

Curriculum Policy

Rationale

The Grove Academy is an exceptional provision. Children and young people are referred to the TGA, by schools and other agencies, where a group of professionals discuss and allocate a set number of hours of educational provision according to the individual needs of the pupil.

Reasons for interim provision include short-term sickness, permanent exclusion, pregnant school girls/young mothers, non-attenders on medical grounds, Intensive Surveillance Supervision Programme (ISSP), awaiting school placement or prevention of exclusion. All children and young people are offered a curriculum entitlement that is relevant and differentiated to their particular needs and situation. Every attempt is made to deliver subjects in conjunction with the associated mainstream school particularly in relation to maths and English. Occasionally, other training providers and local colleges will be engaged to supplement a pupils' curriculum offer.

KS3 pupils not permanently excluded or awaiting a mainstream place, follow a 12-week (term) programme whereby the curriculum is the basis for raising standards but the achievement of high standards is not an end in itself. The curriculum enables pupils to acquire learning that they apply consistently to achieve personal effectiveness in the competence of reading, writing, speaking, basic number, ICT and the personal and social skills needed for living in and contributing to the global economy in the 21st Century.

It is commonplace for KS4 pupils to complete the majority of their formal education at the Academy. Reasons for this vary but, in the main, are because of an irrevocable breakdown in the relationship between pupil and mainstream. In both years 10 and 11, each young person receives a personalised programme of study, although all receive the core entitlement of Maths, English, ICT and Science. The aim of the KS4 curriculum is to provide a range of pathways at post 16, Foundation Learning to follow a Diploma, GCSE's to go to A'Levels and BTEC to follow a vocational programme. Students are taught at a level appropriate to them which allows them to make the most progress. Each student can access at least one day of work experience per week, which they are able to change following consultation with the Vice Principal. There are also options to study vocational qualifications in Horticulture, Photography/ICT, Stable Management, Land Based skills, Outdoor Adventurous Activities. TGA can also offer therapeutic Art to students that specifically require this type of intervention. Students receive between 5 and 25+ hours per week dependent upon their specific needs but hours can and do vary in accordance with a particular circumstance. The Vocational curriculum underpins all aspects of the KS4 programme of study with the aim that, upon exit, all pupils take up further education, training/employment or an apprenticeship. Students follow a programme of PSHCE and employability skills delivered through lessons and undertake Careers advice through CareersInc.

The aim of this policy is to:

- ⇒ Review the rationale content and delivery of the academy curriculum on an annual basis
- ⇒ Provide a focus for development leading to whole school improvement
- ⇒ Establish a shared vision for the curriculum with stakeholders which support vulnerable groups, thereby ensuring coherent provision and a smooth transition into mainstream and/or further education and the workplace

Policy Statement

Entitlement

The Grove Academy provides a curriculum which:

- ⇒ is planned to take account of national, local and individual priorities;
- ⇒ provides access for pupils to a broad and balanced set of courses and experiences according to their needs, regardless of race, gender or disability;
- ⇒ promotes spiritual, moral, social and cultural, as well as academic, development and physical development;
- ⇒ offers opportunities to acquire and develop key skills to equip them for current and future roles (i.e. communication, numeracy, literacy, problem-solving, study skills etc);
- ⇒ ensures that all KS3 pupils are able to achieve at least one AQA Unit Award in each subject area in order to officially recognise individual achievement;
- ⇒ ensures that all courses at KS4 are fully accredited (Entry Level, GCSE, NVQ, City and Guilds etc) and that pupils of varying abilities have access to such courses;
- ⇒ prepares pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experience of adult life.

Meeting the Needs of the Pupil

The Grove Academy provides:

- ⇒ a range of strategies to identify and meet individual pupils' needs;
- ⇒ learning environments which are flexible enough to meet a range of learning opportunities;
- ⇒ access to high-quality resources to meet pupils' individual needs;
- ⇒ common approaches to value and celebrate individual worth and achievement;
- ⇒ qualified teaching and support staff with recent and relevant training and experience;
- ⇒ practical measures to ensure that pupils experience continuity in their education.

We expect that:

- ⇒ all teaching staff use an appropriate range of learning and teaching strategies to ensure that all can access curricular provision;
- ⇒ teaching and support staff take account of prior learning when planning and delivering activities;
- ⇒ teaching and support staff adopt relevant and appropriate learning opportunities, including the use of a range of resources and methods of delivery, according to the need of the child;
- ⇒ all learning opportunities are planned appropriately in terms of content, activities and experience;
- ⇒ all staff implement appropriate strategies to ensure that pupils' behaviour does not disrupt their own, or others' learning.

The Grove Academy aims to provide students with a coherent curriculum. Departments have developed and regularly review schemes of work that reflect progressive learning experiences. The intention is to provide clear learning objectives linked to individuals' needs and abilities. There are often extra curricular activities on offer which enable students to gain wider experiences.

Subject Areas

All subject areas provide an individual curriculum statement which is on the website.