



# Curriculum Policy

Date of Approval:	October 2023
Approved by:	Local Academy Council
Review Date:	October 2024

## Policy Information:

<b>Date of last review</b>	October 2022	<b>Review period</b>	Annually
<b>Date approved</b>	October 2022	<b>Approved by</b>	Local Academy Council
<b>Policy owner</b>	Headteacher	<b>Date of next review</b>	October 2023

## Updates made since the last review:

Review date	Changes made	By whom
October 2022	New Policy	Headteacher
October 2023	Amendments made	Deputy Headteacher

## 1. Aims (Our Intent)

At High Point Academy we aim to ensure that all pupils achieve their full potential, both academically and holistically.

We aim for our curriculum to be:

- Differentiated for all our learners to enable them to access all areas of our curriculum.
- Broad and balanced to equip our pupils for the future.
- To be planned and sequenced to allow pupils to develop skills and knowledge to prepare them for the future.
- Flexible, adaptable and relevant to pupils needs and abilities to support them for a life beyond High Point Academy.
- Engaging and promoting positive thinking and curiosity and take a responsibility for their own learning.
- Support pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- Support pupils' physical development and responsibility for their own health and enable them to be active.
- Ensure equal access to learning for all pupils, with high expectations for every pupil and appropriate levels of challenge and support.
- Have a high ambition for all pupils.
- Equip pupils with the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life.
- To develop independence, and resilience to enhance their ability to manage their future well.

In line with Government guidance, the curriculum at High Point Academy has the following features:

- a curriculum that is ambitious for all pupils.
- a curriculum that is coherently planned and sequenced.
- a curriculum that is successfully adapted, designed and developed for our pupils' special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- a curriculum that is broad and balanced for all pupils.

The High Point curriculum considers local context and filling the gaps from pupils' backgrounds. It has a clear purpose for assessment. Leaders are continually reviewing and evaluating the curriculum design with often distributed ownership so that subject leaders have a degree of autonomy utilising their extensive knowledge base.

## 2. Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements for academies to provide a broad and balanced curriculum as per the [Academies Act 2010](#), and the [National Curriculum programmes of study](#) 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 [Equality Act 2010](#), and refers to curriculum-related expectations of governing boards set out in the Department for Education's [Governance Handbook](#).

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

## 3. Roles and responsibilities

### 3.1 The Local Academy Council

The Local Academy Council will monitor the effectiveness of this policy and hold the headteacher to account for its implementation.

The Local Academy Council 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.
- Proper provision is made for pupils with different abilities and needs, including children with special educational needs (SEN).
- It participates actively in decision-making about the breadth and balance of the curriculum.
- Pupils from year 7 onwards where appropriate are provided with independent, impartial careers guidance, and that this is appropriately resourced.

### 3.2 Headteacher

The Headteacher 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 by the Local Academy Council.
- They manage requests to withdraw children from curriculum subjects, where appropriate.
- The school's procedures for assessment meet all legal requirements.
- The Local Academy Council and the Trust is fully involved in decision-making processes that relate to the breadth and balance of the curriculum.
- The Local Academy Council and the Trust is advised on whole-school targets in order to make informed decisions.
- At High Point Academy all pupils have an EHCP and diagnosis of ASC, therefore appropriate provision is in place for pupils with different abilities and needs.

### 3.3 Other staff

The Deputy Headteacher is responsible for the quality of education and Teaching and Learning across the school in both Connector and Developer phases, in liaison with the Headteacher and Phase Leaders. The deputy Headteacher has the overview and responsibility to ensure all subject leads are supported in the design, implementation and review of their curriculum areas.

The Assistant Headteacher is responsible for the assessment and progress of pupils at High Point Academy and to ensure all teachers are supported to allow pupils to make expected progress in all areas of their learning.

Other staff will ensure that the school curriculum is implemented in accordance with this policy. Phase Leaders are responsible to support senior leaders with the leadership and development of English, Mathematics and the wider curriculum within the phase and make an impact on the educational progress of pupils other than the teacher's assigned classes or groups of pupils across the phase.

## **4. Organisation and planning**

At High Point Academy we have two different pupil cohorts 'Connectors' and 'Developers'.

### **Connectors**

Our connector pupils are typically working at age related expectations to approximately two years below age related expectations. Our pupils will be accessing all areas of the KS3 National Curriculum (where appropriate). Pupils within this pathway will access subject specialist teaching.

Pupils are purposely exposed to a wide breadth of subjects in the connector pathway. RSHE is delivered primarily through PSHE, Science and Form Time (as part of PSHE/Citizenship programme). This is tracked by teachers and monitored by the senior lead for curriculum through the Pupil Welfare Tracker. The Pupil Welfare Tracker covers RSHE, Personal and Health Development, RSE and Safeguarding across the curriculum.

