

Waverley School Secondary 4 Curriculum Policy

Introduction:

Secondary 4 Department staff believe in achievement, ambition and progress for all students. Staff aim to meet the needs of individual young people through highly effective teaching and learning. They work in a flexible way to develop effective partnerships with students and their parents/carers, post 19 provisions, social care and the school's therapy team. Staff use a wide range of strategies to foster a culture of lifelong learning and independent living skills for all students.

Principles:

Students in Secondary 4 range from 13/14 to 19 years. The emphasis in the Department is on students developing life and independent skills, which are promoted throughout. The students are placed in classes according to their needs, abilities and age. As far as possible, they will be placed in the class catering for the correct Key stage according to their age, but occasionally, some students might be placed in a class with both KS3 (year 9 only) and KS4, or KS4 and KS5. In that instance, post 16 students will access the same opportunities as other post 16 students in the department and take part in integration sessions with KS5 peers from other classes.

Students in Secondary 4 have access to curricula most relevant to their ability and needs: The curriculum for both key stages focusses on the teaching of English and communication, Maths skills, functional skills, life skills and PSHE (including SRE), vocational and enterprise opportunities and college and work experience opportunities at KS5.

In addition, students with **PMLD** follow a bespoke PMLD curriculum focussing on their unique needs, and which aims to develop the students' cognition, communication, physical development and PSE development. The students are also assessed against the P levels and Routes for Learning, which are internally and externally moderated. KS5 students with PMLD will also access the Waverley Post 16 extended opportunities and gain external accreditation from Equals and AQA Units Awards.

Post 14 (KS4) Curriculum:

Students follow a three year cycle, based on the Equals Moving On curriculum which focuses on modules linked to English, maths, science, ICT, PSHE, independence skills and vocational studies, preparing for adulthood, work experience in the West Lea charity shop or within the school (through enterprise activities or working in our early years classes).

They are assessed internally against the P levels and challenging targets are set for all students. Samples of work is moderated both internally with colleagues from other departments and externally with colleagues from other special schools, ARPs and mainstream schools.

A sample of Equals evidence is also moderated externally via Equals once a year.

Post 16 (KS5) Curriculum:

At Key Stage 5, students continue to follow a three year cycle, also based on the Equals Moving On curriculum which focuses on modules linked to English, maths, science, ICT, PSHE, independence skills and vocational studies, preparing for adulthood and work experience. They are assessed internally and accredited externally against the Equals set levels.

Students also have the opportunity to access a Capel Manor college tutor weekly when they are taught to grow and care for plants. They have short work experience placements in a local charity shop (in a safe environment which can be flexible to their needs) ran by West Lea Special School. Both horticulture and work experience can be internally accredited through AQA Unit Awards for our Post 16 students.

Years 12 & 13: students will be accredited through AQA units of work for their work experience placement (83250).

Year 14: The Leavers class follow a bespoke and individualised curriculum according to their ability, needs and personalities through the AQA Unit Awards Scheme which is externally accredited and linked to topics in transition to adulthood and preparing for life after school, independence skills, life skills, communication and Literacy, functional maths skills, PSHE, ICT. Students will be accredited through AQA units of work for their transition work into adult provisions. Students will compile a portfolio of evidence, comprising of all their achievements and a record of their extended school experience (work experience where appropriate, access to college, transition)

The curriculum for the Leavers class is always monitored, evaluated and modified to fit in with our pupils' changing needs on an ongoing basis.

Guidelines:

In addition to the Equals scheme of work, which is a 3 year rolling programme that encompasses all the curriculum areas and include vocational and enterprise opportunities (see appendix 1), students follow more detailed schemes of work (divided into KS4 and KS5) in the following curriculum areas:

- **English and Communication:** communication opportunities are cross curricular and include the use of PODD, PECS, Makaton. English is also taught as a discreet subject through communication sessions and through an English curriculum 3 year cycle (see appendix 4), giving students to use a variety of texts to develop their literacy skills.
- **Maths:** students follow a 3 year rolling programme which is thematic, and with the addition of number and calculations taught throughout the cycle in a cross-curricular manner (see appendix 1).
- **Computing:** is taught as a cross-curricular subject with key skills developed through curriculum areas, including mouse/switch skills (as well as switch progression) and

other devices, internet use, iPads, tablets and laptops, interactive whiteboard, all taught within the classroom and in our ICT suite if appropriate.

- **PSHE and SRE:** will be taught across the curriculum but also as a discreet subject through 30 minutes weekly sessions, with a focus on PSHE in Autumn/Spring/Summer terms 1 and SRE in Autumn/Spring/Summer terms 2.

Good practice:

Extra-curricular activities and experience will also include borough sporting events, horticulture and gardening (school based in KS4 and at college in KS5), integration with other schools and post 19 establishments.

For post 16 students, the evidence collected within the sessions for Equals will be added to the students' portfolio of evidence.

This policy was reviewed and agreed by SLT and Curriculum Group of the Governing Body on and will be reviewed every three years

Original Policy - April 2015

Amended - May 2016