

Curriculum Policy

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1. Introduction

School outline

Hope House School is a special needs school which provides personalised education for students with a range of learning disabilities. Many of our students have a diagnosis of ASD and associated conditions and some are nonverbal or experience barriers to communication. Our emphasis is on creating an inclusive curriculum with learning experiences which serve to progress the skill set of each learner, whatever their ability. Our curriculum content is relevant and purposeful and provides learning to impact a lifetime, with EHCP objectives underpinning all we do. Hope House School offers a safe and secure environment where each pupil is valued and is encouraged to participate as fully as possible.

Aims

The school's PRIDE values are at the heart of the curriculum: Peace, Respect, Independence, Determination and Equality. Our vision is to support all pupils to develop their independence skills and to make the right choices by demonstrating our PRIDE values. We expect all members of the school community to encourage pupils to 'work towards independence with PRIDE' and uphold the PRIDE values. A further aim is to promote a whole school approach to positive behaviour that is supported and followed by the whole school community including parents, staff, pupils, and governors.

To achieve our aims, we:

- Create a happy, safe, and secure learning environment where all pupils' needs are met where success, achievements and progress are celebrated and recognised.
- Provide a flexible, personalised and engaging learning curriculum which is both exciting and ambitious for all.
- Offer a curriculum that is mapped and sequenced to include some aspects of the National Curriculum coverage but is creative with its content whilst also providing a range of real-life experiences including other religious and cultural backgrounds.
- Develop pupils' autonomy by communicating through appropriate means, fully supported, listen, and respect the pupil voice and allow them to contribute.
- Promote the pupils' spiritual, physical and emotional well-being so that they are secure, confident, and well-motivated.
- Enable the pupils to acquire the knowledge, skills, and confidence in preparation for adulthood so that they may lead as independent life as possible.
- Foster positive relationships with parents and other professionals.
- Provide staff with training and development opportunities and ensure that all current Education government legislation are adhered to.

Law and Legislations

This policy reflects the requirements to provide a broad and balanced curriculum as per the National Curriculum programmes of study which the school has chosen to follow. It also reflects requirements for inclusion and equality as set out in the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice 2015 (updated 2020) and Equality Act 2010 and refers to curriculum-related expectations of governing boards set out in the Department for Education's Governance Handbook. This policy complies with the Independent School Standards Part 1: Quality of Education, paragraph 2 (1) (a).

Roles and Responsibilities

The Head Teacher, assisted by the Assistant Head teacher for Curriculum, has overall responsibility for the curriculum and overseeing its delivery through:

- Regular formal and informal discussions with staff
- Monitoring planning to ensure curriculum coverage
- Observing learning and teaching to ensure progress is being made within the topics
- Regular reviews of the curriculum through regular open dialogue with staff and pupils
- Making changes where necessary
- Formulating an action plan to move the school forward

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- Seeking the students' views about their learning experiences
 - Management and allocation of resources as well as whole school curriculum enrichment opportunities

Teaching Staff responsibilities:

- Responsible for the planning and delivery of the curriculum on a day-to-day basis
- Responsible to the Head teacher to create effectively sequenced and coherent long-term plans
- Exploring cross-curricular links where appropriate
- Mark students' work to emphasise success and set appropriate next steps targets
- Making amendments to planning in order to optimise learning opportunities when they arise
- Differentiating resources and lesson content to accommodate the individual's learning needs
- Use a range of teaching and learning strategies
- Promote celebration of successes by recording achievements appropriately and in a timely manner
- Attend all training opportunities given and seek further training where relevant to their subject area / skills set
- Provide accurate information on students as requested e.g., educational reports, assessment grids
- Adhere to risk assessments to ensure that the learning spaces of the school are welcoming, conducive to the learning experience and safe for all learners
- Model appropriate behaviours towards learning opportunities and become good role models
- Ensure that the safety and well-being of all learners is optimized

It is the responsibility of the headteacher to ensure that the staff team are aware of and understand this policy and any subsequent revisions.

2. The Curriculum

Hope House School is committed, where possible, to covering as many aspects of the National Curriculum as possible and its programmes of study. Pupils study a broad and balanced curriculum tailored to their individual needs with adaptations based on the needs of our pupils. We use a thematic approach to learning.

In Primary we use Cornerstones as the basis for English and foundation subjects. It provides a varied and engaging range of topics and provide pupils with the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of lessons including art and design, science, cooking, history, geography, and expressive arts. Each lesson also factors in Fundamental British Values and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural learning.

In Key Stage 3, we use Beyond English as the basis for our English lessons and make cross curricular links with other subjects including Science, Art, History and Geography. This stage of the curriculum prepares learners for Key Stage 4 with tasters of qualifications available to them at their next step and, in Year 9, by beginning to work towards Functional Skills Maths and English.