Modern Foreign Languages are not taught as discrete subjects due to complex needs of the children but are still incorporated through Wow days. The rationale for this is that we want pupils to focus more on the development of their first language. However, we ensure that key phrases of languages that will help them in adulthood and an appreciation of different countries and cultures are embedded within our Wow days programme of learning.

School have made the decision to ensure connector pupils are exposed to Expressive Arts as part of their curriculum offer. Whilst English has only 3x50 minute discrete lessons at KS3, the Drama and Music teacher is also an English specialist and has developed an Expressive Arts curriculum that runs alongside the English units, continuing to develop pupil exposure to key texts as well as incorporating opportunities in reading, writing and speaking and listening. Pupils also have three 20-minute reading sessions per week during form times and Literacy across the curriculum is given high status.

At KS3 the subject areas available to pupils within this pathway are:

- English (Three times a week)
- Expressive Arts linked to English (Once a week)
- Mathematics (Four times a week)
- Science (Twice a week)
- Computing/ ICT/ Media (Twice a week)
- Design Technology (Once a week)
- Art (Once a week)
- Physical Education (Three times a week)
- Humanities (Once a week)
- Religious Education (Once a week)
- PSHE (Once per week)
- Citizenship (Once per week)

- Food Technology (Twice a week)
- Forest School (Once a week)
- Well-Being (Once a week)

Pupil also have targeted EHCP interventions (HPAs) three times per week.

Pupils are not given option choices in KS4 – instead a balanced programme of life skills opportunities are given through DT, CIM (Computing, IT and Media), Food Tech, PE and Topic. These allow pupils with autism not to become too fixated on one or two particular subject areas and the chance to leave school with a wide range of skills that will help them in adulthood as well as giving the stepping-stones for further education study. Where a pupil has a very specific talent and ability in a subject not offered at KS4 (such as Music), school will always endeavour to meet this need on an individual basis through additional tuition.

At KS4 pupils the subject areas available to pupils within this pathway are:

- English (Four times a week entry level and GCSE)
- Mathematics (Four times a week entry level and GCSE)
- Science (Twice a week entry level and GCSE)
- Computing/ ICT/ Media (Twice a week Level 1 and Level 2 qualification)
- Art (Once a week - Arts Award)
- Design Technology (Once a week – AQA Unit Awards)
- Physical Education (3 times a week – PELSA certification)
- Food Technology (Three times a week – BTEC qualification)
- PSHE, Citizenship and RE (Once a week)
- College Placement (Three times a week)
- Well-Being (Once a week)

Life Skills and PSHE is also accessed through Walsall College, where pupils visit once per week and work towards an employability qualification. Pupils are able to access all areas of the college and it prepares them for life beyond High Point Academy.

KS4 pupils have opportunities to gain:

- Entry levels/ GCSEs/BTECs in Maths, English and Science (Biology), Computing and Food Technology
- awards in Art, DT, PE, college placement

The principle behind all formal qualifications at High Point is to give pupils opportunities with aspiration whilst balancing this against their autism diagnosis and the need to avoid autistic burn out and overload. Whilst being aspirational, we also aim to build self-esteem/positive well-being, through the avoidance of too many examinations demands.

Pupil also have targeted EHCP interventions (HPAs) three times per week.

## **Developers**

Our developer pupils are typically working below age related expectations. Our pupils will be accessing areas of the curriculum, which are suitable for their levels of ability. The curriculum areas will offer a range of knowledge and skills to support them with their independence. Pupils within this cohort will spend most of their time with one classroom teacher and have access to specialist subject teaching where appropriate.

The developer pathway is offering a breadth of subjects in line with the national curriculum, whilst also ensuring that it is relevant to their special educational needs.

RSHE is delivered primarily through PSHE, Science and Form Time (as part of PSHE/Citizenship programme). This is tracked by teachers and monitored by the senior lead for curriculum through the Pupil Welfare Tracker. The Pupil Welfare Tracker covers RSHE, Personal and Health Development, RSE and Safeguarding across the curriculum.

Modern Foreign Languages are not taught as discrete subjects due to complex needs of the children but are still incorporated through Wow days.

Citizenship, Geography, History and Music are taught thematically through Topic and are tracked by the phase lead. Due to the Literacy needs of our developer pathway, Expressive Arts is not taught as a discrete subject and more time is given to the formal English curriculum. Expressive Arts opportunities will be given to pupils through their topic learning.

