

Curriculum Policy

Written by: David Marlow Date: 24/8/22

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Approved by: Janine Dix

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1. Curriculum Aims

Our curriculum aims to:

- Provide a broad and balanced education for all pupils that's coherently planned and sequenced towards cumulatively sufficient knowledge for skills and future learning and employment
- Enable pupils to develop knowledge, understand concepts and acquire skills, and be able to choose and apply these in relevant situations
- Support pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- o Support pupils' physical development and responsibility for their own health and enable them to be active
- o Promote a positive attitude towards learning
- Ensure equal access to learning for all pupils, with high expectations for every pupil and appropriate levels of challenge and support
- Have a high academic/vocational/technical ambition for all pupils
- Equip pupils with the knowledge and Cultural Capital they need to succeed in life
- Provide subject choices that support pupils' learning and progression and enable them to work towards achieving their goals
- Provide a broad curriculum with vocational opportunities
- o Develop pupils' independent learning skills and resilience, to equip them for their next transition phase.

In order to achieve our curriculum aims:

- Pupils will have the opportunity to engage in education through bespoke, personalised timetables to re-engage in mainstream education and vocational learning.
- Pupils will be encouraged to discover their purpose in education after being permanently excluded or at risk of being permanently excluded from mainstream settings to provide them with a clear direction for the future.
- o Pupils will be supported through their individual challenges to develop and improve their wellbeing, social interaction, academic progress and achievements.
- Pupils will experience success through their curriculum pathways to fulfil their individual potential enabling them to secure positive and aspirational futures.

2. Legislation and Regulation

This policy reflects the requirements for academies to provide a broad and balanced curriculum as per the Academies Act 2010, and the National Curriculum programmes of study which we have chosen to follow. It also reflects requirements for inclusion and equality as set out in the SEND Code of Practice 2015 and Equality Act 2010 and refers to curriculum-related expectations of Governing Boards set out in the Department for Education's Governance Handbook.

The governing committee will monitor the effectiveness of this policy and hold the Executive Headteacher to account for its implementation. The Governing committee Bwill also ensure that:

> A robust framework is in place for setting curriculum priorities and aspirational targets

- The academy is complying with its funding agreement and teaching a "broad and balanced curriculum" which including the core skills of English and Maths as well as Personal Development (eg. Careers, Citizenship, PSHRE), SMSC and British Values
- > Suitable provision is made for pupils with different abilities and needs, including children with special educational needs
- The academy implements the relevant statutory assessment arrangements
- > It participates actively in decision-making about the breadth and balance of the curriculum
- Pupils from year 8 onwards are provided with independent, impartial careers guidance, and that this is appropriately resourced

The Executive Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that this policy is adhered to, and that:

- All required elements of the curriculum, and those subjects which the academy chooses to offer, have aims and objectives which reflect the aims of the academy and indicate how the needs of individual pupils will be met
- The amount of time provided for teaching the required elements of the curriculum is adequate and is reviewed by the Governing Committee
- They manage requests to withdraw children from curriculum subjects, where appropriate the academy's procedures for assessment meet all legal requirements
- > The Governing Committee is fully involved in decision-making processes that relate to the breadth and balance of the curriculum
- > The Governing Committee is advised on whole-school targets in order to make informed decisions
- Proper provision is in place for pupils with different abilities and needs, including children with SEN.

All academy staff will ensure that the academy curriculum is implemented in accordance with this policy. The Head of School alongside the Deputy Headteacher will establish and lead a curriculum which is broad, balanced, aspirational, suitable for the cohort across the academy's sites, and reflects the vision of the academy as a whole.

Site Leads will be responsible for upholding and delivering the curriculum to the above standards. The Head of School and Deputy Headteacher will monitor quality of delivery at all sites.

Teaching and Learning Responsibilities (TLRs) have been developed to support the Senior Leadership Team: English Lead, Maths Lead, Food Lead, Art Lead, Duke of Edinburgh Lead, Science Lead and Personal Development Lead. Staff members with TLRs awarded are line managed by the Deputy Headteacher.

Subject Leads have been appointed, with an associated TLR point, to oversee departmental practice and to ensure that the curriculum—and its delivery—are maintained to a high standard.

The SLT also commission off site Alternative Providers who contribute to our bespoke curriculum offer which broadens opportunities for many pupils allowing vocational experiences and vital skill development. Work experience opportunities are also sought to broaden opportunities.

3. Curriculum Design & Content

Primary Provision

Primary pupils can be permanently excluded and single registered at our academy or can be at risk of exclusion and dual registered with their mainstream school. All pupils have timetabled lessons to embed our nurture programme as well as academic learning.

