



Curriculum

Our pupils range from the age of 5 years to 21 years and our curriculum is designed to give young people the opportunity to learn and make progress both academically and personally. We believe it is important that our students follow a broad, balanced, and exciting curriculum and one that is relevant to their needs and abilities. The curriculum provided at Headstart School is part of the range of strategies that we use to help prepare students for developing independence and a life outside of school; such a focus is clearly linked to them becoming well informed and active citizens in a multi-cultural and diverse society. Our approach is holistic and aims to look at all the child's needs both academic and living skills.

Access to learning

Students have multiple barriers to learning that we need to break down through good teaching and clear methods of working and a robust and relevant curriculum. Our Behaviour management achieved Outstanding at Ofsted and uses a variety of approaches with positive reinforcement embedded in everything we do. Staff are supported by our behaviour team and our OT and Salt. These work with the children and ensure staff have clear strategies to work with. Sulp sessions are invaluable and run by our staff trained in Sulp by Wendy Rinaldi. Our behaviour team meet weekly to identify students who need support. Careful and ongoing monitoring of behaviour is invaluable to the pupil's success and progression.

Staff are trained in Makaton and PECS which is used to help develop speech with some of the complex needs students who have none or limited speech. Staff have been trained by the SALT in using this within the classroom and it is part of the daily practice of some of our young learners

Team teach is our positive handling programme. All staff are trained in Team Teach techniques. It is used to diffuse anxiety and challenging behaviour. Students are taught strategies to manage their behaviour themselves. All staff are trained in positive handling.

We aim to support student development in:

- Academic subjects
- Social skills
- Vocational skills
- Life Skills related to growing independently
- Speech, language, and communication skills
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Daily living/self-care skills
- Motor skills/Health and Fitness
- Play and hobbies/leisure skills
- Listening and attention skills
- Behaviour
- Team work
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We make extensive use of our grounds and well-equipped small farms.

Curriculum Overview

Across our curriculum we aim to address disadvantage and provide equal opportunity. We use a progression model and have clear transition points for students in their learning that enables them to build and develop concepts that leads to lifelong learning. We aim for our students to develop a rich web of knowledge alongside core skills that are relevant to their needs.

From Primary to KS3

Across our Primary provision and in KS3 we have designed a curriculum which follows the National Curriculum to ensure coverage and progression in an interesting and engaging way. The curriculum has been further developed to suit the complex needs of our students and in lessons there is clear differentiation in place to support individuality and personalization..

There is a real focus on what students will 'know and do' and we use our unique context to support learning and engagement across all Key Stages.

National Curriculum subjects of English, Mathematics, Science, Computing, Humanities, PSHE, Citizenship, Art and Design, Design and Technology (including Food Technology), Music and Sport are all offered at Key Stage Two and Three and take into account the Programmes of Study for each subject. Opportunities are also offered within the curriculum to study other cultures and SMSC forms a key focus throughout a students' daily life at Headstart.

KS4 Curriculum

The KS4 curriculum aims to build on previous learning and offers a range of subjects that are familiar to students. Alongside this is a rich and varied options programme that uses our unique environment to support engagement and interest. There is a core Programme of English, Maths, Science, PE and PSHE and Citizenship taught at varying levels to suit student needs and this is delivered at varying levels of accreditation from Entry Level through to GCSE.

Our options programme at KS4 offers a range of academic subjects such as History, Geography, Art and Design and English Literature for example alongside a rich vocational programme including Land-Based Studies, Horse care, Small Animal and Pet Care, Construction, Vocational Studies, Creative Media Technology, Music and Hospitality.

Weekly Tutorials

All pupils have a 1:1 weekly meeting with their tutor. The meeting includes:

- Attendance
- Overview of the week
- Pupil Voice
- Parent Voice
- Teacher Voice
- EHCP Outcome Focus
- Cognition and Learning
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health
- Sensory and/or Physical
- Behaviour
- English
- Maths

Tutors report to parents at least weekly with a tutorial update, many speak to parents more frequently as required

Assessment

On entry to Headstart, pupils complete baseline assessments as appropriate including the Wide Range Achievement Test 5, Cognitive Ability Tests 4, the Raven's Matrix, and a Lexia Baseline for reading and spelling.

