

# Year 4

# Curriculum Guide

---

2022 - 2023



James Allen's Junior School

# CURRICULUM INFORMATION

## ENGLISH

The English Curriculum is based on the Key Stage II National Curriculum requirements and on the 11 + entry requirements. The curriculum is presented in a lively and stimulating way and our aim is to extend each child's potential in all areas of the subject.

Year 4 pupils by the end of the year should be able to:

- Listen to class discussions and participate in mini debates.
- Read aloud from selected texts fluently and with appropriate expression.
- Read silently with sustained concentration a wide range of literature chosen from the school library, during Reading periods.
- Use reference books and dictionaries, using indices and alphabetical order.
- Produce pieces of writing in sentences with capital letters, full stops, commas and speech marks.
- Begin to use paragraphs when structuring prose.
- Write for a variety of purposes and audience (e.g. stories, instructions, playlets, letters etc.)
- Write a story with a clear structure.
- Understand nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs.
- Recognise spelling patterns and understand more complex spelling rules.
- Use joined-up handwriting and write in fountain pen.
- Answer comprehension questions in full sentences and questions which demand an opinion. Interpret a text using inference and deduction.



# DRAMA

All girls have a weekly drama lesson. The lessons are designed to enhance the girls' confidence throughout their four years in the preparatory school and teach them acting skills which culminate in a Year 4 and a Year 6 play. Lessons are designed to be practical and fun.

Topics covered include:

- Drama strategies and games: unite pupils and foster positive group dynamics.
- Team games: promoting group work.
- Rhythm work: using voice and instruments.
- Observational skills.
- Memory work: using poems and scripts.
- Mime: developing facial expression and physical gesture as a form of communication.
- Character work: exploring a variety of ways to create characters, including inventing character histories.
- Script work: writing and learning scripts.
- Year 4 Play.

## SPEECH & DRAMA

(Paid Optional Extra)

- To encourage self-confidence in the use of the spoken word.
- Girls are taught in a small group by a drama specialist.
- Speech and projection exercises.
- Oral presentations: solo. Children are encouraged to speak freely in an unscripted manner, always with the help of visual aids.
- Rhythmic speech and vocal freedom explored through poetry.
- Discussion of vocabulary and verbal dynamics practised in poetry and drama.
- Improvisation to promote imaginative ideas and vocal freedom.
- Character development using short scripted scenes.
- Pupils read aloud from a favourite book and learn the skills of timing, expression and fluency. They are also encouraged to develop their use of sustained eye contact so that they share fully with their listeners.
- All pupils are entered for the Entry Level Entry 2 English Speaking Board examination in June. Preparation for this examination takes place in the Spring and Summer Terms.

# MATHEMATICS

The Mathematics Curriculum is in alignment with Key Stage 2 National Curriculum requirements. Throughout our learning we use concrete resources and pictorial examples to build a deeper understanding of the concepts for all pupils, which they can then relate to the abstract formal methods. We aim to provide girls with a sound foundation of the concepts taught, from which we use problem-solving and investigations to develop and extend their skills and understanding.

## Place Value

- Understand place-value to be able to read, write and partition numbers up to 6 figures.
- Compare and order numbers up to 6 figures
- Counting in 10s, 100s, 1000s, 10 000s, and 100 000s
- Know Roman Numerals for numbers up to 1000.
- Round numbers to nearest 10, 100 etc. up to 100 000
- Negative numbers

## 4 Operations

- Add and subtract whole numbers with more than 4 digits using the column method
- Round to estimate and approximate
- Inverse operations (addition and subtraction)
- Multi-step addition and subtraction problems
- Understand what multiples and factors are
- Find common factors of two numbers
- Prime numbers
- Square numbers
- Cube numbers
- Multiply and divide by 10, 100 and 1,000
- Multiples of 10, 100 and 1,000
- Multiply 2-, 3- and 4-digit numbers by 2-digit numbers
- Divide 4-digits by 1-digit
- Divide with remainders



## Fractions/ Decimals

- What is a fraction?
- Equivalent fractions
- Fractions greater than 1
- Count in fractions
- Add 2 or more fractions
- Subtract 2 fractions
- Subtract from whole amounts
- Calculate fractions of a quantity
- Tenths and hundredths - on a place value grid, on a number line and write as decimals
- Divide 1-digit numbers by 10 and 2-digit numbers by 10 and 100
- Make a whole
- Write, compare, order and round decimals
- Halves and quarters

## Geometry

- Identify angles
- Compare and order angles
- Triangles
- Quadrilaterals
- Lines of symmetry
- Complete a symmetric figure
- Describe position
- Draw on a grid
- Move on a grid
- Describe a movement on a grid

## Money

- Pounds and pence
- Ordering money
- Estimating money
- Four operations
- Estimate, compare and calculate different measures, including money in pounds and pence
- Solve simple measure and money problems involving fractions and decimals to two decimal places

## Measurement

- Kilometres as a measure of distance
- Perimeter on a grid
- Perimeter of a rectangle and other rectilinear shapes
- Area by counting squares
- Comparing area
- Hours, minutes and seconds
- Years, months, weeks and days
- Time - Analogue to digital – 12 hour and 24 hour

## Statistics

- Interpret charts
- Comparison, sum and difference problems using information represented in tables and charts
- Line graphs

# SCIENCE

The Science Curriculum covers the three disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics, as well as including many opportunities to develop practical and enquiry skills. Lessons take place in a fully equipped science classroom, where pupils are able to gain plenty of hands-on experience with a range of scientific equipment. The Year 4 girls have two one-hour lessons each week.

