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Person Responsible: Sarah Moxham - Head of Education

Ratified by: Liam Gaster – Head Teacher

Outcome: The purpose of the plan is to:

- Ensure that all pupils at Yarrow Heights School are entitled to a curriculum which contributes to a well-balanced education, developing the abilities life skills and social competences of individual pupils so that they may take a valuable, positive, and active place in society. The entitlement is for each pupil, regardless of age, gender, race, religion, or disability.

This policy is one of a series of school policies that, taken together, are designed to form a comprehensive statement of the school's aspiration to provide an outstanding education for each of its students and of the mechanisms and procedures in place to achieve this. Accordingly, this policy should be read alongside these policies. In particular it should be read in conjunction with the policies covering equality and diversity, Health and Safety, safeguarding and child protection.

All of these policies have been written, not simply to meet statutory and other requirements, but to enable and evidence the work that the whole school is undertaking to ensure the implementation of its core values.

While this current policy document may be referred to elsewhere in Yarrow Heights School documentation, including particulars of employment, it is non-contractual.

In the school's policies, unless the specific context requires otherwise, the word "parent" is used in terms of Section 576 of the [Education Act 1996](#), which states that a 'parent', in relation to a child or young person, includes any person who is not a biological parent but who has parental responsibility, or who has care of the child. Department for Education guidance [Understanding and dealing with issues relating to parental responsibility updated August 2023](#) considers a 'parent' to include:

- all biological parents, whether they are married or not
- any person who, although not a biological parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person - this could be an adoptive parent, a step-parent, guardian or other relative
- any person who, although not a biological parent and does not have parental responsibility, has care of a child or young person

A person typically has care of a child or young person if they are the person with whom the child lives, either full or part-time and who looks after the child, irrespective of what their biological or legal relationship is with the child.

The school contracts the services of third-party organisations to ensure regulatory compliance and implement best practices for:

- HR and Employment Law
- Health & Safety Guidance
- DBS Check processing
- Mandatory Safeguarding, Health & Safety, and other relevant training
- Data protection and GDPR guidance
- Specialist insurance cover

Where this policy refers to 'employees', the term refers to any individual that is classified as an employee or a worker, working with and on behalf of the school (including volunteers and contractors).

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff, volunteers, pupils and visitors to share this commitment.

All outcomes generated by this document must take account of and seek to contribute to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people at Yarrow Heights School.

The policy documents of Yarrow Heights School are revised and published periodically in good faith. They are inevitably subject to revision. On occasions a significant revision, although promulgated in school separately, may have to take effect between the re-publication of a set of policy documents. Care should therefore be taken to ensure, by consultation with the Senior Leadership Team, that the details of any policy document are still effectively current at a particular moment.

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1. Curriculum Entitlement

Pupils at Yarrow Heights School are entitled to a curriculum which contributes to a well-balanced education, developing the abilities, life skills and social competences of individual pupils so that they may take a valuable, positive, and active place in society. The entitlement is for each pupil, regardless of age, gender, race, religion, or disability.

2. Cross References

Assessment Policy

Non-Examination Assessment Policy

SEND Policy and Information report

Equality information and objectives

3. Curriculum Intent

The aims of our curriculum are to:

- ✓ Prioritise a broad and balanced curriculum that incorporates a strong set of core subjects, as well as opportunities for enrichment in areas not typically associated with a traditional school curriculum.
- ✓ Coherently plan and sequence all core subjects across the school, from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 4. We also take and plan for occasional pupils in year 2 (end of KS1) aged 7. From September 2024 we will have a cohort of KS5 pupils.
- ✓ Allow pupils to accumulate a sufficient knowledge of skills to prepare them for future learning and employment.
- ✓ Enable pupils to develop knowledge, understand concepts and acquire skills which can be transferred and applied to relevant situations.
- ✓ Support pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- ✓ Support pupils' physical development and responsibility for their own health and wellbeing, and enable them to be active.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Be ambitious for all pupil and set high expectations of real, purposeful outcomes; inspired by SEN research, technology, and innovative teaching.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Develop pupils' independent learning skills and resilience, to equip them for further/higher education and employment.
- ✓ Develop pupils to develop functional skills for living so each of them is able to lead a fulfilling and substantially independent life.
- ✓ Provide an enrichment curriculum through outdoor experiences that build on the holistic learning of academic, life skills and social competencies, developing the pupils' confidence and sense of achievement.
- ✓ Ensure that all pupils achieve accreditation in English and Maths as a minimum and offer a broad range of accredited subject pathways.
- ✓ Blend therapeutic interventions with learning, inside and outside of the classroom.
- ✓ Offer enrichment by building on pupils' interests, which nurtures exciting opportunities and aspirations.
- ✓ Engender pride, resilience and aspiration for every pupil, preparing them to lead safe, independent lives and to be active members of their community.

