

# Curriculum Policy 2020



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## Curriculum Intention:

At Peak Education we understand that ensuring the health, safety and wellbeing of our students is the most important thing we do. Therefore, the focus for our curriculum is the social and emotional development and personal growth of all our students. Students learn valuable lessons at Peak. They improve their life skills; develop methods of overcoming challenges or problems and develop resilience. Our emphasis is on providing plentiful opportunities for social, moral, spiritual and cultural development of our students. SEAL and SMSC are through everything we do. We support students to achieve their full potential within a safe, positive and nurturing environment.

Throughout this document the term **curriculum** will refer to the wide range of learning and enriching activities that are available to our students. All aspects of learning are designed to ensure that they enhance and further develop the student's social/ emotional awareness and life skills. Our curriculum is developed with consideration of how individual young people best learn and develop and our students are nurtured and supported to grow into happy, healthy, responsible and confident people, who develop the skills to work alongside and co-operate with others. They are taught to be respectful of others, their beliefs and identities; encouraged to become life-long learners, who recognise themselves as valuable members of society. We support students to develop their learning skills and self-esteem, enabling them to understand their emotions and the consequences of their life choices.

We aim to ensure that our curriculum is fun, exciting and engaging for our students. We focus not only on traditional subjects and class-based learning, but we pride ourselves on our adventurous curriculum. This is enjoyed by our students and allows them to experience success, build trusting relationships and develop a wide range of skills and knowledge in different learning environments. Many of our students have previously experienced difficulties accessing a mainstream school setting and therefore may lack trust and confidence and may have barriers and significant gaps in their learning. The adventurous curriculum that we offer can help students to make sense of the world around them, understand how society functions whilst learning to trust adults and develop confidence. We aim to support all students to develop into independent, successful learners that can actively contribute to their community.

All young people are encouraged to participate in Outdoor Education, Music and Arts, PHSE, careers and other self-esteem enhancing activities which, Peak Education believe, gives young people the ability to learn successfully in more academic areas. Almost all of our young people have Education and Health Care Plans (focused around social, emotional and mental health difficulties) which means that a suitably differentiated curriculum is required to meet their needs

All aspects of the curriculum actively promote those values that are fundamental to our culture and society; namely: democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.

## Aims:

Our school aims to:

- Provide a safe and nurturing environment in which students are happy to learn and confident to take risks enabling them to develop their skills and talents to the best of their ability.
- To teach students to be able to understand and respect themselves and others and to have high esteem that comes from an understanding that they are respected and valued.
- To teach students to discern right from wrong and support them to make informed and thoughtful choice
- To teach students to develop and appreciate positive, safe and healthy relationships
- To promote a positive attitude towards learning, so that students enjoy coming to school and cultivate a firm foundation for life-long learning and success.
- To teach students the basic skills required for them to fully participate in society i.e. that they are effective communicators, literate, numerate and have adequate computing skill.
- To enable students to be creative and to develop their own thinking skills.
- To nurture students to become increasingly confident and independent
- To teach students about their ever-changing world including how their environment and society have changed over time.
- To help children understand Britain's cultural heritage.

## Our Curriculum:

- Is rich and balanced and promotes: the highest standards of achievement by all young people regardless of ability, racial origin, gender, disability or past educational history, young people's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, preparing them to be responsible citizens;
- Is planned to take account of national, local and individual priorities;
- Promotes spiritual, moral, social and cultural, as well as academic and physical development; and support students understanding of fundamental British Values
- Offers opportunities to acquire and develop key skills to equip them for current and future roles (i.e. Speech, language and communication skills; Literacy; Numeracy, ICT and social skills.
- Offers the opportunity to gain accreditation matched to each student's ability whenever appropriate and available;
- Facilitates independence and confidence, preparing young people for the opportunities, responsibilities, experiences of adult life and their next academic steps.
- Caters to and for their interests, aptitudes and needs to support progression to their next steps

Each student has access to a bespoke curriculum that is designed in consultation with the student, parent or carer and referrer where appropriate. This is planned during the admission process. All students access core subjects including English, Mathematics, Science, PSHE and careers. Some students may be educated on an individual basis where others may be best suited to working within a class group setting. We aim to ensure that our students have access to a broad a curriculum offer as possible, for as long as possible. During the admission process we would ascertain the start points for our students. This may be from information provided by previous settings or during the meeting. Students would also complete baseline assessments upon entry to Peak to ensure that teaching and learning are pitched correctly to ensure that students are able to reach their full potential at all key stages.

Usually in key stage 4 our students can access several accredited qualifications. They may follow a pathway that may start with functional skills qualifications in English, Mathematics and Science. This may start at Entry Level Qualifications and may lead up to GCSE.

