The knowledge-rich, broad and stimulating curriculum provided at Castle Court gives pupils experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative education. This provides enrichment, enjoyment and challenge which stimulates pupils' natural curiosity and effectively prepares them for the next stage of their education and beyond.

After over 75 years, Castle Court's governance and leadership remain committed to our founders' intention of providing all our pupils with a first class, all-round education, firmly rooted in Christian principles. These aspirations and values underpin all we do as we seek to encourage every member of the school community, whatever their faith or background, to strive for excellence in all that they do. Above all, we want everyone to feel part of a warm and welcoming family in which we all care for one another.

Our curriculum is underpinned by the following key aims:
To provide a 21st century education whereby:

- The child's learning and well-being are at the heart of all that we do.
- The educational experience is knowledge-rich, rigorous and well-balanced and where academic expectations are continually exceeded.
- Each child is nurtured through outstanding pastoral care so they can flourish inside and outside the classroom.
- Each child is provided with a strong foundation and compass for life – prepared with the skills needed for future success in a global world.

Pupils are taught in small classes by highly qualified and experienced specialist teachers and teaching assistants. The learning experience at Castle Court is designed to promote progression, reflection, evaluation, independence and collaboration. Pupils are encouraged to fulfil their potential in a number of ways: opportunities to show their understanding through different mediums, grouping or setting in certain subjects, small group work, clear

target setting, regular assessment and effective feedback, and opportunities for further development through a comprehensive extra-curricular program. Curriculum plans are in place for each subject in each year group, with clear differentiation for differing levels of ability and needs. We are committed to providing a sufficiently challenging curriculum and learning environments for all our pupils, including those who are considered gifted and talented. This is achieved by offering rich and varied opportunities for the development and extension of academic potential, both through the curriculum and extra-curricular program.

A strong Learning Development department works closely with all other departments to offer advice and support on quality first teaching strategies to ensure that all pupils make good progress including those with SEND needs. Furthermore, intervention groups and individual lessons are offered by the LD department, in consultation with parents. Above all, we know that a secure, happy child is far more likely to be ableto fulfil his or her academic potential. We therefore place great emphasis on providing high quality pastoral care and on pupils' personal development.

Lesson Allocation

Castle Court offers a broad curriculum which is tailored to pupils' needs at the different key stages. The following shows the breakdown of lessons in Years 1-8. Each lesson is 30 minutes, although most lessons in the timetable are doubles.

	Years 3-8					
	8	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**
English	9	9	10	10	10	10
Maths	9	9	10	10	10	10
Science	6	5	5	5	4	4
French	4	4	3	2	2	2
Latin/Classical Civilisation	1	2	1	0	0	0
History	2	2	2	2	2	2
Geography	2	2	2	2	2	2
RS (KS1/2) TPE* (KS3)	2	2	2	2	2	2
Art	2	2	2	2	2	2
DT	2	2	2	2	2	2
ICT	2	2	2	2	2	2
Music	2	2	2	2	2	2
Sport	12	12	12	12	12	12

Drama	1	1	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Dance	0	0	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
CAVE	2	2	2	2	4	4
Singing	0	0	0	0	1	1
Study Skills (VR/NVR)	0	0	0	2	0	0
Library					1	1

*TPE is Theology, Philosophy and Ethics

(1) Dance and Dance on half-termly rotation

PrePrep (Years 1-2)

	Year 1	**Year 2**
Phonics	3	4
English	9	9
Maths	7	7
Science	2	2
French		1
Topic	2	2
ICT	1	1
Music	1	1
PSHE/RS	1	1
Art/DT	2	2
Dance/ballet	1	1
Games/PE	3	3
Swimming	1	1
Forest school	2	2
Recorders		1

Early Years Foundation Stage (Badger Cubs, Badgers and Reception classes)

In the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) at Castle Court, our pupils enjoy a very broad educational experience following the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum framework. This consists of **3 Prime Areas** of Learning and Development which are fundamental and move through to support development in all other areas:

1. Personal, Social and Emotional Development,
2. Physical Development
3. Communication and Language.

There are **4 Specific Areas** of Learning and Development which include essential skills and knowledge for children to participate successfully in society-

1. Literacy
2. Mathematics
3. Understanding the World
4. Expressive Arts and Design

We learn as we play in EYFS and learning from many different areas takes place in any one given session or activity. The **Characteristics of Effective Learning** in the EYFS are:

1. Playing and Exploring-engagement
2. Active Learning-motivation
3. Creating and thinking critically-thinking

We have 3 activity sessions per day in EYFS classes. These are from 9:00-10:00, 10:55 -12:00 and 14:00-14:40 (15 per week). There are specific sessions for Literacy, Numeracy and nature based outdoor learning, P.E. and ICT in Badgers and Reception. Learning and Development from many of the other areas takes place at these times too so that it is not possible to define exact hours for each Prime and Specific Learning and Development Area. (Timetables for the Badger Cubs, Badgers and Reception classes do show details of Learning and Development for each week, although these are subject to changes according to circumstances and to child-initiated learning.) The other sections of the day are:

- outside playtimes in 3 different play areas,
- snack and story times
- lunch time.

During these sessions, too, learning and development across all areas takes place. In the EYFS department, all the children enjoy access to the outdoor spaces so that they are able to play and learn outside as well as in the classrooms.

Parents play a very important part in the children's learning at this stage and are welcomed into the classrooms to talk about their children's learning. They are encouraged to join their children for story time every Friday afternoon. Parents are also invited into school for various events throughout the year. These include Harvest Festival, sewing morning, Easter Egg Hunt and 'Topic Exploration Sessions' at the start of each term. Parents also contribute

to learning by noting achievements their children are making at home which are then shared and celebrated at school.

The children benefit from specialist teachers for many subjects, including dance, tennis, swimming, gymnastics, football and hockey skills and music. In Reception, the children swim weekly from the Spring term at a nearby indoor swimming pool and are taught by swimming instructors. In the second half of the summer term, all three classes in the EYFS use the school's outdoor swimming pool. All the children in the EYFS department benefit from nature-based outdoor learning sessions at least once every week; the children all enjoy and greatly benefit from this holistic learning experience.

The children in the EYFS learn about other countries and cultures and they practice greetings in different languages. Some basic French spoken words and expressions are taught in Reception. Parents from different countries are invited to come in and share their knowledge if they would like to. Sometimes they help the children to cook food from their homelands or show traditional clothes.

We uphold the Christian foundation of the school and there are daily assemblies and prayers, such as before mealtimes and at the end of the days. Additionally, all the children find out about and celebrate different world religions and traditions, for example Chinese New Year. Children are introduced to all the British traditions and special days such as Pancake Day. Children also enjoy drama and gain confidence on the stage as they perform their Christmas plays to the rest of the school and to their parents in the main school hall.

The children make excellent progress in their development and learning at Castle Court School. The achievements are recorded in the EYFS profile. The children are observed and photographic evidence of them as they play and learn is compiled using the Evidence Me system. Parents have access to this profile, whenever they wish, and it is shared by the class teacher throughout the year.

Year 1 to Year 8

From Year 1 to Year 8, the core subjects of English, Maths and Science are taught, along with a wide range of other subjects, including History, Geography, Religious Studies, Creative Arts and Design, Music, Dance and Drama, Information and Communications Technology, Personal Social and Health Education, Physical Education and Sport. Providing opportunities for outdoor learning is actively encouraged throughout the school. French is introduced in Year 2 and is taught in all subsequent year groups up until Year 8. Pupils are then introduced to German as well. Pupils in Pre-Prep frequently benefit from learning in the woodland through Forest Schools. In Years 3-5 weekly CAVE lessons will include classroom based PSHE sessions, workshops from external providers such as learning sign language with the Dorset Deaf Association , development of key life skills such as first aid and road safety (the latter through Bikeability), community visits to places like the Corfe

Mullen foodbank, and outdoor learning opportunities, which are linked to team work and collaboration. In Year 6, pupils are also introduced to Latin and Classical Civilisation and from Year 7 study Theology, Philosophy and Ethics (TPE).