The following topics will be taught during Year 4:

## Working Scientifically

Working scientifically is a set of ongoing skills that are taught throughout the topics listed below.

- Asking relevant questions and answering them through scientific enquiry
- Making observations and taking measurements
- Recording and presenting data
- Presenting scientific information as drawings, diagrams, keys, bar charts and tables
- Reporting on findings from enquiries verbally and in writing
- Using results to draw simple conclusions, make predictions, suggest improvements and further questions
- Identifying differences, similarities or changes related to scientific ideas and processes
- Using scientific evidence to answer questions or support findings

## Electricity

- Identify electrical appliances and components
- Describe how to use electricity safely
- Make a simple circuit
- Identify conductors and insulators.
- Using switches in a circuit.
- Draw circuit diagrams.
- Change the brightness of a bulb or volume of a buzzer

## Teeth and Eating

- The different types of teeth and their functions
- How to look after teeth
- The digestive system
- Identifying carnivores, herbivores and omnivores from their teeth
- Drawing and interpreting a food chain.

## Changing State

- Compare and group materials together, according to state
- Name some properties of solids, liquids and gasses
- Describe how the particles are arranged in solids, liquids and gasses
- Observe that some materials change state when they are heated or cooled
- Evaporation, condensation and the water cycle

## Sound

- How sounds are made
- How sound travels and how we hear it
- The pattern between the pitch of a sound and the object that makes the sound
- The pattern between the volume of a sound and the strength of the vibration that produced it
- The pattern between the volume of a sound and the distance from the object that produced it



## Classification

- Grouping living things in different ways
- Identifying different types of vertebrates and invertebrates
- Using classification keys
- How environments can change and sometimes endanger living things
- How to care for the environment and prevent habitat destruction



## COMPUTING

Computing is taught in our state of the art Computing Suite. The Year 4 girls have a one hour lesson per week, taught in groups of twelve. There are opportunities to use a variety of educational software as well as SLR digital cameras, voice recorders, Makey Makeys, Raspberry Pi, programmable Lego, VR headsets and the 3D printer. Since Computing is a cross-curricular subject, some of the skills will be used and/or taught within other subjects through the use of LearnPads, iPads and laptops.

- General Computing Skills and Awareness
- Lighting the Path
- Digital Musicians
- Quiz Masters
- Hardware Designers
- Surreal Photographers
- Clockwork
- Online Safety

## HUMANITIES

In year 4 we take a topic-based approach to History and Geography. We aim to make relevant cross-curricular links where possible whilst ensuring the key skills of both subjects are embedded. The girls have two double lessons a week of their topic.

## HISTORY

### Key Skills

- Develop an understanding of chronology and use BC and AD.
- Use primary and secondary source to make deductions about life in the past.
- Understand there are differing opinions about events in the past.

## GEOGRAPHY

### Key Skills

- Use maps, digital maps, aerial photographs, atlases and globes to locate places.
- Make their own simple maps and plans.
- Use the eight points of a compass, 4 figure grid references, OS symbols and keys.
- Use the scale to calculate distances.

Throughout the year children will be taught to:

- Ask geographical questions.
- Collect and record evidence.
- Use appropriate geographical vocabulary.
- Use appropriate fieldwork techniques.
- Use atlases and globes, and maps.
- Use and make maps and plans at a range of scales.



## FRENCH

French is taught in half classes throughout the school and each class has two lessons per week.

We follow the course *Les Loustics*, which prepare for the DELF Prim (Diplôme d'études en langue française or Diploma in French Studies). This is supplemented by a wide range of graded readers, interactive software, audio and video materials. The French teaching room is equipped with an interactive white board.

An extensive range of topics is covered during the year and French is used as the medium of communication during lessons.

The main emphasis will be on developing confidence and on the acquisition of new vocabulary and structures, as well as enjoyment of the language through the use of the computer, interactive whiteboard, games, songs, stories, poems, videos, hands-on activities and role plays.



# MUSIC

Music is taught very much as a practical subject, with activities consisting of performing, composing, listening and appraising. Each pupil has two lessons per week, one with the whole class and one as part of a half-group.