### Core Curriculum Offer:

- GCSE English Language
- GCSE English Literature
- GCSE Maths
- GCSE Science Synergy
- GCSE Biology
- GCSE Physics
- Creative Imedia
- GCSE History
- Step up to English Silver
- Step up to English Gold
- Entry Level Certificate Maths
- Functional Skills (Entry 1 – Level 2 in English, Maths and ICT)
- Entry Level 3 Science
- PSHE
- Careers
- ASDAN Careers/ Beliefs and Values
- OSA Certificate of Online Safety

### Foundation & Enriching Curriculum:

We endeavour to ensure that all of students have access to learning about the world through a series of topics/ subjects. Students will learn about important historical and political events, the achievements of humans, humanities, Art, Technology, cookery and music.

### Adventurous Curriculum:

Our students can also access a wide variety of course, subjects and learning opportunities

- NICAS (Indoor Climbing)
- Paddle Power
- GB Archery
- Gears (Mountain Biking)
- BCU 1\* and 2\* (Canoeing and Kayaking)
- Duke of Edinburgh's Award (Sectional and Full Award)
- Horse riding
- Boxing
- Martial Arts
- Fishing
- Golf

- Football
- Sports & Fitness
- Princes Trust

## Vocational Curriculum:

At Peak Education Cannock we have developed a range of BTEC L1/2/3 Vocational subjects to meet the needs of our Key stage 4 and post 16 students. The subjects on offer include:

- Hair and Beauty
- Motor Vehicle Technology
- Child Care and Development
- Health and Social Care
- Home Cooking
- Retail
- Public Services
- Construction
- Sport
- Hospitality and Catering
- Equine Studies
- Art

Peak Education offers a wide and varied programme of learning which is differentiable to meet learner needs and aspirations. Our range of accreditation enables learners to progress from their starting points to achieve recognised qualifications which will support them throughout their life after school.

## Leadership & Management:

The Senior Leadership Team of Peak Education are responsible for ensuring that the curriculum intention is clear, and the policy is implemented and monitored regularly to ensure that it has the desired outcomes for our students. All staff are responsible for ensuring that it is implemented on a day to day basis.

## Learner Entitlement:

We will deliver learning opportunities for young people which will:

- Provide young people with a full range of ambitious and enjoyable options to prepare them for further study, training or work from wherever they are starting;
- Be delivered by skilled and experienced staff who are committed to helping young people achieve;
- Provide students with access to a Careers Advisor to help them consider their options, plan a clear programme of learning with young people and support them in reaching their goals
- Set clear targets for students' attendance, punctuality and learning which will be regularly reviewed;
- Support students to overcome any barriers to learning such as welfare, finance and personal issues;

- Improve skills students will need to be successful in all aspects of life; such as expressing themselves clearly in speech and writing, handling numbers, using computers and having the confidence to put their own ideas into practice;
- Involve students in helping Peak Education to improve the learning experiences offered to them and to others through regular evaluations and student voice;
- Learners join Peak Education with a variety of starting points due to missing and interrupted learning. Our curriculum enables us to identify gaps in their learning and work with the students to develop new and existing skills.
- Young people will be taught in mixed age groups to account for their current levels and abilities.
- Our broad and balance curriculum caters for young people's SMSC development throughout.
- Peak Educations Outdoor and Adventurous Activities Programme caters for young people's Physical Education as well as develop key social skills such as resilience, team working, communication, experiential learning as well as developing an understanding of risk assessments and cause and effect.
- Independent careers advice is provided by the local authority in the main. Additional work experience opportunities, college visits and preparation for work is undertaken through the curriculum.

### Review & Report Process:

- All teachers will review and report on students' progress regularly.
- Daily progress is charted through the behaviour and achievement record system. This leads to termly written progress reports to parents.
- A review may be called at any time if a young person is experiencing difficulties or progressing more quickly than expected.
- Peak Education will report on the progress of young people's progress at Local Authority reviews annually, or sooner if requested.

### Guidance:

- Peak Education will receive as much information as is available from the records of previously attended schools and make this available to staff.
- Students at each Key Stage will have a transition plan.
- Students at Key Stage 4 will have access to appropriate accreditation, taster days for vocational college courses, work experience and a varied Outdoor Education programme.
- The curriculum will be built around the core of developing skills in Speech, language and communication; Literacy; Numeracy; ICT and SEAL.
- The curriculum will also incorporate a variety of outdoor adventurous activities, with will further develop the young people's self-confidence, resilience and self-esteem.
- Peak Education will access specialist input from outside agencies or advisors to enrich the curriculum in the areas of creative, visual and dramatic arts for specialist projects.
- Opportunities for monitoring, evaluating and target setting will be reflected in half-termly reviews held with the young people and staff.

