



Sidcot
Live Adventurously

Policy Name: Lead Learner Policy

Policy Number: 6.10

Date: September 2024

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Sidcot School is an educationally inclusive School where the teaching and learning, achievements, attitudes and well-being of every pupil and student matter. We recognise that pupils and students have different educational needs and abilities. They learn and acquire knowledge in different ways and at varying rates. Accordingly, teaching provision is adapted to the individual's needs and we welcome the challenge presented by able pupils and students.
- 1.2 'Lead Learner' describes students with ability or potential to develop in a certain subject who apply for a role to represent that subject.
- Lead Learners can represent up to two subject areas, such as Maths or English or those who have practical skills in areas such as sport, music, design or creative and performing arts.
 - They have to apply for the role and their applications are considered by the subject staff and in some cases, students may be interviewed.
 - Students in the Sixth Form can apply to become Captains in a chosen subject area they are studying, and they are responsible for leading this group of students from Y7-11.
 - Lead Learners will meet with a subject mentor once or twice per half-term. They will get involved with projects, deliver assemblies, enter competitions, go on trips or take part in workshops. They may also be responsible for mentoring other students.
- 1.3 Skills and attributes such as leadership, decision-making and organisation may also be taken into account.

2. Scope and Distribution

- 2.1 This is a whole school policy but Students do not become Lead learners until the Senior School. Our Gifted & Talented policy will document our provision for most able students in both the Senior and Junior School.
- 2.2 This policy is available on the School website, and the school intranet. It is available in hard copy form and may be made available in accessible formats upon request.

3. Aims

- 3.1 The School aims to meet the individual needs of all students to help them succeed in their learning and to maximise their potential.
- 3.2 The aims of our Lead Learner student policy and practice in our school are to:

- Raise aspirations,

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- Strive for excellence in all areas,
 - Encourage students to perform to the best of their ability,
 - Create an atmosphere in which all our students, including the most able, can flourish,
 - To develop higher order thinking and learning skills through appropriately targeted activities.
 - To develop skills from the Learning Wheel such as collaboration, self-management, communication, practical learning and thinking skills.

4. Identification of Lead Learner Pupils and Students

- 4.1 Students in Y7-11 apply to become a Lead Learner in up to two different subject areas by completing an application form to go to their subject teacher for consideration. In some cases they may be interviewed. A Subject Mentor in each department is responsible for meeting with these students on a half-termly basis, to engage them in projects, to organise assemblies, to prepare them for challenges, competitions or enrichment opportunities. Students in the Sixth Form can apply to become Captains in a subject area and will meet regularly with this group of Lead learners which they will lead in the projects.
- 4.2 In addition, the school offers a scholarship programme designed to enable students who have a particular talent or aptitude to perform at the highest level. These students have been incorporated on the Lead Learner Programme and will be supported mostly in their specialist areas. They will also receive further opportunities such as Workshops, Conferences and Public Speaking Competitions.
- 4.3 Academic Scholars in Y7-9 will take part in the Higher Project Qualification, whereby they meet with a subject mentor, and choose a topic to research and present at a Presentation in front of a panel of judges and audience of staff, students and parents. All-rounder Scholars will take part in a Scholarship podcast once per year in a group on a theme that matters to them. They will be responsible for researching, presenting and editing the podcast.

5. Lead Learner Provision

- 5.1 Teachers will ensure that Heads of Department and Faculties and Subject teachers are aware of who are the Lead learners in their subject area. They can also be identified by a badge.
- 5.2 The School's rich provision of extra-curricular activities provides further opportunities for extending the more able as well as engaging those who

find some of the curriculum challenging. Opportunities are offered in both academic, creative and sporting activities, such as maths café, Mandarin club, music groups, Model United Nations, Lego Robotics, drama and sporting activities. These opportunities come through lunchtime and after-school clubs plus more recently through the expansion of the offer during Pass on a Thursday afternoon.

- 5.3 In addition, Lead Learners regularly participate in challenging activities beyond the classroom. Examples of this are: university events for maths, science and design; participation in competitions with other schools; language trips; foreign language plays; lunchtime music recitals; theatre trips; visiting authors and speakers; Edinburgh Fringe productions; events for national science week; Arkwright Engineering Scholarship programme; design challenges; participation in competitive sport and trials; officiating opportunities; arts visits; photography and film competitions; guildhall music examinations; music competitions; and many more activities.

6. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually, unless change to policy or practice dictates a sooner review, by the Deputy Head Academic in consultation with the Academic Enrichment Co-ordinator, and overseen by the Education Group..

7. Relevant Policies

- 2.11 Equal Opportunities Policy
- 3.13 Scholarship Policy and Procedure
- 3.1 Admissions Policy
- 6.1 Curriculum Policy
- 6.4 Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)
- 6.2 Assessment Policy – Academic

8. Document change history

Date of change	Detail significant changes and any new legislation / guidance taken into account
2.12.2016	Updated to reference scholarships and support with university applications
02.03.2017	Updated to include Junior School references.
26.4.2017	Reviewed – no changes
07.10.2019	Updated to include new practices such as move from Gifted & Talented to Lead Learners, and the introduction of the Lead Learner Log and Portfolio.
30.11.2019	Reviewed and updated

18.06.2024	Updated to reflect the different roles of Lead Learners and Gifted & Talented students.
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