## CURRICULUM DESIGN

### KEY PRINCIPLES

- **Balanced**
  - Promotes intellectual, moral, spiritual, aesthetic, creative, emotional and physical development as equally important.

- **Rigorous**
  - Seeks to develop intra-disciplinary habits of mind; the subject matter is taught in a way that is faithful to its discipline.

- **Coherent**
  - Makes explicit connections and links between the different subjects/ experiences encountered.

- **Vertically Integrated**
  - Focuses on progression by carefully sequencing knowledge; provides clarity about what getting better at the subject means.

- **Appropriate**
  - Looks to avoid making unreasonable demands by matching level of challenge to a pupil’s current level of maturity/knowledge.

- **Focused**
  - Seeks to keep the curriculum manageable by teaching the most important knowledge; identifies the big ideas or key concepts within a subject.

- **Relevant**
  - Seeks to connect the valued outcomes of a curriculum to the pupils being taught it; provides opportunities for pupils to make informed choices.

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A curriculum breathes life into a school's or teacher's philosophy of education; it is purpose enacted. Different philosophies of education — personal empowerment; cultural transmission; preparation for work or preparation for citizenship — place different emphasis on aspects of curriculum design. Curriculum design involves seven key principles which operate in tension with each other.


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