Topics:

Autumn Term

- Rhythm and Percussion: bucket drumming and djembe
- Harvest and Christmas songs

Spring Term

- Songs for Year 4 play

Summer Term

- Accent on composers
- Composition





# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Pupils have two double period lessons a week using the facilities at the Prep and JAGS Sports Club. There are many further opportunities for the pupils to take part in extra sport through lunchtime and afterschool clubs.

All pupils at the Prep take part in Inter House Sporting Events across the year and these include:

- Football (Autumn Term)
- Netball (Spring Term)
- Swimming (Spring Term or Summer Term)
- Cricket (Summer Term)
- Sports Day (Summer Term)

Autumn/Spring Terms

- Hockey / Netball / Football.
- Gymnastics/Dance.
- Health Related Fitness/Cross Country.
- Swimming.

Summer Term

- Cricket
- Athletics
- Tennis
- Swimming
- Games (Hockey, Netball, Football, Cricket)
- Gymnastics
- Dance
- Health Related Fitness/Cross Country
- Athletics
- Tennis
- Swimming (All Year)



## ART

All girls have one double lesson a week, in half classes in the specialist, Art room. They work through a series of linked activities within larger projects, carefully designed to stimulate and ensure success and enjoyment. Some activities respond to current events or exhibitions and some repeat from year to year. However, they all fall within a rolling annual framework which targets specific fields of Art, Craft and Design, and builds progressively upon skills and techniques. The girls continue to make regular use of their sketchbooks in which to record, develop and evaluate their own work and to appreciate and comment on the work of artists, craftspeople and designers. They use the same sketchbook in Year 3 and Year 4 in order to be able to see their own development and progression over the two years.



## DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

All girls have one double lesson per week within a specialist DT workshop. Design and Technology lessons are geared towards providing stimulating and challenging tasks that will prepare the student for a lifetime of learning, exploring and problem solving. Pupils learn to think and intervene creatively to improve quality of life. They learn to explore values and attitudes to their made world; critically analyzing how we live, work and interact within it. This process encourages them to become independent and creative problem solvers, as individuals and members of a team.

The formative years of Design and Technology emphasizes developing practical design and make skills, helping students gain confidence in their own creativity. Students develop knowledge and understanding of materials and components; systems and control; and structures. They learn to combine practical skills with an understanding of aesthetics, function, industrial practices and social and environmental issues. As they do so, they reflect on and evaluate present and past design and technology, its uses and effects. Through this all students can become discriminating and informed users and innovators of products.

As they progress, they will then able to tackle increasingly complex problems and tasks involving a variety of media and processes from the more traditional materials through to electronics and computer-aided design and manufacture. Pupils learn to look for needs, wants and opportunities and then respond to them by developing a range of ideas and making products and systems. They develop a critical understanding of technological processes, products and their manufacture, and how they contribute to our society. Involvement with industry and participation in competitions is strongly encouraged, all in endeavour to prepare pupils for making significant and worthwhile contribution to life and work in a technological society.



# PSHCE (PERSONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH, CITIZENSHIP AND ECONOMIC EDUCATION)

## JIGSAW Modules

This year JAGS Pre-Prep and Prep school are excited to be using a new Scheme of Work titled 'Jigsaw' for PSHCE lessons, Form times and to support pastoral provision. Jigsaw is a whole-school PSHCE and Wellbeing approach that provides children with relevant learning experiences for their age group to help them with life experiences and to develop positive relationships with themselves and others.

RSE statutory curriculum guidance is embedded into the scheme More information about Jigsaw can be found at: [https://f.hubspotusercontent20.net/hubfs/20064624/UK-3-11-Snapshot-Overview-Map%20\(1\).pdf?hstc=&hssc=&hsCtaTracking=3c57054b-6cff-40b3-8949-ddbdf3675df%7Cedb4b90b-1f85-42b3-b8ed-7b3d93f42c43](https://f.hubspotusercontent20.net/hubfs/20064624/UK-3-11-Snapshot-Overview-Map%20(1).pdf?hstc=&hssc=&hsCtaTracking=3c57054b-6cff-40b3-8949-ddbdf3675df%7Cedb4b90b-1f85-42b3-b8ed-7b3d93f42c43)

The six half-termly modules are the same for all year groups, although each cohort has specific objectives catered for their age group. Year 4 will be covering the following topics:

- Being Me in My World
- Celebrating Differences
- Dreams and Goals
- Healthy Me
- Relationships
- Changing Me

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education is the study of Christianity and other world religions to develop a greater understanding and affinity for the spiritual, moral and cultural knowledge of the pupils. Religious Education helps the children to develop an understanding and an openness towards others.

Autumn Term

Judaism

Spring Term

Moses

Summer Term

Islam



James Allen's Girls' School

Ages 4-18

144 East Dulwich Grove, London SE22 8TE  
Telephone: 020 8693 1181 • Email: [enquiries@jags.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@jags.org.uk)  
[www.jags.org.uk](http://www.jags.org.uk)