

Co-curricular Policy

for both the Junior School and Senior School

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Where available	Freemen's Staff SharePoint site, Parent Portal, Governor Portal

Co-Curricular Policy

1 General Statement

This policy sets out the purpose of the co-curricular programme at Freeman's, and the value placed on the co-curriculum as part of a well-rounded Freeman's education. The policy outlines those responsible for ensuring its effective running, the expectations on pupils and staff, and the processes to be followed to ensure the smooth running of the co-curriculum.

2 Policy Statement

The purpose of the co-curriculum at Freeman's is to provide opportunities for our pupils to excel, challenge and develop their learning outside of the classroom. Pupils are given opportunity to develop skills and characteristics in a variety of areas for the better achievement of a rounded and balanced life. The programme is part of the overall curriculum which pupils experience at Freeman's, working alongside the academic curriculum, house programme and pastoral programme. The co-curricular programme at Freeman's reflects the school's mission, which states: We want children at Freeman's to learn, to lead and to make a difference.

3 Personnel

The co-curricular programme is overseen by the Assistant Head - Co-Curricular, Mr Jamie Shore-Nye. He is supported by Form Tutors, Heads of Year, academic staff and those responsible for leading each activity.

4 Provision of activities

The programme is made up of two distinct areas, the performance strand and elective strand. Pupils will have a vast array of opportunities to perform for their school, in sport, and the performing arts (music and drama). These performance areas are highly regarded and as such are a high priority for the school. Attendance at rehearsals and squads has a high expectation. For the elective strand, pupils select each term a variety of activities which they wish to pursue to

develop new skills, gain new knowledge and develop their character traits. These activities will vary from term to term, and is dependent on many factors including, but not limited to, pupil demand, availability of teachers, and quality of the provision being offered. All available activities appear on the SOCS co-curricular website ahead of each term and pupils and parents are requested to look together at the provision and make their selections during the sign-up week. The majority of activities run each week for a full term, although some may take place bi-weekly, for a half termly period or on an ad hoc basis. Some activities incur an extra charge and details of any costs are published on the SOCS co-curricular website, visible to pupils and parents before signing up.

5 Expectations of pupils

All pupils are expected to represent their school at sport and in the performing arts (music and drama) when selected to do so, including during evenings and weekends. Pupils are expected to rehearse and attend squads to prepare for these performances. Pupils must attend a minimum of two co-curricular sessions each week throughout the term. These sessions will be a mix of performance and elective activities. Form tutors will hold conversations with pupils to discuss their co-curricular commitments alongside their academic curriculum. The school understands that some pupils take part in activities outside of school and this is fully encouraged and recognised. However, the school provision must take priority, especially for the performance strand.

Inevitably a pupil with a busy co-curricular timetable will experience clashes in their time at school. Although clashes are identified and resolved by staff using the SOCS co-curricular website, pupils must also communicate with the session leaders when unavailable. Pupils who are unable to perform in a sports team on the weekend, must provide at least two weeks' notice to the lead coach to request permission to miss the fixture.

As pupils move up into the Upper Seniors (Yr 10/11) and Sixth form (Yr 12/13) pupils are also encouraged to become leaders supporting and leading co-curricular sessions.

6 Monitoring

The Co-Curricular programme is led by the Assistant Head - Co-Curricular, Mr Jamie Shore-Nye, who ensures a wide range of age-appropriate activities are available to the pupils and are led by teachers and coaches with appropriate

knowledge. Activities, clubs and societies are run by academic staff, sports coaches, peripatetic music staff and coaches and teachers employed specifically for their co-curricular expertise.

Tutors have an overview of their tutees' co-curricular timetables and can guide pupils to select activities that will enable them to experience opportunities to learn, to lead and to make a difference. Tutors will also monitor an individual's time commitments to the co-curricular programme, ensuring that pupils have a healthy balance of activities and free time, dependent on the age of the pupil.

7 Clashes

Whilst staff will do their best to pre-empt and avoid or minimise any clashes in the co-curricular calendar, it is inevitable in a busy school with busy pupils and staff that clashes will occur. Although we hope to enable all pupils to access all activities, there may be occasions where a pupil will need to discuss with their tutor to resolve the clash. The Assistant Head -Co-Curricular will make the final decision if the clash requires intervention.

There may also be times when a pupil is selected for a fixture, or attending a school trip or event which clashes with a regular activity commitment. Such a clash should be identifiable in the SOCS system by both pupils and staff, but it remains the responsibility of the pupil to communicate with the session leaders when unavailable.

8 The signing up processes

Pupils are expected to sign up for their co-curricular activities (rehearsals, squads and clubs), in advance of their starting date, using the SOCS co-curricular website. Once registered for a club, pupils are expected to commit to that club for the duration of the term. If for any reason a pupil cannot attend a session they should, as a matter of courtesy, inform the member of staff in charge **before** the session takes place. Pupils will be asked to sign up for activities each term, even if they wish to remain in an activity for the full year.

9 Activities incurring extra charge

Some activities may incur an extra charge, due to equipment costs, coaching costs or transportation. In such cases, details of the charge will be visible on the SOCS co-curricular website during the sign-up process. Charges will be added to

the school bill at the end of the following term. Once a pupil has signed up for a club incurring an extra charge (with parental permission), it is not possible to offer a refund unless his/her inability to attend has been caused by the school, for example because they have been selected to a compulsory activity after the sign-up window has closed.