Teaching is carefully planned so that pupils are working at a pace and level appropriate to their needs, enabling them to acquire speaking, listening, literacy and numeracy skills, as well as facilitating their development of subject-specific knowledge and giving all pupils the opportunity to learn and make progress. In Maths, children are set from Year 4, with setting being offered in English, Maths, Science and French by Year 5. In other subjects, such as ICT, Creative Arts and Design, PSHE, Religious Studies, Drama, Dance, Music, PE and Design Technology, pupils enjoy being taught in mixed ability form groups.

The 7Cs

The 7Cs are the qualities and values we want pupils to demonstrate at Castle Court and beyond. The 7Cs are:
To be:

- Curious
- Creative
- Committed
- Compassionate
- Courteous
- Collaborative
- Courageous

We see these as underpinning all aspects of life at Castle Court and the Castle Court family. We want to demonstrate that the education pupils receive here goes beyond just academic progress; it should also instill in pupils, key values and qualities which we hope will guide and support them throughout their life.

Pre-Senior Baccalaureate (PSB)

The Pre-Senior Baccalaureate (PSB) is a curriculum framework which underpins the educational provision at Castle Court. PSB is a knowledge rich, academically robust curriculum where subjects are taught using their nationally agreed and moderated subject strands. However, an equal emphasis is placed on developing core learning skills for life: thinking and learning; reviewing and improving; collaboration; communication;

independence and leadership. This approach, based on substantiated educational research and increasingly demanded by senior schools, is at the heart of the education we provide at Castle Court. Lessons are planned and executed to enable these skills to develop over a pupil's time at CCS. Pupils are encouraged to reflect on their experiences and develop their own meta-cognitive skills, especially through focused tutor time. Extra-curricular activities are designed to grow pupils' confidence in these core learning skills.

PSB provides an accredited assessment model which offers a robust and rigorous assessment of children's academic ability, whilst also enabling an assessment of the whole child and their strengths as a learner. It therefore enables pupils to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to be successful in an ever-changing world. Reporting to parents reflects our desire to look at the 'whole child' and celebrate those who grow and excel not just academically but also in their attitude to learning.

Pre-Senior Project Qualification

All pupils in Year 8 take part in the Pre-Senior Qualification Project (PSPQ). This, like its senior school counterpart 'The EPQ', is an opportunity for pupils aged 12-13 years old to engage in independent research. The scholarly skills that such a project entail have a significant benefit for both life at senior schools and higher education. Pupils can choose to create either a personal project or one that is outwardly community focused. The aim of the PSPQ is to enable pupils to explore an area of focus which they are passionate and in doing so develop the following key aspects:

- Self-leadership and organisation
- Thinking critically and deeply
- Identifying an aim/outcome
- Breaking a project into manageable steps
- Undertaking research to deepen knowledge
- Working independently
- Communicating ideas effectively
- Developing presentation skills through the PSPQ exhibition and TEDX talk
- Reflect and evaluate learning

At the end of the project, all pupils take part in a PSPQ exhibition to parents and senior school staff. They also create and present a TEDx style talk about their project.

SEND

At Castle Court, we aim to provide comprehensive and effective support for all our pupils including those with an EHCP. Every child is unique, and it is important that the individual child and their range of needs are looked at when planning their support. Wherever possible, we encourage all pupils to join in the activities within their classroom environment, as well as outside, if this is agreed to be reasonably practical. Adaptive, quality-first teaching is our first step in providing appropriate support to those pupils who have, or may have, SEND. Pupils may also be involved in small group lessons and individual lessons where necessary, if they are struggling to acquire specific learning skills, or are falling behind their peers. Our aim is to give every child in the school equal opportunities to access the whole curriculum. All members of staff play a shared and crucial role in helping all pupils to access the curriculum. The continuous cycle of planning, teaching, assessment and evaluation has an embedded desire to differentiate learning within the classroom. Every teacher is required to take account of the wide range of abilities, aptitudes and interests of the pupils. For further information, please refer to the school's Learning Development policy.

