

Curriculum Intent

Alder Centre for Education

ACE

Intent

The curriculum vision/aim for ACE:

- To engage pupils in their education by overcoming barriers to learning
- To ensure pupils feel safe and supported in their learning
- To provide a range of subjects so that pupils can have a breadth of learning
- To support pupils in developing key academic skills & communication skills
- To enable pupils to have self-confidence in order to ask questions or to engage in off-site learning, school visits and to move on successfully to Post-16 education
- To identify any additional needs pupils may have and support both parents and the child in accessing this.
- To support pupils in overcoming barriers to learning
- To encourage students to develop a love of reading and to broaden their vocabulary within a range of contexts.

We aim to do this by:

- Supporting both students and parents with attendance
- Timetables to include Wellbeing activities each day
- Having subject specialist teachers
- Working with health professionals in order to create a personalised plan for students
- Ensuring mutual respect between students and staff
- Providing out of lesson support with trained staff in mental health including CAMHS
- Supporting parents to apply for transport to help some students to attend ACE each day
- Access to Independent Travel Training
- Listening carefully to the voice of the child and holding regular review meetings
- Having high expectations in a non-threatening way
- Delivering lessons in an ASD friendly format to reduce student anxiety of the unknown and to give adequate time for processing of information

Responsive teaching – personalised learning where appropriate

Small class sizes in a small setting which provides an environment conducive to learning

Providing Enrichment sessions for all pupils

What do we expect pupils to get from this curriculum?

A breadth of education in order to keep as many post-16 options open as possible

A love for learning

Increased self-confidence and sense of achievement and well-being

Reduced anxiety & greater resilience

Improvement in social communication skills

How have we planned this?

Due to the part-time timetable for all students it is important for subject teachers to prioritise knowledge/skills to cover in their curriculum plans.

KS3 is guided by the National Curriculum and taking account of learning at KS2 and what is required for KS4.

KS4 follows exam boards syllabi in order to enable students to reach their potential at the end of Y11.

We take into account the gaps in a student's education by ensuring there are opportunities to recall prior learning.

We assess all new pupils Reading age and reassess to measure progress

We identify students who require some intervention with basic Maths and English skills and provide some one-to-one support.

We provide opportunities for students to develop their reading skills across all subjects.

We support pupils as much as possible in accessing additional subjects via their home schools.

All subjects are sequenced to ensure objectives have a clear progression through the Key Stage

Implementation

How does learning develop over 5 years?

Pupils in KS3 have access to lessons in the core subjects of English, Maths and Science. They also have lessons in ICT and Art. In addition pupils have Enrichment sessions on their timetable where a variety of activities are accessed together with trips off site. They also have access to PE/Sporting activities both on and off site to help improve their physical and mental health.

Pupils in KS4 are able to study for GCSE qualifications in: English Language, English Literature, Maths, Biology and Art or ICT. Pupils also have Enrichment sessions which support career goals and opportunities including access to alternative education sessions provided by Alder Hey NHS.

Pupils have the opportunity to become volunteers in collaboration with Alder Hey Academy. This involves work experience and working with professionals on key projects.

Pupils have the opportunity to gain work experience in the Sandy Park Café.

Cross-curricular opportunities provide access to other subjects. In addition pupils are given the opportunity to engage in a variety of extra-curricular projects offered by local services.

E.g. Drum lessons, Sudley Garden Project, Travel Training, Brain Charity, LFC

What principles have guided our decision making in developing this curriculum? What is distinctive about our curriculum?

Ensuring core subjects are delivered together with a creative subject

Take into account students being referred to ACE throughout the academic year

Maximising the number of students supported by ACE.

Part-time timetables are taken into account thereby reducing subject time for students.

Ensuring all pupils have access to lessons every day

Access to subject specialist teachers

Working collaboratively with schools and services in terms of supporting pupils attendance

In what ways does your curriculum help to develop

Physical and wellbeing lifestyles – Science looks at healthy lifestyles. Mental health support is provided by all staff and the CAMHS keyworker on-site.

Careers and enterprise – this is covered in Enrichment lessons in KS4 and KS3. In addition post-16 providers visit students at ACE, their home school provides access to Careers IAG and ACE staff support students with site visits to local providers. Partnership with Alder Hey Academy to deliver a Careers Programme.

Creative and critical thinking – all teachers are guided by the Magenta Principles when planning schemes of work and individual lessons. This learning theory helps to embed knowledge and to encourage students to think outside the box.

IMPACT

What forms do assessments take? What is the purpose of assessment?

The ACE Marking Policy ensures teacher assessment is taking place every week. Students are given time at the start of each lesson to correct and/or improve previous work based on teacher feedback.

The small class sizes enable teachers to informally assess how well students are learning throughout lessons.

Opportunities for self-assessment and peer-assessment are provided where appropriate.

KS3 progress is measured by Progress through the Curriculum. Subject teachers identify 3 opportunities throughout the year for summative assessment based on the requirements of the

National Curriculum. This assesses the key knowledge and understanding required before moving on to the next stage on the curriculum plan.

Bespoke summative assessments are created/used to check pupil knowledge using a variety of question styles and techniques.

These assessments are marked using a Mark Scheme which results in a percentage. Teachers establish the base line percentage score required to know pupils have a secure understanding. This is reported to parents and to the pupil's home school.

Informal formative assessment takes place during lessons to ensure teaching is meeting the needs of all pupils.

At KS4 students complete half termly assessments based on the exam board syllabus

All assessments have elements of prior learning which increases throughout the year.

How do we know if we have a successful curriculum?

Work scrutiny - Students are producing work which shows they are making progress through the National Curriculum or towards their GCSE targets.

Attendance and student engagement. Students who are motivated to learn and to reach their potential.

Evidence of progression.

Evidence of learning being embedded via student recall, both long and short term.

On-going monitoring and reviews of curriculum plans

Transition of students to either full-time schooling or to post-16 education provision.

Increased levels of confidence in students giving them high aspirations

Impact of achievement through increased self-confidence and self-esteem