The Barrow Hill site where our Primary Provision is based, delivers a Nurture Group curriculum for each Tutor Group. We gather background information as to pupils' Nurture needs as they come to roll or are referred for a dual registered place. Our Nurture sessions support pupils' cognitive, social, emotional and mental health development through cycles of the 10 Boxall Profile Developmental Strands (Section One). Each Boxall statement (each related to the cognitive, social, emotional and mental health development strands) is delivered through the curriculum as the Daily Curriculum Focus, known as "The Focus of the Day", taken directly from the 10 Boxall Section One developmental strands and

subsequent statements and rephrased in pupil-friendly language. This repetition of skills allows pupils to recap and embed learning over the course of their time with us. All stands of Boxall are covered in a 4 week cycle.

On induction, pupils are assessed against initial Engagement Success Criterion (from the Leuven Scale, research available on request) which supports staff understanding of the pupil. Pupils receive Nurture sessions daily to support the developmental progress needed in order for pupils to successfully engage with learning. During their time at Esteem North Academy, pupils work towards personal targets, based on Boxall Profile assessments, updated every Half Term. This approach enables us to develop secure relationships with our pupils in a calm and trauma-reduced environment where pupils are better able to focus on developing their social and emotional skills amongst staff that are specifically trained to support this.

Following the Nurture principles and guidance, we are able to build feelings of safety, trust, choice, collaboration and empowerment in our pupils. The Nurture curriculum at Esteem North Academy follows research-based strategies in order to provide pupils with behaviour and connection support as well as re-engaging them with education.

The Primary provision is underpinned by the 6 core principles of Nurture, attachment theory and utilises a trauma-informed approach. As stated in Ofsted guidance, 'Nurture groups are small, structured teaching groups for pupils showing signs of behavioural, social or emotional difficulties, particularly those who are experiencing disruption or distress outside of school. They aim to provide a predictable environment in which pupils can build trusting relationships with adults and gain the skills they need to learn in larger classes. There is an emphasis on the systematic teaching of behavioural and social skills, on learning through play, and on sharing 'family-type' experiences, such as eating food together.' This approach enables us to develop secure relationships with our pupils in a calm and traumareduced environment where pupils are better able to focus on developing their social and emotional skills amongst staff that are specifically trained to support this.



The collective aim of our Nurture sessions is to enable pupils to make a successful transition back to mainstream education so that they can continue on a successful academic journey moving forward. There is much research to support that Nurture Groups are able to support pupils to make progress both socially and emotionally. As stated in Ofsted's report into Nurture Groups 'Supporting children with challenging behaviour through a Nurture Group approach' "The most common aim for the Nurture Group provision was to give pupils the skills and strategies they needed to enable them to remain in mainstream education both in the short and long term. Nurture Groups aim to provide a safe, comfortable, home-like environment, with clear routines and adults modelling positive relationships, in line with Nurture Group principles. Leaders and staff of all the schools saw a core purpose of the group as supporting pupils to improve their behavioural, social and emotional skills. They set pupils personal targets and gave them a range of strategies to help them to improve

their behaviour."1

The Nurture sessions at Esteem North Academy follow the Nurture Group Network's guidelines as well as recommendations made in the Ofsted report. Additionally, the program includes 10 of the Education Endowment Foundation's (EEF) recommendations of effective evidence-based components: metacognition and self-regulation, behaviour interventions, social and emotional learning, collaborative learning, oral language interventions, reading comprehension strategies, small group tuition and one to one tuition – see 'The EEF Toolkit and Nurture Groups' report², available on request.

¹ from 'Supporting children with challenging behaviour through a nurture group approach', Executive Summary, July 2011, Ofsted

² from 'The Education Endowment Foundation Toolkit and Nurture Groups Report', last updated July 2021

John Bowlby³ was the first attachment theorist and describes attachment as 'a lasting psychological connectedness between human beings'. Individuals who are unable to form secure attachments early in life can be impacted negatively later on, as can be observed in their behaviour and social/emotional abilities.

Nurture Groups such as ours are based around attachment theory, with the aim to help pupils build healthy and secure attachments and better enable them to be available, sensitive, responsive and accepting.

Esteem North Academy take a trauma-informed approach to supporting our pupils when delivering Nurture. Trauma results from an event, series of events, or a set of circumstances that is experienced by an individual as harmful or life threatening. The experience of trauma can have lasting adverse effects. Trauma-informed practice acknowledges the need to look beyond an individual's presenting behaviour to ask, 'what does this person need?' Further to this, a trauma-informed approach seeks to avoid re-traumatisation and address the barriers that people affected by trauma can experience when accessing a school environment.