Homework

Homework is set from Year 3 to Year 8. In Years 3 and 4, pupils should expect to have spellings and times tables to learn, as well as English and Maths homework and/or research for topic-based learning. From Year 5, a more formal homework timetable is issued: Year 5 should expect to have homework in English, Maths, Science and French (French homework is a weekly learning task). In Year 6, pupils receive homework in the core curriculum subjects, as well as French, History and Geography (where appropriate). In Years 7 and 8, homework is extended to include TPE (Theology, Philosophy and Ethics). Homework tasks should normally take about 30 minutes to complete; however, in Years 7 and 8, the additional depth of study required may mean that homework tasks take up to 45 minutes.

Assessment

Standardised Testing

The following tests are carried out on an annual basis to help teachers and Heads of Department gain a better understanding of pupils' attainment and progress. The Director of Teaching and Learning, Heads of Department and SENDCo analyse these results, to ensure that individual pupils and pupil groups are making progress and reaching their full potential.

Autumn Term:

- Quest Reading Test: Years 2-8
- Quest Spelling Test: Years 2-8
- Cognitive Potential Tests: Years 4, 6 & 8 (and new pupils)

Spring Term:

- Quest Progress Test in English: Years 2-8
- Quest Progress Test in Maths: Years 2-8

All results from standardised tests are shared with parents via the assessment tab on Edulink. Parents have the opportunity to discuss these results further at Parents' Evenings which take place in the Autumn and Spring Terms.

Exams

At Castle Court, we feel it is important that pupils experience more formal, timed exams in preparation for their Senior Schools. The following formal exams take place within the school:

Autumn Term:
Year 8 Mock Exams (English, Maths, Science, History, Geography and French) and Year 8 Mock Academic Scholarship exams.

Spring Term:
Year 8 pupils sit senior school admission tests or academic scholarship tests.

Summer Term:
Year 7 exams (core subjects) and formal assessments in other subjects.
Year 8 exams (core subjects) and formal assessments in other subjects.

Use of ICT

The school is committed to providing a 21st century education for our pupils. We therefore aim to help our pupils become highly skilled and discerning users of ICT in a school with high quality and up-to-date software, hardware and infrastructure. All pupils in Pre-Prep to Year 4 have their own school iPad and in Years 5-8 pupils have their own school Probook to enhance their learning further and support effective remote learning where needed. Every pupil in the school has an office 365 account and this is used to log

into the PCs around the school and their Probooks/iPads. We have adopted Microsoft Teams, OneNote and EduLink to establish and develop an E-curriculum. The use of these platforms has enabled us to develop the learning experience for our pupils, promote effective strategies to monitor progress for teaching staff and provide clear and real-time feedback for pupils and parents. The IT software and hardware are kept under constant review to ensure that we provide pupils with a high quality 21st century education.

Scholarships and future schools

We are fully committed to helping each one of our pupils fulfil their potential. Pupils are comprehensively prepared for admission and scholarship exams to the senior schools. We have an excellent reputation for preparing pupils for a range of scholarships including Academic, All-rounder, Art, Design and Technology, Drama, Performing Arts, Music and Sport. Pupils aiming for scholarships are provided with additional enrichment and preparation activities including Sports Scholarship Club, Extension Science Club and Art Scholarship Club. Pupils are also given targeted interview practice sessions which help them prepare for the types of questions they may be asked and to feel confident.

In Year 5, the weekly study skills lesson is used to help prepare pupils for admissions tests for senior schools, including Quest tests; ISEB pretests and 11+. These lessons focus on key learning skills and behaviours such as growth mindset, revision and study techniques, as well as developing verbal reasoning and non-verbal reasoning. In addition, a verbal reasoning and non-verbal reasoning club is offered during the activity slot for pupils in Year 5 and 6 in the Autumn and Summer Terms.

We work closely with senior schools to ensure a smooth transition for our leavers. Year after year, our leavers are successful in gaining entry to the school best suited to them and their families. Information on senior school admissions and scholarship applications can be obtained from the Head.

