

EMMANUEL COLLEGE

CO-CURRICULAR POLICY 2021-22



Policy statement

The co-curriculum is an important element of our personal development curriculum. A broad co-curricular offer supports our aim of ensuring that all students are valued for their individual characteristics and can demonstrate their confidence and resilience through a wide and rich set of experiences that extend beyond the academic, technical, or vocational. Participating in co-curricular activities give students the opportunity to develop their ability to work with and communicate effectively with others and their leadership skills. For some students the co-curriculum will provide them with the opportunity to excel in a chosen sport or activity for example through their representation of the College in a sports team or by participating in a national or international competition or event. However, engagement in the co-curriculum is not solely focused on achieving excellence in each activity but for many students is an opportunity to have fun, develop and grow outside of the academic curriculum.

The co-curricular offer

We believe that engaging in the co-curriculum is a vital aspect of their character development and as such we expect all students to engage with at least one activity each term. Each term the list of available co-curricular activities is published, and students are asked to indicate their preferences. Places are then allocated, and the timetable created so that most students can participate in their preferred activities. The activities that are offered each term may be subject to change based upon the sporting calendar, availability of external activities and coaches and due to student preferences. The final timetable will be published each term on our website, however each term a broad range of activities will be on offer including sports and creative and performing arts and activities.

The compulsory school day finishes at 4:00pm with co-curricular activities taking place between 3.05-4.00pm. In some cases, activities may extend beyond 4:00pm however this would be communicated in advance and primarily relates to the attendance of sporting fixtures, arts, and music performances or where travel to an external location is required. However, most activities will finish by 4:00pm and therefore students are able to travel home by scholar's bus.

The co-curricular timetable will operate Monday-Thursday, but in a small number of cases activities may run on a Friday. Where students are not attending a co-curricular activity, they will be engaged with independent study or receive targeted academic support. This session is timetabled and fully supervised by teaching staff.

In addition to the activities that are on offer during the co-curricular session Monday-Thursday the College offers a range of other activities that students can engage in:

- **Music Tuition and Speech and Drama Lessons**

Students can arrange for music instrumental lessons, provided by specialist teachers and/or speech and drama lessons, provided by the drama department. For both types of lessons, there is a charge, payable by parents. For music lessons, there are systems in place to make instruments available to those who do not yet have one. Students are encouraged to prepare for graded music exams with the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM). In speech and drama lessons, students will study for the prestigious LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) examinations. The examinations and the course equip candidates, whatever their age, with a range of skills, which will serve them throughout life by improving the way they present themselves through the spoken word and by fostering their self-

confidence. Lessons for both take place throughout the College day on a rota basis to avoid the same lesson being missed every week.

- **College Productions**

Drama at Emmanuel is an innovative way to develop confidence in performance as well as meet new people whilst working towards creative excellence. Actors, singers, musicians, dancers, directors, choreographers and crew of all ages, abilities and experience are welcome.

- **Outdoor Education Programme**

The College runs an extensive Outdoor Education Programme. Many of these activities will include an overnight stay for which a small charge is applied. This programme is open to all years and includes activities such as:

- walking
- canoeing
- wild camping
- cliff-jumping
- gorge-walking.

Representing the college in a sports team

Sport plays a key role in College life during lessons and in co-curricular time and at the weekends. The College runs many teams who compete in-house and with other schools across the region in a number of different sports through matches, tournaments and events. Sometimes this may include participating in national events. Most training sessions are held during co-curricular time but where students represent a College, they are expected to attend training which may sometimes extend beyond 4:00pm. There are also various tours during the year for a number of sports which can include national or international travel.

All students are expected to abide by the uniform requirements in place for each sport during training and matches. This includes travelling to and from College fixtures, home and away. College uniform must be worn when changing facilities are available at the venue. It is expected that if a student is selected for a College team, they are expected to make themselves available, unless they are injured.

Residential Visits

To further extend the opportunities that students have to grow, learn and thrive we run a residential programme each year. For students in Year 7, 8 and 12 we run the following residential activities where all students are expected to attend:

- **Year 7 – Camp Emmanuel**
An outdoor experience where students will camp for a number of nights and engage in a range of activities that develop their resilience, independence and builds friendships and relationships with their peers. Takes place in the summer term.
- **Year 8 – Chateaux Emmanuel**
An international residential activity in Northern France where students will have an opportunity to develop their independence and resilience whilst navigating the challenge of speaking a new language. Exploring the culture and history of France whilst having the opportunity to take part in a range of outdoor activities. Takes place in the summer term.
- **Year 12 – Whithaugh**
As part of the year groups induction to College students will travel to Whithaugh Park where they their team and leadership skills will be challenged.

There are also several residential visits which take place during the school year providing opportunities to gain experiences with specific academic departments. In addition, the College runs an annual Ski trip for year 8 students and operates the Duke of Edinburgh Award which includes several residential expedition activities. A list of residential opportunities that will be on offer during the academic year will be shared with parents at the start of the autumn term, however the details of each visit including information on how to request a place will be shared with parents throughout the year.

The House System

Healthy competition is very much part of the College ethos and to this end all students are permanent members of one of the four College Houses:

- Derwent
- Don
- Team
- Pandon

Inter-House competitions are always the focus of tremendous pride and passion, and students consider it a great honour to represent their House. These competitions range from sport to craft, from public speaking to chess, and incorporate the highly competitive Merit Mark system across Years 7-11. Trophies and House Points are awarded for a variety of these events, culminating in the end-of-year total, which decides the winning House. This overall House Cup is traditionally awarded at the Summer Presentation Evening. It is expected that students should represent their house in at least one event throughout the school year.