4. Implementation

4.1 – Core Learning – Key Stage 2

Key Stage 2 (KS2) pupils follow a KS2 curriculum, based on focus areas from the National Curriculum programme of study. As well as the core subjects of English, Maths & Science, the KS2 curriculum also incorporates History, Geography, Religious Education, PSHE, Physical Education, MFL, IT and the Creative Curriculum (a combination of Art, Design Technology & Music).

4.1.1 – Core Learning – Key Stage 3

In Key Stage 3, pupils in Years 7 to 9 are taught in age groups across core subjects of English, Maths & Science as well as Foundation subjects including Humanities, Physical Education, IT, MFL, STEM and Personal Development (PSHE, Careers & Life Skills).

4.1.2 – Core Learning – Key Stage 4

In KS4, all pupils must take qualifications in English, Maths, and Science. The most suitable qualifications for each pupil are ascertained by way of an assessment that takes place during towards the end of Autumn 1 term. While we endeavour to enter as many pupils as possible for a GCSE qualification, alternative qualifications (e.g. Functional Skills and Entry Level) may be more suitable for some of our pupils. In addition to these three core subjects, pupils also select two additional KS4-level qualifications from the following list of options:

- History
- PE
- Psychology
- Art
- IT User Skills / Computer Science
- Food & Nutrition
- Spanish

The curricula for these qualification-based subjects largely follows the specification from the relevant exam boards, with adaptation to suit the needs of our pupils.

In addition to studying the qualification-based subjects listed above, pupils continue to partake in non-examined subjects such as Personal Development and Physical Education.

4.2 – Modern Foreign Languages

At present, our Primary pupils receive 1 lesson of Modern Languages each week, with the target language being Spanish. Our KS3 pupils receive 2 lessons of Modern Languages each week, with the target language also being Spanish. A small cohort of pupils have requested to learn German, which we have also been able to accommodate.

4.3 – Wellbeing and Personal Development

All elements of our curriculum are therapeutically informed and link across the curriculum, spearheaded by our golden thread of Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE) and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE). Pupils receive at least 45-minutes of PSHE/RSE sessions per week. They follow a curriculum based largely on age-appropriate topics selected from the PSHE Association's list of PSHE with additional topics covered on an ad hoc basis. These ad hoc topics correspond to any PSHE/RSE-related issues that emerge unexpectedly from within the pupil cohort. We also implement more specific, bespoke therapeutic opportunities such as Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy and 1:1 Talk Time with the Therapy Team.

All staff support pupils throughout the school day. We eat together at lunch times and fully integrate in our carefully structured break times. Physical development and wellbeing are supported through timetabled Physical Education, including Outdoor Education and offsite activities. Pupils are encouraged to contribute to the community in lots of ways to support them in understanding what it means to be an active British citizen. Extra-curricular activities enrich pupils' experience and are an integral feature of the school's ethos. All pupils and teachers are encouraged to participate, whether it be sporting, cultural, musical, visits, exchanges, or other of the multitude of experiences offered.

4.4 – Enrichment

Enrichment lessons are woven into the timetable for all pupils. For Primary & KS3 pupils, it takes place once a week and serves as opportunities for pupils to access activities and learn knowledge and skills that are not typically found in a more “traditional” school curriculum. Enrichment activities rotate between groups throughout the school year, and several are offsite.

Some examples of Enrichment activities that are on offer at various points throughout the academic year are: Forest School, Music led by Southampton Music Service, Cooking, Photography and Expressive Arts.

Enrichment activities are considered to be part of the school's core curriculum, and are supported by medium term plans drawn up by the member(s) of staff responsible for each Enrichment activity.

Several Enrichment activities lead to external awards (ASDAN, AQA, SETA).

4.5 – Creative Learning

The curriculum at Yarrow Heights incorporates many opportunities for creative learning: Art, STEM and Creative Curriculum lessons (Art, Music and Design Technology) are all included as well as Enrichment opportunities (for example: Photography, Music, Expressive Arts).

4.6 – Planning & Subject Curriculum Design

Every subject taught has a Curriculum Pathway that details how the knowledge and learning sequences from the earliest starting point (e.g., KS2) to the latest possible endpoint (e.g., Year 11, KS4). These Curriculum Pathways are complemented by Long Term Plans, which detail what pupils in each year group will learn over the course of one academic year. Medium Term Plans provide more granular detail on how individual units of learning are sequenced over the course of each half term. Medium Term Plans also contain information pertaining to how the lessons and intent are adapted to specific learners.