Sport

At Castle Court, we are dedicated to nurturing a lifelong love for physical activity from the earliest stages. Starting from Badger Cubs, every pupil enjoys a well-rounded Physical Education (PE) and Games curriculum. Pupils in Years 3 to 8 benefit from one hour of sport each day, spread across the week. Boys participate in Football, Rugby, Hockey, Cricket, Swimming, and Athletics, while girls engage in Hockey, Football, Netball, Swimming, Cricket, and Athletics. Beyond these core sports, pupils are exposed to a variety of additional PE activities throughout the year, fostering both individual growth

and team success.

Our sports programme is further enriched by a wide range of extra-curricular activities. These include before-school sports clubs, sports sessions delivered as part of the school-day activities programme, as well as sports trips and tours. We strategically align these clubs with the major sports of the term, giving students the opportunity to refine their skills and compete at their best. Additionally, we aim to offer key sports as extra-curricular options in the term preceding their focus in the curriculum, providing a “pre-season” training experience that prepares students to excel.

For those striving to reach their full athletic potential, our Sports Scholars’ Programme offers a comprehensive support system. Targeted at pupils in Years 7 and 8 who are aspiring to secure sports scholarships at 13+, this programme blends strength and conditioning training with physical profile testing and one-on-one mentoring. This tailored approach helps pupils develop both physically and strategically, with detailed athlete profiles that showcase each child’s abilities to senior schools. Our strong connections with leading senior schools enhance this process, providing pupils with personalised guidance and access to tournaments and training opportunities.

For pupils who enjoy sports but aren’t pursuing scholarships, we continually evolve our programmes to ensure a broad, dynamic sporting experience. By balancing mainstream sports with more niche and individualised options, we foster every student's enthusiasm for physical activity, helping them find their unique passion. Our core philosophy is to cultivate a deep, lasting “affectionate connection” to sport and exercise, ensuring that every child departs Castle Court with a love for a sport or activity that will stay with them for life.

Music

We have a strong tradition in music-making with a wide range of curricular and extra-curricular musical activities. Singing forms part of the curriculum for all year groups, in addition to instrumental playing from Year 2 onwards. Children in EYFS receive 1 curricular music lesson per week and children in Years 2 - 8 receive 2 curricular music lessons per week. In all classes, from Badgers upwards, music is taught by specialist musicians. We provide free group tuition on a range of instruments to children in Years 3 and 4. Many of our pupils receive individual music lessons in a wide range of instruments, including singing and music theory.

We currently have a number of extra-curricular music groups rehearsing on a weekly basis including orchestra, choir, plus a range of strings, woodwind, brass and percussion

ensembles. Typically, these involve children from Year 3 onwards. Performing opportunities for these groups are varied, including informal concerts, major school concerts and regional orchestral courses at Bryanston. All children experience performing in whole-school concerts and events, including singing in nativity plays and forming choirs for the Carol Service in Wimborne Minster. By the time they leave Castle Court, a number of pupils achieve Grade 6 or above in an instrument or voice and a number win music scholarships to their chosen senior school.

Performing Arts

The performing arts are an important part of life at Castle Court School. Through drama and dance we aim to build confidence, develop creativity and communication skills and allow children the opportunity to work successfully as part of a group. Opportunities to perform exist throughout the school. Children in Badgers and Pre-prep, directed by their class teachers, perform nativity plays at the end of the Autumn Term and go on to present a full-scale musical production in both Years 3 and 4.

All pupils in Years 3 to 8 also receive specialist timetabled drama and dance lessons. In drama, they learn new skills including mime, improvisation, role-play and script work. We use poems, stories and play texts as the starting point for drama work and in this way support the work of the English department. Pupils develop confidence in performing their work to others, as well as learning to respond positively as a member of an audience.