The curriculum at Key Stage 4 is structured towards learning the skills required by students who have additional needs to ensure a better quality of life for them in the future; emphasis is placed therefore on English, Maths and Life Skills throughout the curriculum. Emphasis will also be given to areas of study which will help students to achieve independence after they leave. Their study will also include Careers Guidance, independent Living Skills and, where possible, appropriate work experience placements. The school also offers pupils the opportunity to take examinations and accreditations at a variety of levels including ASDAN, GCSE, and Functional Skills Entry Level qualifications, depending on the ability of the student. For those pupils who are able and wish to follow a higher level of education arrangement will be made to study at a local college or specialist teaching would be provided.

Our Post-16 offer varies according to the needs, abilities and interests of the student. Studies at Key Stage 5 comprise of: functional literacy and numeracy, emotional literacy, effective communication, independent living and preparing for adulthood, budgeting and finances, healthy relationships and sex education, personal development of interests and skills, employability skills and work experience.

Breadth

It is the school's responsibility to find ways of ensuring that all pupils are engaged in their learning, motivated and enabled to succeed. Therefore, Personalisation and differentiation is the key to the successful delivery of the curriculum Hope House School. The curriculum incorporates the following learning experiences within the curriculum:

- Linguistic: Effective communication skills, literacy and oracy are integrated throughout the curriculum. High quality classroom talk is encouraged in all lessons.

- Mathematical: Through all subjects across the curriculum there is a focus on the application of numeracy and its relevance to real life situations.
- Scientific: Through our broad and ambitious curriculum of academic and enrichment experiences: Biology, Physics, Chemistry, theoretical concepts and practical experiments.
- Technological: Through digital competence explored across the curriculum.
- Physical: Through PE lessons, extra enrichment opportunities such as biking, Horse Riding, Horticulture and Forest Schools.
- Human and social: Personal Development, History, Geography.
- Aesthetic and Creative: Art, Sensory Learning, Mindfulness, Food Technology, Hair and Beauty therapy timetabled slots.

2.1 English

The English programme at Hope House School is designed to develop good standards of language and literacy for all pupils. The bespoke and individualised programme, differentiates to individual needs, using a structured and visual approach to support communication, social understanding and literacy skills for use in everyday living.

The curriculum covers the literacy, communication and language areas of learning from the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), up to English Functional Skills Level 2 qualifications as children progress through the school. The curriculum aims to ensure security in the skills defined in the EYFS framework and builds on these to teach essential skills and the right foundation for good future progress through school. Pupils progress to work towards national curriculum expectations, following engaging topics mapped to the Cornerstones curriculum on Primary. At Key Stage 3, Beyond English is used as the basis for the curriculum with links to other curriculum areas. Pupils focus on the Functional Skills qualifications in Key Stage 4 in preparation for life after education.

2.1.1 Phonics

Hope House School follows the DfE validated Twinkl Scheme to offer a high-quality phonics scheme that supports our pupils in becoming confident readers, spellers, and writers. Pupils access daily Phonics lessons, where necessary, and learn to decode words through the translation of letter symbols into sounds when reading and using oral segmenting skills to encode and allocate letter symbols to the sounds of speech for spellings. The books they read are matched to the sounds they are learning, to help them develop confidence as early readers. Pupils are assessed termly through this programme. Individual pupils, recognised as under-achieving are identified for 1:1 intervention.

2.1.2 Reading

Reading is embedded in the curriculum offer and throughout school life. Each day, pupils have the opportunity of 30 minutes independent reading, and each class is read to from a novel or book linked to the overarching thematic topic. Each pupil has the opportunity to take home a school reading book, linked to their reading level or to be read to at home. Through promoting a love of reading, we are able to address gaps in pupils reading ages through reading interventions across all key stages

2.2 Mathematics

At Hope House School we follow the White Rose Maths scheme from EYFS through to Year 11. From Year 9, pupils also follow NCFE Functional Skills programme. White Rose Maths uses a the widely recognised CPA approach to learning (Concrete, Pictorial, Abstract). First, children are encouraged to work with concrete materials to practise skills. Next, pictorial representations are introduced to help with reasoning and resolving problems, and finally they are introduced to abstract concepts, where both concrete and pictorial representations help support children in their understanding of abstract concepts. This ensures the pupils develop a deeper understanding of the learning objectives.

2.3 Personal Development and British Values

Personal Development education is a subject through which pupils develop the knowledge, skills, and attributes they need to keep themselves healthy, safe, and prepared for life and work in modern Britain. A well-delivered Personal Development programme has an impact on both academic and non-academic outcomes

for pupils, particularly the most vulnerable and disadvantaged by aiming to develop skills and attributes such as resilience, self-esteem, risk-management, team working and critical thinking in the context of learning.

Our curriculum is mapped to the PSHE Associations Education Planning Framework for pupils with SEND. The latest 2020 edition is fully aligned with the Statutory Guidance for Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education from the Department of Education (DfE) and to the PFA Outcomes. Pupils also have careers information, advice and guidance, as part of their entitlement, which is closely aligned to the Gatsby benchmarks and, where appropriate, will undertake offsite work experience.

