

NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Policies and Procedures

Title:	Reduction in Subjects at GCSE and A Level
Associated Policies:	Accessibility Plan Special Educational Needs Policy Remote and Blended Learning Policy
1. Policy Statement	
	<p>Our core aim is to provide all students with educational excellence so that they can access university, higher education, employment or an apprenticeship. We are committed to a curriculum that is rich in knowledge and skills; believing that powerful knowledge gives students the cultural literacy and cultural capital they need to become active citizens in society.</p>
2. GCSE	
	<p>The school is committed to all students completing a wide range of courses during Years 10 and 11. This is to ensure that all students are treated equally in how they are supported to keep their options open for future education and careers.</p> <p>All students will follow the core curriculum in English, Mathematics, Science, Spanish or French, Geography or History, PE and PSHE. In addition to this, there is also the offer of a choice of subjects including, Art, Design and Technology, Sport, Performing Arts, Computer Sciences, Film Studies, Ethics and Philosophy, and Health and Social Care. All students will take 9 subjects in total. Some students may take 10 subjects where appropriate.</p> <p>All Year 9 students and their parents/carers benefit from a comprehensive programme including; guidance, information and support to help them with the transfer to GCSE courses. This programme is individualised for each student by their form tutor, their Head of Academic Standards and the Special Educational Needs Coordinator where required.</p> <p>Where exceptional circumstances exist, the school may reduce the number of courses a student follows.</p> <p>This decision will only be made as a result of discussions with the student, their parent/carers and staff. The Head of Academic Standards manages each individual request with the Assistant Head Teacher for Quality of Education and Data and the Deputy Headteacher responsible for the Quality of Education. Where they think there is a case for reducing the number of subjects studied at GCSE, they will make a recommendation to this effect to the Headteacher who will decide if the proposed decision should be upheld.</p> <p>The process needs to be guided by a number of questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is this being considered? • Would they be able to achieve if they were given further support in the subject? • Would they be able to achieve if reasonable adjustments were made in the subject? • What are the consequences of reducing the number of subjects for the student? • What are the possible benefits of reducing the number of subjects for the student? • Are there other factors to consider? <p>If the decision has been made that there is a case for a reduction in subjects, this is then discussed with parents/carers ensuring they understand the implications of any reduction.</p> <p>A record is made of the numbers of students who began a course at GCSE in each subject and retention will be</p>

NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

	<p>considered as an important element when we evaluate achievement by subject.</p> <p>Requests to reduce the number of subjects studied by a student at GCSE can only be made by Heads of Academic Standards, a member of the Senior Leadership Team, Parents/Carers and students.</p> <p>Team Leaders who wish to request that a student does not continue with a subject can only do so in exceptional circumstances, and must discuss any such request with their SLT Link before this will be considered.</p>
3.	<h3>Alternative Arrangements</h3> <p>It may be that the student requires additional support from Special Educational Needs (SEN) or English as an Additional Language (EAL) teams, or they may need to be referred to a Learning Mentor.</p> <p>Students who need more intensive support may be placed in the Inclusion Room. This will be at the discretion of the Deputy Headteacher responsible for SEND, the Director of SEND, or the Head of Inclusion and Looked After Children.</p>
4.	<h3>Monitoring Student Achievement</h3> <p>KS4 inclusion staff, managed by the Head of Inclusion and Looked After Children, will track each student's progress within the Inclusion Room and liaise with Heads of Academic Standards, subject teachers and tutors. The Head of Academic Standards and Tutors will maintain an overview of progress and behaviour for students with a reduced number of subjects so that these students are supported to use this time productively.</p>
5.	<h3>GCE A Level and Post 16 courses</h3> <p>After the end of September in Year 12, there is the expectation that students will continue with their courses until all assessments have been completed, either by the end of Year 12 or by the end of Year 13, depending on the duration of the course. This policy is adhered to from October of Year 12.</p> <p>After this time, any reduction in the number of courses a student follows will only be agreed in exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>The decision to reduce the number of subjects will only be made as a result of discussions with the student, parents/carers and staff. The Director of Sixth Form will agree the final decision with the Headteacher.</p> <p>The process needs to be guided by a number of questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why is this being considered?• Would they be able to achieve if they were given further support in the subject?• Would they be able to achieve if reasonable adjustments were made in the subject?• What are the consequences of reducing the number of subjects for the student?• What are the possible benefits of reducing the number of subjects for the student?• How will this impact on their UCAS application or other possible future pathways?• Are there other factors to consider for example attendance concerns, engagement, welfare? <p>Before any reduction is considered, information is collated from across all subjects and the number of possible passes at GCE are considered. All students must be on a programme of three subjects/equivalent. There may be students in extreme situations for whom there may be an exception. This must be agreed by the Director of Sixth Form in discussion with the Headteacher.</p> <p>The request is then discussed with parents/carers ensuring they understand the implications of any reduction.</p>

NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

	<p>A record is made of the numbers of students who began a course at GCE in each subject and retention will be considered as an important element when we evaluate achievement by subjects.</p> <p>Requests to reduce the curriculum for students can be made by the Heads of Year, the Director of Sixth Form or Parents/Carers.</p> <p>When a request has been made for a reduction in subjects, Tutors and the Head of Year must be informed as soon as possible so that they can ensure that the student knows they must continue to attend lessons until a final decision is made.</p> <p>Team Leaders who wish to request that a student does not continue with a subject can only do so in exceptional circumstances and must discuss any such request with their link with SLT before this will be considered.</p>
6.	Monitoring Student Achievement
	<p>It is expected that students with a reduced number of subjects work productively on their remaining subjects in any gained time. The Tutors and Heads of Year, managed by the Director of Sixth Form, will maintain an overview of progress and behaviour for students with a reduced number of subjects so that these students are supported to use this time effectively.</p>

