



International Schools Policy

Document Control	
Title	International Schools Policy
Policy Number	MHS085
Date	July 2024
Supersedes	July 2023
Purpose of the policy	To outline clearly the way the school embeds international learning into its curricular and extracurricular offer.
Related policies/guidance	Curriculum Policy
Review	September 2026
Author	Tom Kelly
Date Consultation Completed	
Date adopted by	

Under the Public Sector Equality Duty, Manchester Hospital School has due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010; to advance equality of opportunity between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it and to foster good relations across all protected characteristics. Manchester Hospital School will take into account equality considerations when policies are being developed, adopted and implemented.

Manchester Hospital School serves the needs of a very large and diverse range of children, young people and their families at times when they are extremely vulnerable. Our core purpose as a school is to uphold the child's right to Education and our policies and procedures are necessary to keep staff and children safe . We acknowledge that our students are often living with a range of very complex medical conditions including mental ill health and therefore we keep the needs of the student at the heart of all decisions. We will, therefore, work within the parameters of all statutory policies whilst seeking to understand and support the child's long term education and health needs.

Contents:

1. Introduction
 2. Aims
 3. Curriculum Offer: Leo Kelly School
 4. Curriculum Offer: The School at Galaxy House
 5. Curriculum Offer: Hospitals
 6. Extracurricular Offer
 7. Associated Memberships, Schemes and Awards
- Appendix A: Relevant Links

1. Introduction

Our young people are growing up in a globalised society in which a range of languages and cultures are just a click or a tap away. They will have more international experiences available to them in terms of travel, cuisine, employment and culture than any previous generation. However, they are also growing up in times of uncertainty and increasingly polarised viewpoints within society, so it is important that we provide them with a curriculum that educates them about and celebrates the vast number of cultures that exist both within the UK and internationally. This is particularly important in our context, in which pupils with medical or social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) issues may feel even more detached from society than their peers accessing mainstream education.

2. Aims

Manchester Hospital School aims to offer all pupils a range of experiences to enhance their learning and raise awareness of their local, national and international identity. We seek to encourage pupils to take up their role as open-minded and forward-thinking citizens of the world through curricular and extracurricular activities that enrich pupils' cultural capital and global understanding, as we believe this will have a powerful impact on their future working and personal lives.

Through our international work, we encourage pupils to:

- have an awareness of countries, languages and cultures other than their own;
- respect and value different cultures and beliefs;
- develop curiosity about daily life in other countries;
- be prepared for life in a diverse global society and for work in a global economy;
- understand the future opportunities open to them beyond Manchester and the UK;
- participate in society as active and responsible global citizens.

At a whole-school level, the Global faculty (led by a Lead Practitioner and comprising History, Geography, Religious Education and Languages) takes the lead in developing pupils' international knowledge, supported by other staff and departments.

3. Curriculum Offer: Leo Kelly School

At the Leo Kelly School, we aim to develop pupils' understanding of their local, national and international context through:

- Experiential learning activities involving elements of Global subjects, such as discovering festivals and celebrations, developing language skills for holidays abroad and becoming European Parliament Junior Ambassadors;
- Incorporating international themes into topics and projects such as Travel Writing (KS3 English) and the experiential curriculum (e.g. Festivals, EPAS);
- Seeking opportunities for wider curriculum and extracurricular activities relating to local, national and international topics, including collaboration with other schools where possible.

4. Curriculum Offer: The School at Galaxy House

At the School at Galaxy House we offer a broad curriculum, which develops knowledge of the world through:

- The discrete teaching of History, Geography, Religious Education (RE) and Spanish as separate lessons at Key Stage 3 (KS3);
- Incorporating international themes into topics in other subjects, such as Global Cultures (KS3 Art), Reggae and World Music (KS3 Music), Genre and Culture (KS4 Music) and Travel Writing (KS3 English);
- Seeking opportunities for wider curriculum and extracurricular activities relating to local, national and international topics, including collaboration with other schools where possible.

5. Curriculum Offer: Hospitals

4a. Primary

At the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), pupils work towards the early learning goals, and begin their international education journey primarily through the Understanding the World area. Topics such as Come Fly With Me - Asia allow pupils to progress within each early learning goal through an internationally themed context for learning.

At Key Stage 1 (KS1) and Key Stage 2 (KS2), pupils' international understanding is primarily developed through our primary curriculum, which includes the discrete teaching of History, Geography, Religious Education (RE) and Spanish (at KS2). Pupils develop their understanding of topics relating to the world around them at local, national and international levels through topics such as London & Lima (Year 2), Europe (Year 4) and Windrush (Year 5).

We have access to virtual reality (VR) headsets to allow our pupils to explore the world from the security of their home, hospital bed or hospital school classroom.

4b. Secondary

At our hospital sites, we promote international education at secondary through:

- Offering all pupils the opportunity to continue studying French or Spanish;
- Our Humanities curriculum offer, teaching History, Geography and RE through engaging themes such as ‘Africa: Past, Present & Future’ and ‘Eurovision & the Cold War’;
- The use of virtual reality (VR) headsets to allow pupils who cannot take part in school trips to explore the world;
- Incorporating international themes into topics in other subjects, such as Diverse Short Stories (Year 9 English) and Identity (KS3/4 Art).

4c. PMLD/SLD

Our pupils with Profound Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD) and Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD) have complex learning needs that can be compounded by their medical condition. The aim of our PMLD and SLD curriculum is to develop pupils’ skills in the four broad areas of need identified in the SEN Code of Practice (Communication and Interaction, Cognition and Learning, Physical and Sensory and Social, Emotional and Mental Health). Key skills are taught through stimulating contexts for learning, including a topic on ‘Weather, travel and the world’.

6. Extracurricular Offer

As part of our extracurricular offer, we want to provide pupils with the opportunity to develop their knowledge of the world beyond what they learn in formal lessons. Each year, the school prepares a cultural calendar that links to extracurricular enrichment activities.

In the past, these activities have included:

- Completing the British Council Great Languages Challenge on European Day of Languages;
- Watching an interview with a survivor to mark Holocaust Memorial Day;
- Trips, visitors and form-time activities relating to Black History Month, LGBT+ History Month, International Women’s Day, Human Rights Day and World Book Day.

7. Associated Memberships, Schemes and Awards

As part of our commitment to meaningful international education, Manchester Hospital School aims to achieve and maintain:

- The British Council International Schools Award (ISA);
- The UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA);
- European Parliament Ambassador School status;
- Arts Mark Gold.

We are also members of the Hospital Organisation of Pedagogues in Europe (HOPE) and the Global School Alliance, showcasing our commitment to international education.

Appendix A: Relevant Links

Manchester Hospital School website - curriculum page
www.manchestershospitalschool.co.uk/our-curriculum/

British Council International Schools Award website
www.britishcouncil.org/school-resources/accreditation/international-school-award

UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Award website
www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/

European Parliament Ambassador Schools website
youth.europarl.europa.eu/more-information/ambassador-school.html

Artsmark website
www.artsmark.org.uk

Hospital Organisation of Pedagogues in Europe (HOPE)
www.hospitalteachers.eu

Global School Alliance
www.globalschoolalliance.com