In dance, during their time on the Castle Court Pathway, pupils will learn a variety of dance styes including ballet, disco, street dance, musical theatre and more. As well as learning dance skills, pupils develop their co-ordination, performance skills, communication, and confidence. Pupils explore the background behind dance styles, the countries from which they originated, how they became well-known and the people who are involved. Dance is more than just movement; it allows students to be creative and use their imagination. Badgers and Badger Cubs have a weekly dance lesson introducing dance, learning basic co-ordination skills and routine based content; repetition is key for this age group. Pupils from Reception to Year 6 will study topics relating to a style of dance, learning new steps and working towards a routine. From Year 5, improvisation and choreography is explored in depth and creativity and imagination is encouraged.

For pupils who wish to develop their skills further, there are opportunities to do so in during our activities programme. There are junior drama and dance clubs for pupils in Years 4 and 5 and for pupils in the senior school, there are optional drama and dance activities which culminate in a Summer Term performance to parents. Previous productions have included Shakespeare's *'A Midsummer Night's Dream'* and musical productions of *'The Wizard of Oz'* and *'Peter Pan'.* For pupils in Years 2 to 8, they may take private dance lessons in Ballet, Tap

and Street dance. Pupils in Years 5 to 8 may also take private Speech and Drama lessons in which they work towards LAMDA examinations in either Acting or the Speaking of Verse and Prose. Opportunities to watch live theatre are also provided where possible, either by bringing professional companies to school or by taking trips to the theatre.

Character and Values Education at Castle Court School (CAVE)

The ultimate difference that a Castle Court Education brings is our universal commitment to the development of the 'whole-child' as part of a pastorally strong and nurturing 'Castle Court Family'. A unique offering within our school is the extensive Character and Values Education Programme, from which every child benefits and which permeates throughout our daily lives. Through partnering with a number of external organisations (as part of the PSB group) we are able to develop key character traits and attributes, such as: resilience, self-regulation and emotional and social well-being each week.

Our triple wellbeing approach focuses on three interconnected themes – self-care, people care and earth care. Throughout the year, pupils can expect assemblies, tutor times, theme days, global outreach and education, opportunities for social action, outdoor learning, workshops, life skills sessions, and relationship and health education.

CAVE Lesson Time:

From Years 3 – 8, pupils are timetabled to receive at least one hour of Character and Values Education (CAVE). Pupils can expect to undertake PSHE lessons on themes such as aspiration and growth, digital resilience, kindness and care, awe and wonder and equality and justice. Themes of democracy, diversity and tolerance permeate the programme throughout as we seek to grow citizens of the future. We also cover areas such as cyber bullying, mental health, and relationship and sex education. Pupils may take part in workshops related to first aid or learning sign language; as well as those in Years 3-5 having an opportunity to complete Bikeability road safety training. We have links with the local community, with our older pupils visiting the food bank and helping at a day centre for the elderly. We use the digital platform Unifrog to teach about careers.

C.A.V.E 'Theme Days'

We aim to have a number of 'theme' days throughout the school year. On these days, pupils are taken off timetable for all, or part of the day, to give them more meaningful opportunities to explore life-skills or go deeper into aspects of the curriculum. These days has given us the opportunity to introduce new strands to our children's wider curriculum, including environmental issues and classical architecture, as well as enabling more in-depth engagement on important PSHE topics. For example, in Year 7, pupils collaborate on a

'Dystopian' Theme Day, whilst Year 8 grapple with 'Crime and Punishment' with a reenactment of a Magistrates Court. As pupils see the barriers between their traditional timetabled subjects being broken down on such days, they begin to appreciate more fully the wide-ranging applications of the topics they are learning, preparing them more readily for life in the 'real' world, where opportunities and challenges don't manifest themselves in neat 'subject-areas' and usually require an interdisciplinary response and the flexibility to adapt: skills learnt in one area of school life may end up being put to the test, honed and used to the full in an entirely different area of life in the real world.

At the start of the Autumn term, pupils in Years 7 & 8 kick start their leadership programme by taking part in an adventure day. Previous trips have seen pupils involved in coasteering and climbing. These challenges offer a great opportunity for pupils to develop the PSB skills of leadership, communication and collaboration whilst also giving them the chance to display many of our 7 Cs values such as courage and commitment, all of which we will be looking for them to exhibit as leaders of the school during the remainder of the academic year.