They are assessed over the first twelve weeks of arrival and an **Individual Behaviour and Support Plan** is written. This gives all staff a clear idea of the needs of the individual child and sets levels, targets and strategies that will work with the student. These are reviewed very regularly.

All staff must study the **IBSP** before working with a pupil.

From this initial assessment we continually assess our pupils using p-levels, ABLLS pre-key stage standards and the Rising Stars Framework at Key Stage 2 and 3 and measured against attainment on entry to the school, and within the P Levels, , For pupils in Key Stage 4 and 5 we use entry level, GCSE and the BTEC Framework.

These underpin our target setting and how we can move pupils forward in their learning; Group work is based on a rotating curriculum and follows topics on a six-week basis, with NC subjects/life skills taught at differentiating levels. Lessons are tailored to suit the varying abilities and needs of the individual child.

Curriculum Enrichment and Enhancement

Vocational Learning

We have found that many young people who have previously encountered barriers to learning are often motivated by a vocationally based day. Thus, the curriculum offered to students can include work related learning which incorporates Agriculture/Horticulture, Equine Studies, Small Animal and Pet Care, Painting and Decorating and Construction, Art and Design, Video Production, Graphic Design, Digital Photography, Catering, Woodwork and Life-skills.

Land Based and Equine Studies

Students can work outdoors and interact with nature. This can be a small part of their curriculum or can be a basis for a sensory need, offer therapeutic input and teach the students empathy and the need for boundaries and structure when working and interacting with the animals. Students of all ages can take horse riding lessons, adopt a rabbit, or feed the chickens. This has proven to be a popular area of our curriculum where most students thrive in the calm of the outdoors and the communication with animals.

Sport and outdoor learning

Sport is a key part of our weekly timetable offering badminton, table tennis, football, gymnastics, rounders, swimming, and trampoline skills. Promoting team building, social interaction and the raising of self-esteem is key. We also have various outdoor activities and trips. These include swimming, indoor football, volleyball, hiking, camping, dry-skiing, orienteering, and fishing.

Forest School

Learning in the outdoors helps to develop a greater understanding and appreciation of nature. Forest School uses our unique environment to help develop independent learning skills, build self-esteem, confidence and encourage social communication.

Moving on

Students are encouraged to continue learning these skills at college or in an organised apprenticeship.

Post 16 Provision and Links to the Curriculum

Post 16 Pupils are usually taught at the Oakfield Site and this forms a unique and stable environment for study, where a dedicated team of staff deliver a rich range of subjects to meet pupil interests and chosen vocational pathways. A method of positive reinforcement is instilled by our behaviour team who continue to work with staff and students along with our therapists. All pupils have a behaviour and profile plan that enables staff to follow clear ways of working and strategies to develop success and positive outcomes from our learners.

We can provide both a vocational or more academic route for our students, or indeed a mixed pathway if that is required.

The main aim for post 16 pupils is to offer a range of student-centred learning opportunities through a carefully planned curriculum. We aim to promote independence and self-sufficiency within a structured environment whilst focusing on key skills learnt in the pupil's previous stage of education. The curriculum is individually tailored and differentiated to reflect and meet the needs of the student.

There is a core Programme of English, Maths, Skills for Independence and Work, PSHE and Citizenship taught at varying levels to suit student needs and this is delivered at varying levels of accreditation at Entry Level, GCSE, and A-Level. We offer a rich vocational programme including Land-Based Studies, Horse care, Small Animal and Pets, Construction, Vocational Studies, Creative Media Technology, Music and Hospitality.

Enrichment

As part of the Post 16 Curriculum students will also take part in a range of activities that support overall development and which may open up lifelong interests and engagement, these include:

Physical Education, Sport and Health

Recreational opportunities.

Health Education as part of PSHE and Sport courses.

Careers, PSHE and British Values

Weekly sessions and opportunities to take part in events and trips and ongoing opportunity to discuss issues raised from studying aspects of British Values.

Work opportunities and careers development

Pupils at both school sites are taught through a combination of 1:1 teaching and small group teaching.