



Policy relating to GCSE entry and early entry

Governors recognise the importance of a broad and balanced offer at GCSE, ensuring that all strands of the national curriculum can be offered to age 16. This policy provides a framework for parents, students and staff to clarify what the school does and does not offer in terms of GCSE entry. This policy does not cover the subjects or content offered which are shared with parents via our website and annually prepared options booklet.

GCSE Entries per Student

- A typical student at John Ruskin School takes ten GCSEs in Key Stage 4. This is made up of:
 - GCSE RE currently taken at the end of Year 10
 - GCSE English Language and Literature
 - GCSE mathematics
 - At least two GCSE equivalence in science
 - Four GCSE options

- All students are expected to take all ten GCSEs unless one of the following applies:
 - They have an EHCP
 - They have a disability

In these cases the SENDCo will have identified these children in Year 9 and a conversation with the student and parents will take place as to whether following eight or nine GCSEs is a reasonable adjustment to meet their needs, only where that threshold is met will a student be able to reduce the number of GCSEs taken

- All students not meeting the criteria above will be expected to follow a full timetable of core and option subjects
- Students with difficulties selecting from a particular option block will be supported in their decision, but will need to select a course from all option blocks in that given year

GCSE Early Entry

- The governors recognise that students are best served taking their GCSEs with their peers at age 16. Therefore the school does not support early entry for any subject offered by the school at GCSE, (e.g. a student would **not** be supported to take maths or English at the end of Year 10). Exceptions will only be made in the following circumstances:
 - Fluent foreign language students may be entered for a GCSE language at the end of Year 10 or, at the earliest, at the end of Year 9 where a student can demonstrate a high level of competence in all four disciplines
 - Core RE which is taken at the end of Year 10

Alternative GCSE Entry

- Any GCSEs not offered by the school but which a candidate wishes to take either at the end of Year 10 or Year 11 for their interest, will not be supported by the school either in terms of time out of other lessons, financial support for resources or specialist teaching. Any alternative GCSEs need to be worked on outside of school hours
- The school will support students taking alternative GCSEs with exam board entry and costs, but post result remark requests will need to be paid for by the student

Additional Information

- The school does not support private candidates due to the administrative burden on a small staff
- None of the above limits or reduces a parent's rights under Section 71(1) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 to withdraw their child from RE lessons

Signed Date

For review biennially by the head teacher