4.6 – Inclusion

All lessons aim to be inclusive. A level of adaptation which provides appropriate tasks for each pupil and a challenge which will maximise achievement should be experienced. Each pupil should be sufficiently equipped to make informed and realistic decisions at each stage in his/her development so that his/her role is active in contributing to progression.

Teachers set high expectations for all pupils at their stage and level. They will use dynamic, formative and summative assessment to set ambitious targets and plan challenging work for all groups, including:

- ✓ More able pupils
- ✓ Pupils with low prior attainment
- ✓ Pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds

Lessons are planned effectively so that our pupils can access every curriculum subject, and that there are no barriers to every pupil achieving at or above expected progress. Teachers will also take account of the needs of pupils whose first language is not English. In this case, lessons will be planned so that teaching opportunities help pupils to develop their English, and to support pupils to take part in all subjects. Further information can be found in our statement of equality information and objectives, and in our SEN policy and information report.

5. Curriculum Impact

The impact of the three areas of our curriculum is tracked in several ways. We track the academic, personal development and social skills of pupils throughout their time at school through Assessment of and Assessment for Learning, EHCP and Therapeutic Outcomes, Pupil Reflection, and formal qualifications.

Pupil progress is tracked and recorded, and learning is planned around the identified next steps, at a pace and style that meets their needs. Learning is structured to allow pupil collaboration and support of each other.

The outcomes of qualifications that pupils achieve allow us to assess the impact of our provision. Even sitting exams shows pupils' commitment to learning and their ability to work independently when completing these.

Assessment of impact is also judged via regular marking and monitoring of pupil work. Senior staff members carry out regular "book looks" to ensure this is taking place, and that feedback given to pupils is frequent, sufficiently detailed, and relevant to the work being marked.

5.1 Moderation and Standardisation

As a school we strive to ensure that all of our assessments are as accurate and reliable as possible. This will ensure that we can accurately track pupil progress and achievement over a period of time. To ensure that our assessments are accurate and reliable we have a structure of internal assessment moderation and standardisation including waypoints and endpoints. Meeting time is directed to opportunities to cross moderate within and outside of each department to validate our assessments.

6. Legislation & Guidance

Our Curriculum Policy reflects the requirements of the National Curriculum Programme of Study, for which all maintained schools in England must teach, and which we have chosen to follow.

It also reflects requirements for inclusion and equality as set out in the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice 2014 and the Equality Act 2010 and refers to curriculum-related expectations of governing boards set out in the Department for Education's Governance Handbook.

7. Roles & Responsibilities

7.1 The Head Teacher

The Head Teacher will monitor the effectiveness of this policy and hold the Head of Education to account for its implementation. The Head Teacher will also ensure that:

- ✓ A robust framework is in place for setting curriculum priorities and aspirational targets
- ✓ The school is complying with its funding agreement and teaching a "broad and balanced curriculum" which includes English, Maths, Science and (subject to providing the right to withdraw) Religious Education, and enough teaching time is provided for pupils to cover the requirements of the funding agreement.

- ✓ All courses provided for pupils below the age of 16 that lead to qualifications, are approved by the Secretary of State.
- ✓ The school implements the relevant statutory assessment arrangements.
- ✓ They participate actively in decision-making about the breadth and balance of the curriculum.
- ✓ They fulfil their role in processes to disapply pupils from all or part of the National Curriculum, where appropriate, and in any subsequent appeals.
- ✓ Pupils from Year 7 onwards are provided with independent, impartial careers guidance, and that this is appropriately resourced.

7.2 – The Head of Education

The Head of Education is responsible for ensuring that this policy is adhered to, and that:

- ✓ All required elements of the curriculum, and those subjects which the school chooses to offer, have aims and objectives which reflect the aims of the school 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 regularly.
- ✓ Where appropriate, the individual needs of some pupils are met by permanent or temporary disapplication from all or part of the National Curriculum.
- ✓ They manage requests to withdraw children from curriculum subjects, where appropriate.
- ✓ The school's procedures for assessment meet all legal requirements.
- ✓ The Head Teacher is fully involved in decision-making processes that relate to the breadth and balance of the curriculum.
- ✓ The Head Teacher is advised on whole-school targets in order to make informed decisions.
- ✓ Proper provision is in place for pupils with different abilities and needs.

7.3 – Other staff

Responsibility for primary and secondary curricula will be shared by Subject Leads, Senior Teachers, Assistant Heads and the Head of Education. Other staff will ensure that the school's curriculum is implemented in accordance with this policy.

8. Review of implementation

The implementation of this Policy is reviewed by the school's Senior Leadership Team in consultation with staff and a report is made to the Governance Body.

The school may submit to Cavendish Education proposals for amendments to this Policy.