

# Key Stage 3 Curriculum

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## KEY STAGE 3 CURRICULUM Rationale

Due to the changing population of the learners entering Key Stage 3, shown by the higher number of those with ASD and complex needs, we set about as a staff team to create a new, challenging, motivating, innovative curriculum that would provide outstanding opportunities for its learners to develop the skills needed for life.

For the new curriculum to be successful, our learners will become.....

- More creative
- More sociable
- More confident
- More successful learners
- Better communicators
- Physically fitter

.....and fulfil their potential to the best of their abilities.

Specialist teaching in the core subjects and Art, Science, Drama, Music and RE, has long since been part of the curriculum in Key Stage 3 and is a great strength. However, tutor time, PSHE, life skills and social skills did not feature as strongly in the curriculum as staff and parents would like, so equal emphasis has now been placed on these as well as the specialist teaching.

The new Key Stage 3 National Curriculum provided an excellent vehicle to base our curriculum on, with particular attention being paid to the new Curriculum Dimensions, Personal Learning and Thinking Skills (PLTS) and cross curricula links between discrete subjects.

Themes across subjects have been introduced to encourage learners, particularly those with ASD, to see links between their lessons and generalise learning across subjects. Generalisation is the key for learners with special educational needs to convert knowledge gained in lessons, into skills for everyday life.

5 Cross Curricula days across the year, with particular focus on Humanities and Technology, have also been incorporated into the new curriculum to teach these subjects in a more meaningful motivating way.

The new Life Skills lessons will include Food Technology, Horticulture, DT and Enterprise, Ecology and Sustainability and Community. Learners will rotate through these each year.

Tutors will have a PSHE lesson Monday to Thursday with their own tutor group, incorporating SRE, Independence Skills, Drug and Alcohol awareness, personal safety, disability awareness and IEP work. Year 9 pupils will start career lessons during this session.

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25 minutes of physical activity will start each day Monday to Thursday with Friday mornings allocated to a variety of physical pursuits such as kayaking, swimming, football and Rebound Therapy. This is in addition to one PE lesson a week.

Social and Emotional Skills lessons have been added to the core curriculum and will be taught twice a week overseen by the Speech and Language Therapist. Alongside this, Relationship Education for Autistic Children (R.E.A.Ch) will thread through the whole curriculum.

Finally, recognition of 'values' such as co-operation, team work, respect, helpfulness etc will be as important as academic attainment and will be rewarded regularly in assemblies alongside good work.

Evaluation of the new curriculum will be ongoing across 2010/11, both in terms of organisation and management as well as pupil outcomes and attainment.