At KS3 the subject areas available to pupils within this pathway are:

- English (Four times a week including RWI and Literacy skills)
- Mathematics (Four times a week including Numeracy skills)
- Science (Twice a week)
- Computing/ ICT/Media (Once a week from a specialist teacher)
- Design Technology (Once a week from a specialist teacher)
- Art (Once a week from a specialist teacher)
- Physical Education (Three times a week from specialist teacher)
- Topic - incorporating Citizenship, Geography, History and Music (Once a week)
- Religious Education (Once a week)
- PSHE (Once a week)
- Life Skills (Twice per week)
- Food Technology (Twice a week)
- Forest School (Once a week by a specialist teacher)
- Well-

Pupil also have targeted EHCP interventions (HPAs) three times per week.

At KS4 pupils will work towards Pre-Entry level and Entry Level courses when appropriate to their ability. The focus will be on helping them to prepare for increased independence where their learning has meaning that leads to greater independence in the future.

Learners in this pathway will develop skills and knowledge over time, therefore there is significant need for repetition. Work will often be revisited on a cycle basis with more challenging outcomes.

Repeating skills will allow our pupils to the knowledge and skills over time and develop transferable skills to apply in different contexts in order to gain better understanding.

Pupils will be working in small groups with sufficient staffing to support and facilitate their learning. Whilst English, Mathematics and Science will be taught as discrete subjects the other four curriculum areas will be; Me and the world around us, My Independence, Myself, Places and People, My Creative Development. We currently do not have KS4 within this cohort, therefore this area of the curriculum will be being developed over this academic year by the Developer Phase Lead and the Deputy Headteacher.

In addition to both of our pathways will experience learning opportunities through links we have developed with a variety of outside agencies, such as:

- West Bromwich Albion Foundation
- Other local special schools to offer opportunities for school visits, sports competitions.

## **5. Cultural Capital, British Values and Other aspects of the curriculum**

We aim to provide an enriched educational programme for all our pupils at High Point Academy. A broad range of activities are offered to all of our pupils to ensure they have the best possible learning experiences:

- A careers guidance programme is offered from Years 7-11.
- Work experience provided to year 10 pupils (where appropriate).
- Citizenship programme delivered to connector pupils.
- Pastoral support and Behaviour support available to all pupils whenever they require additional intervention (Lego Therapy, Drawing and Talking, Social Skills, Reflection time).
- Twice daily form times to support pastorally.
- Daily Reading Targeted intervention.
- Speech and Language and Occupational Therapy (Therapists on site once per week).
- Occupational Therapy room (To provide targeted interventions specified on EHCP)
- Twice weekly assemblies to support with key topics taking place within the month and celebration of success and attendance.
- Throughout the Key Stages progress and attainment is measured using the TRACK assessment system. Our pupils are often disapplied from National tests and assessments (as they do not work at that level).
- Our cultural capital aspects of the curriculum compliment the essential knowledge that pupils need to be educated citizens.
- WOW Days which focus on British Values and SMSC.
- RSE is taught through PSHE and Science. Pupils have opportunities to work closely with staff to develop social skills and targeted interventions support relationships within the school and wider community.

## **6. Inclusion**

Teachers set high expectations for all pupils. They will use appropriate assessment to set ambitious targets and plan challenging work for all groups.

Teachers will plan lessons so that all pupils at High Point Academy can access and learn every National Curriculum subject, wherever possible, and ensure that there are no barriers to any pupil achieving.

## **7. Monitoring arrangements**

The Local Academy Council monitor whether the school is complying with its funding agreement and teaching a “broad and balanced curriculum” which includes the required subjects, through:

- School Visits
- School Reports
- Local Academy Council Meetings

The Deputy Headteacher with responsibility for quality of education regularly monitors curriculum overviews, medium and short-term planning to ensure that the curriculum is appropriate, rigorous, inclusive and engaging for all.

Senior leaders monitor the way subjects are taught throughout the school by:

- Learning Walks
- Lesson Observations
- Book Trawls
- Pupil Progress Meetings
- Analysis of Assessment Data

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Headteacher. At every review, the policy will be shared with the Local Academy Council.

## **8. Links with other policies**

This policy links to the following policies and procedures:

- Teaching and Learning Policy
- Assessment policy
- Non-examination assessment policy
- SEN policy and information report
- Equality information and objectives
- RSE Policy
- All Subject Policies
- Careers Policy

## **9. Glossary**

- LAC- Local Academy Council
- SEN- Special Educational Needs.
- RSE- Relationship Sex Education
- EHCP- Education, Health and Care Plan
- ASC- Autistic Spectrum Condition