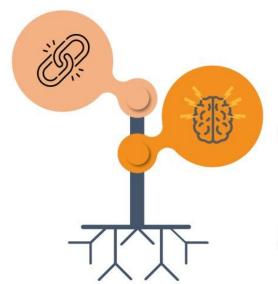
NURTURE GROUP CURRICULUM - A RESEARCH-BASED APPROACH

Attachment Theory

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Trauma Informed Approach

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The Nurture Group at Esteem North Academy is based around the 6 core principles of Nurture (see additional page), attachment theory and utilises a trauma-informed approach. This approach enables us to develop secure relationships with our pupils in a calm and trauma-reduced environment where pupils are better able to focus on developing their social and emotional skills amongst staff that are specifically trained to support this.

Following the Nurture principles and guidance, we are able to build feelings of safety, trust, choice, collaboration and empowerment in our pupils. The Nurture program at Esteem North Academy follows research-based strategies in order to provide pupils with behaviour and connection support as well as re-engaging them with education.

³ 'An Introduction to Object Relations', 1997, John Bowlby. For more information about a trauma-informed approach, see 'Childhood Trauma and the Brain', September 2020, UK Trauma Council and other resources

NURTURE GROUP CURRICULUM – BOXALL DEVELOPMENTAL STRANDS & STATEMENTS



Pupils receive their National Curriculum entitlement outlined in the Primary Provision Intent. The curriculum is also informed by the Early Years & Foundation Stage Framework. At our Academy, provision is planned across subject areas:

Phonics (learning to read program)
Maths
English
Science
PHRE

Personal Health and Relationships Education (PHRE) is delivered through a combination of our daily Tutor Time programme and also dedicated lessons.

There is an Emerging Pathway and a Developing Pathway; pupils are placed on the curriculum pathway most suitable to their needs. Curriculum coverage is the same on both pathways. The emerging pathway is more suited to younger primary pupils or pupils who learn best through play and a CCP style of pedagogical approach. Where Continuous Curriculum Provision is used, subjects are delivered with various choices of activities at workstations which incorporate different styles of learning including Role Play & Small World. Pupils are placed on the Emerging or Developing pathway dependent on stage and not age.

Secondary Provision

At KS3 and KS4 the academy's ultimate aim is to re-engage disaffected learners back into education in order that they can meet their future aspirations and become economically contributing members of their community.

As our pupils at KS3 and KS4 have either been permanently excluded (Single Registration) or are at risk of exclusion (Dual Registration), the curriculum is adapted to identify and fill the gaps in pupils' learning, whilst making education relevant to their aspirational needs and next life stage.

All pupils require re-engagement back into education and therefore the curriculum at our academy is designed to develop transferable skills so that pupils can be reintegrated back into a mainstream school when appropriate.

At KS3 the academy operates a Blue Year and Green Year delivered on a two-year cycle. Pupils are taught in Tutor Groups comprised of pupils from across KS3. Groupings are formed based on a positive social dynamic taking into account ability, learning style and date of entry to the academy.

All subjects will have a Long Term Plan for each of Blue Year and Green Year. Each subject will have Schemes of Learning set out in half-termly Medium Term Plans (MTPs).

For more information on how subjects are taught please see the individual Long Term Plans for those subjects on our website. All subjects have a LTP devised by the Curriculum Lead which all sites follow over the academic year. A LTP is divided into 6 half terms over an academic year. Each half term follows a different topic.

Cultural Capital and SMSC is vital to the success of our pupils to transition to their next stage. Cultural Capital lifelong learning skills and SMSC opportunities are identified in our (MTPs) for all subjects and embedded in lessons.

Planning is essential and the expectation is that all teachers will follow the LTP and then plan for their specific pupil's needs through the MTP documents. Curriculum resources are available to deliver the curriculum at each site and these are differentiated by class teachers to meet the needs of the pupils at each site.

Careers education is embedded into each subject and for each half term there is an identified career focus as well as each pupil having a dedicated Future lesson timetabled per week.

To ensure inclusion, teachers set high expectations for all pupils. Teachers are aware of the common challenges faced by our pupils, often in combination:

Pupils with complex behaviour patterns Pupils with low prior attainment Pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds Pupils with SEND Pupils in social care

Teachers will take account of pupil's individual needs in the planning of lessons, differentiation of materials and level of challenge whilst maintaining a logical, sequential series of lessons in line with the academy's LTPs and MTPs. Teachers devise the LTP per subject in agreement with the curriculum lead. Teachers devise the MTP planning between themselves as teams, to share workload.

