

Curriculum Rationale 2018-19

This statement accords with The Acorns School curriculum model

Intent

To provide a curriculum designed to capture pupils' interests and prepare them for life. We aim to improve each pupil's academic performance, ability to learn and social and emotional skills so that pupils are able to return to school, further education or enter the world of work.

The curriculum gives priority to meet pupils' current and future needs and promotes spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Where appropriate, learning is enriched by alternative placements, project work and/or other experiences. Content in each area is selected so that our pupils progressively gain knowledge, understanding and use new skills acquired elsewhere. Content is also selected to engage pupils in learning. Typically, pupils who arrive at Acorns have been disengaged from learning and do not see the value of education. The Acorns School recognises that a full academic programme is not always appropriate and does not always meet need. Wherever possible, pupils are encouraged to develop practical 'hands - on' skills which also aid communication and team building and preparation for the later stages of mainstream education and training.

Impact of the curriculum on pupil's acquisition of knowledge and development of skills is evaluated through learning walks, professional discussions, pupil work sampling, performance management and consideration of outcomes information.

The Acorns School curriculum provides equal opportunities regardless of ability/ disability, gender, race, sexuality and religion.

Implementation

KS3 Curriculum

- KS3 groups are organised into 'tree' groups.
- Pupils are taught in mixed ability and mixed aged teaching groups within this key stage.
- Teaching staff are reflective and plan accordingly for pupils' individual needs.
- All pupils in years 7, 8 and 9 follow the National Curriculum for core and other subjects; however the development of literacy, numeracy skills and social emotional and behaviour management are priority with KS3 groups to assist in re-integration back into a mainstream school.

KS4 Curriculum

- Organised into 'tree' group basis. Teaching groups are separated into year 10 and 11 classes.
- All students working on accredited programmes including GCSE, Levels 1 and 2 (various) QCF vocational, Entry level.

- Teaching groups reflect levels of need including learning, social, emotional and medical needs. Vocational needs are catered for wherever possible including sourcing provision beyond travel to learn area.
- Work related learning is encouraged in workplaces and sourced to meet needs.
- Three hourly lessons per day with one 90 minute lesson (practical/ options and one 30 minute lesson (lesson 1 PHSE).
- Personalised focused teaching and learning wherever possible.
- Some personalised timetables are reflective of individual need.

'In-house' Curriculum

KS3 Curriculum	KS4 Curriculum
Maths	Maths
English	English
Science	Science
Art	Art
ICT / Enterprise/ Humanities	ICT/ Enterprise
PSHE	Food and Cookery/ Sport
Enrichment options	PHSE and PFWL

Vocational Programmes available	
Fixit UK	Motor Vehicle building and maintenance
BDS	Beauty Therapy and Hairdressing accredited Health and social Care courses
Preston Vocational Centre and West Lancs TLC	Various construction/ building related courses
AppleCAST and Fir Tree	Fisheries/ horticulture management accredited
Learnfit Liverpool (Educ8)	Sports and Fitness awards
	Fashion
	Hospitality

Reviewed annually

Reviewed date: July 2018

Next review July 2019