Reimagined School Day Activities Programme

At Castle Court, education is about developing the whole child — intellectually, creatively, physically and socially. Every day, our pupils are encouraged to think deeply, explore widely and discover their strengths and passions. Through the Prep School Baccalaureate and our commitment to the 7Cs, we help pupils to develop not only the knowledge, but also the skills and character they will need to become the thinkers, creators and leaders of tomorrow. Our reimagined school day builds on these foundations. By creating more time for enrichment within the school day, we are ensuring every child has greater access to the breadth of experiences and opportunities that define a Castle Court education.

In September 2026, we implemented our reimagined school day. At the heart of this is ensuring that all pupils are able to benefit from the broad extra-curricular activities programme which has always defined a Castle Court education. Pupils in Years 3-8 will now be able to access these opportunities as part of their timetabled day (1.45pm – 2.30pm) rather than having to stay after school. Typically, these activities will take place during the extended lunchtime with pupils being able to select from a wide range of activities across the week. These may include: Art/DT, Lego, allotments, cooking, drama, Minecraft coding, golf, sailing, music clubs such as orchestra and choir, science, Spanish, Christian groups, verbal reasoning, chess and Spy School!

A Castle Court education has always extended beyond the classroom. From sport and music to drama, art, coding and outdoor learning, some of the most memorable moments

of school life happen when children discover something they truly love. The reimagined school day allows these opportunities to become an even more integral part of every child's experience.

This means that every pupil will have more opportunities to:

- Discover new interests
- Develop confidence and independence
- Pursue existing passions
- Build friendships and teamwork
- Explore leadership opportunities
- Develop the skills and character needed for future success

Most importantly, every child will benefit from the breadth of opportunities that make **Castle Court such a special place to learn and grow**

For pupils in Years 1 and 2 there is a range of after school activities between 3.45pm and 4.30pm for them to enjoy. For example, adventure club, film club and computer club. There is a small and nurturing 'tea club' for younger pupils who need to stay later that 4.15pm, run by qualified nursery and early years staff.

Activity Weeks:

Learning to live in a community and having an opportunity to try new things is valued at Castle Court. To that end, we think carefully about curating a progression of residential experiences for our pupils during their time at the school. This normally takes place in mid May each year and is much anticipated by the children.

Year 3

We aim for pupils to undertake a one-night camping residential based around the school grounds later in the summer term. Pupils also enjoy a range of in-school activities along with three full days out of school. They visit Moors Valley where they take part in a 'Nets' adventure; they spend a day at the Ancient Technology Centre in Cranborne and also enjoy a trip to Monkey World.

Year 4

Pupils will take part in a one-night residential away from school at Brenscome Activity Centre, a local centre in the Purbeck Hills. They will also enjoy visiting local attractions which will support the topics they have been studying in school during the year.

Year 5

Year 5 will be heading off to Mill on the Brue in Somerset for a 4 day residential trip.

Activities include: archery, kayaking, raft building, bushcraft, catapult target practice and high ropes.

Year 6

Year 6 will enjoy an action-packed week at Cobnor Activities Centre near Chichester. Pupils will be given the opportunity to try sailing, canoeing, climbing and team building. This will culminate in a coastal expedition day to East Head in Chichester Harbour.

Year 7

Year 7 will take part in an exciting range of activities in and around the Poplars site near Ledbury in Herefordshire. Highlights will include a river expedition in canoes on the River Wye, mountain-biking in the Forest of Dean, hillwalking in the Shropshire hills and surfing at the artificial reef in Bristol.

Year 8

Year 8 will stay in Georgeham, near Croyde, North Devon at an Outdoor Centre, offering surfing, kayaking, climbing, biking and more, led by the Centre's qualified and friendly staff, and enjoyed by generations of Castle Court pupils and staff. The magnificent Putsborough beach is located nearby, and the countryside surrounding Georgeham makes this an exceptionally attractive part of Devon.

Review schedule

This policy document should be reviewed on an annual basis in September and presented to the Governors' Education Committee meeting for scrutiny and adoption in the Autumn Term.