



Penn Hall School

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Curriculum Policy Document

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Our Curriculum

Our Curriculum is designed to meet individual needs through a Personalised Learning Programme that encompasses and goes beyond the National Curriculum and also includes the development of Independent Living Skills and Alternative and Augmentative Communication.

- All pupils are fully included in the educational programmes and activities of the school.
- A range of external awards has recognised the quality of the curriculum offered. These awards reflect the creative and effective use of resources and the wide range of teaching pedagogies in the school.

Lower School

The lower school curriculum takes a thematic and integrated approach. Rich in opportunities for pupils to develop communication, personal and social skills and to maximise their physical development, the curriculum is organised around the six areas of learning identified in the Early Years Foundation Stage:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication, Language and Literacy
- Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy
- Physical Development
- Creative Development

Whilst pupils will explore a common theme each term linked into national curriculum programmes of study, every pupil will experience a slightly different 'Creative Learning Journey', personalised to reflect their individual learning styles and needs and priority areas of learning.

Themes this year are 'Alive and Kicking', 'Lights, Camera Action' and 'Footprints'.

Key Stage 3

Pupils in KS3 will follow an integrated curriculum in which themes and topics are explored creatively to develop learning, independence and enquiring minds. The core subjects, English, Maths and Science, are fully complemented by Humanities, Art, Design and Technology, Music, PE and Swimming. ICT supports all areas of the curriculum. Pupils with a need for AAC or a Sensory approach are supported with individual programmes.

Key Stage 4/Key Stage 5 (14 – 19 years)

Students enjoy a vibrant and comprehensive 14 – 19 curriculum. Programmes aim to encourage independence, promote life skills and enhance self esteem and confidence. The ASDAN Award enables all students to take part in a relevant personalised learning plan which forms the basis for a wide range of external accreditation. Opportunities to access accreditation at many levels both within school and across partner schools and colleges gives students wide relevant choices.

Students have the opportunity to enrol on 'A' levels, GCSE and Entry Level courses. Over the last three years the school has altered its 14 – 19 timetable with Wolverhampton mainstream schools and colleges. This has enabled BTEC and National courses to be undertaken as well as REACH and CARD projects which involved students learning away from the school site.

Students are supported by an increasing number of outside agencies in order to participate and make informed choices about their future pathways and transition to adulthood.

There is a strong emphasis on the work related curriculum through a range of activities including work experience, work shadowing, mini enterprise, a desk top publishing partnership and visits to and by local and residential colleges.

A host of residential experiences, visits and trips enables students to prepare for the transition into adult provision and beyond.

Religious Education

Religious Education is provided in accordance with the requirements of the 1988 Education Act and the guidelines of the National Curriculum. It follows programmes of study suggested by the Wolverhampton Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.

Christian and major festivals of other religions are celebrated at the school throughout the year, and parents are invited to join us for class assemblies, services and festivals on a regular basis.

Personal Social Health Education including Citizenship

The Personal Social Health Education (PSHE) curriculum including Citizenship, helps to give pupils the knowledge, skills and understanding they

need to lead confident, healthy and independent lives, and to become informed, active, responsible citizens. Issues relating to Drugs Awareness will also be included in the PSHE curriculum. They will also find out about the main political and social institutions that affect their lives and about their responsibilities, rights and duties as individuals and members of the community. Key Stage 3, 4 and Sixth Form students are offered pastoral guidance through a structured tutorial system. Weekly time-tabled support in Personal Development including Citizenship, is provided as appropriate. Additionally guidance and support is provided through the Connexions service at the age phase 14 – 19 years to assist students and families with transition to post school placements.

We believe that such programmes assist our pupils to manage their disability with confidence and success. This in turn leads them to live more independent and fulfilling lives in the wider community.

Sex and Relationships

The teaching of Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) in school is a statutory requirement and therefore forms part of the school's PSHE curriculum. The teaching of SRE at Penn Hall School will not take place in isolation and will be approached from a biological, ethical, moral and emotional point of view. It will deal with the importance of family life, respect, love, care, sex, sexuality and sexual health.

As well as a normal teaching programme, some issues may necessitate a one to one teacher-pupil input and contributions from external agencies, such as the school nursing service.