4. Curriculum & Assessment Frameworks

| Primary Curriculum | Primary Provision Assessment Framework | |
|------------------------------|---|--|
| The Creative Arts | | |
| Art & Design | Delivered within Nurture Groups | |
| Food Preparation & Nutrition | Delivered within Nurture Groups | |
| The National Curriculum | | |
| English | Reading Junior Steps & Writing Junior Steps | |
| Phonics | Read Write Inc (plus Phonics Screening) | |

| PHRE | PHRE Junior Steps | |
|---|--|--|
| Science | Science Junior Steps | |
| Maths | Maths Junior Steps | |
| Oracy | Oracy Junior Steps (for pupils with an identified need) | |
| Personal Development | | |
| Nurture Group | Engagement Success Criteria on arrivalBoxall Profile Targets | |
| Careers | Half Termly curriculum careers focus | |
| Pastoral Programme including PHRE & Religious Education | Daily Tutor Time Programme Weekly Assembly Programme Daily Behaviour Points Reflection Time | |
| Active Personal Development | Opportunities for physical activity | |

| KS3 Curriculum | KS3 Assessment Framework | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Т | he Creative Arts | | |
| Art & Design | Art & Design 14 Steps | | |
| Food Preparation & Nutrition | Food Preparation & Nutrition 14 Steps | | |
| | ASDAN Foodwise | | |
| Core Curriculum | | | |
| English | English 14 Steps | | |
| | • Edexcel Entry Level 1-3, Functional Skills Level 1, Level 2 | | |
| Maths | Maths 14 Steps | | |
| | • Edexcel Entry Level 1-3, Functional Skills Level 1, Level 2 | | |
| Science | Science 14 Steps | | |
| Pers | Personal Development | | |
| Citizenship | Personal Development 14 Steps | | |
| Futures | Personal Development 14 Steps | | |
| rutures | Digital Functional Skills EL3 & FSL1 | | |
| PSHRE | Personal Development 14 Steps | | |
| The Duke of Edinburgh Award | The Award – Bronze Level | | |
| | Daily Tutor Time Programme | | |
| Pastoral Programme | Weekly Assembly Programme | | |
| T ustorur i rogramme | Daily Behaviour Points | | |
| | Reflection Time | | |
| KS4 Curriculum | KS4 Assessment Framework | | |
| The Creative Arts | | | |
| Art & Design | OCR GCSE Art & Design | | |
| Food Preparation & Nutrition | AQA GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition | | |
| Took Treparation & Nation | Highfields Food Safety | | |
| Photography (Trial AP Option) | OCR GCSE Photography | | |
| | Core Curriculum | | |
| English | Edexcel Entry Level 1-3, Functional Skills Level 1, Level | | |
| | Edexcel GCSE English Language | | |
| Maths | Edexcel Entry Level 1-3, Functional Skills Level 1, Level | | |
| | AQA GCSE Maths | | |
| Science | AQA GCSE Biology | | |
| Personal Development | | | |
| Citizenship | ASDAN Short Course | | |
| ' | Personal Development 14 Steps | | |
| Futures | ASDAN Short Course Associated States Stat | | |
| | Personal Development 14 Steps Digital Functional Skills September 14 Steps Digital Functional Skills | | |
| | EL3 & FSL1 | | |
| PSHRE | ASDAN Short Course Payana Payana Payana Payana Payana Payana Payana Payana Payana Payana Payana Payana Payana Payana Payana Payana Payana Payana Payana Payana Payana Payana Payana Payana Payana Payana Payana Payana Payana Payana Payana Payana Payana Payana Payana Payana Payana Payana Payana Payana Payana Payana Pay | | |
| | Personal Development 14 Steps | | |
| Pastoral Programme | Daily Tutor Time Programme | | |
| | Weekly Assembly Programme | | |
| | Daily Behaviour Points / Reflection Time | | |

5. Monitoring and Quality Assurance

Governors monitor whether the academy is complying with its funding agreement and teaching a "broad and balanced curriculum" through the Headteacher's Report and Quality Assurance feedback.

The Deputy Headteacher monitors the way the curriculum is taught throughout the academy, with the support of SLT and the TLR postholders, by following the academy's quality assurance cycle which involves:

- Regular Curriculum Development Reviews
- Subject development meetings
- Subject Leaders' Group
- Monitoring of LTPs and MTPs
- Work Scrutiny
- Climate walks
- Lesson Observations
- Pupil Questionnaires
- Performance & Wellbeing Check-In meetings
- Appraisal system

6. Related Policies

- Quality Assurance Policy
- Behaviour and Rewards Policy
- Marking Policy
- Teaching & Learning Handbook
- SEND Policy
- Careers Policy
- Work Experience Policy