Across the curriculum, many aspects of British values are covered. Pupils learn about British values explicitly in Personal Development, but this is also applied to other subjects across the curriculum. Cultural awareness is discussed across all subjects and applied within their understanding and learning. Pupils learn about mutual respect through sharing ideas, exploring relationships, friendships and behaviours. Through the opportunities they have to discuss, debate and justify their own views and opinions, pupils are able to develop empathy for others. Through these aspects of the curriculum, pupils become well-rounded individuals in their life as a whole as well as amongst their peers at Hope House School, developing their ability to work well with each other and through their use of skills such as teamwork.

2.4 Outdoor Learning

The Horticulture curriculum at Hope House School is carefully planned to engage and excite all our pupils. Our long-term and medium-term plans are produced to provide pupils with opportunities to develop gardening knowledge and skills and use them effectively. Pupils work to achieve an ASDAN award in either horticulture or gardening. These specific courses define what we will teach and ensure an appropriate balance and distribution of work across each term.

The Forest School at Hope House School forms part of the curriculum offer for all pupils. It provides a unique educational experience that offers pupils the opportunity to succeed and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands on learning experiences in a woodland environment. Children engage in motivating and achievable tasks and activities throughout the year and in almost all weathers. Forest School has at its heart our PRIDE values.

2.5 Careers Information and Guidance

Careers guidance is offered to all students from Year 9 onwards, although opportunities to include this learning in the curriculum before this time are given where appropriate.

2.6 Therapeutic Support and Intervention

Additional therapy is offered within the curriculum as well as through one-to-one therapeutic support, according to specific need and through a close working partnership between home and school. At Hope House School, we have access to a range of therapeutic support including Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy and the Educational Psychology Service. These methods are cascaded down from therapists to teaching staff and methods are incorporated into learning and teaching. A thorough knowledge and understanding of each learner's needs and IEP targets are also crucial. We are committed to meeting the needs of each child as they are expressed in their Educational, Health and Care Plan. A therapeutic approach to the curriculum supports broader development and character through personal development; mental health and wellbeing are woven throughout the coherent curriculum with key skills linked

2.7 Protected Characteristics in the Curriculum

Protected characteristics are specific aspects of a person's identity defined by the Equality Act 2010. At Hope House School, it is important that all pupils gain an understanding of the world we live in and learn to live alongside and show respect for a diverse range of people. We aim to reduce and remove any inequalities that may exist and strongly believe that no child should be disadvantaged. We value all pupils as individuals and support all pupils to reach their potential. The curriculum takes into consideration the ages of pupils and their learning abilities and enables pupils to achieve their expectations. Through a carefully planned curriculum and lessons tailored to meet pupil need, the curriculum remains broad for as long as possible and does not limit opportunity. Within the curriculum, there are many opportunities to show role models that have overcome barriers. Through our carefully tailored Personal Development curriculum and SMSC, pupils celebrate individuals from a range of different backgrounds who have achieved great success.

In addition to within school, we also foster good relationships throughout the community. We place emphasis on working closely with parents and carers who are invited into the school to share in learning experiences and celebrate achievements. We follow the principles of Safer Recruitment and observe good equalities practice in staff recruitment, retention and development, offering equal opportunities for all regardless of age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation.

3. Outcomes

At Hope House School, pupils are assessed 3 times a year in Maths, Reading and Writing. Standardised assessments are conducted in Reading, Spelling, Boxall and the Autism Education Trust Framework at these points. Academically, pupils are assessed at 4 levels against each objective: Beginning, Developing, Established and Generalised. Teachers use their judgement and evidence from work completed to assess pupil progress. Our expectation is that no child is judged to be established in their knowledge of an objective until there is a minimum of three pieces of evidence completing the given skill, with an appropriate degree of independence. Pupils are encouraged to gain external accreditation for their learning from the earliest opportunity. This can be through a range of awarding bodies, such as Functional Skills and Entry Level Qualifications. The aspirational goal for all pupils is that they leave with GCSEs, or the highest level of appropriate qualifications they can access, within their areas of interest and ability.

All pupils at Hope House School have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP). The EHCP must specify the outcomes sought for the child or young person to be well prepared for adulthood, including wider outcomes such as positive social relationships and emotional resilience or stability.

The effectiveness of our provision and the education which our pupils receive is monitored continuously through observations of pupils, data analysis and their progress towards achieving the outcomes agreed in their ECHP.

6. Link to other policies and Documents

This policy has been written in conjunction with

- Relationship and Sex Education Policy
- Careers and Provider Access Policy
- Curriculum Intent Document
- Equality Information and Objectives Policy
- Schemes of Work
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7. Monitoring arrangements

The school's arrangements for managing the curriculum policy are monitored by the Headteacher.

This policy will be reviewed by Headteacher, every three years, unless there have been changes.

At every review, the policy will be approved by the trustee board.