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1. Aim of the policy

This document aims to outline the Greater Horseshoe School's Policy for the Curriculum.

2. Policy

2.1. Curriculum Statement the Greater Horseshoe School

The Greater Horseshoe School is registered by the DfE to provide education for students between the ages of 8-18. Our curriculum covers Key Stages 2, 3, 4 and 5.

At the Greater Horseshoe School, we recognise that every individual is unique. We aim to provide a bespoke education programme for our student's which encourages and supports their participation in learning and which builds confidence and self-esteem. Our curriculum enables our students to value and enjoy education, whilst striving to maximise their potential. The enhanced curriculum at the Greater Horseshoe School is principally designed to re-engage our students with learning thus starting to provide them with opportunities to prepare for successful adult life. Typically, our students have had their learning significantly disrupted and they often struggle to remain focused on learning within the confines of a school environment. Early year traumas may create barriers to success in education and we aim to provide a curriculum that supports students to make real progress in developing the core skills of Literacy, Numeracy and IT. In addition, we provide relevant information to foster safer choices and start to develop the vocational skills that will enable our students to live independently and succeed in the world of work.

Particular emphasis is placed on the National Curriculum, communication and self-directed behaviour strategies for a lifelong learning programme. Wherever possible we aim to provide

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access and inclusion opportunities to mainstream education and other community based leisure and social activities geared towards the promotion of independent living.

The curriculum is planned to promote individual and group learning opportunities via a full range of experiences and activities that are appropriate to each student's age, entitlement, needs, abilities and choice. The highly experienced, committed and specialist staff team at the Greater Horseshoe School will initially work with each student to identify individual interests and strengths, as well as the particular challenges to be overcome in order to access learning; therefore, our approach is patient, flexible and based on unique individual needs, which are formulated into an Individual Learning Plan. We provide a safe, secure and stimulating learning environment wherein our staff actively seek opportunities to engage and work with students whenever their emotional state enables progress in learning to be achieved. Beyond this, staff will aim to promote independent learning, with the belief that every student has the right and ability to achieve and develop a love for learning. We uphold a culture of high expectation, which supports every member of the school community to grow, develop and maximise their achievement. We aim to establish and maintain positive, dynamic and purposeful working relationships across the school.

Some students enter the Greater Horseshoe School with EHCP providing the basis for their Individual Support Plan. This is a tool by which the school establishes what and how targets are to be achieved. In addition to educational targets other development parameters are set, monitored and reviewed regularly. Our personalised learning programmes provide students with a relevant learning journey which progresses towards clearly defined aims and outcomes. This is a nationally recognised framework for learning programmes aimed at students who are working predominately at Entry Level or Level 1. Thus, we work alongside our learners to identify personal progression pathways and create a programme that consists of initial engagement and 'Readiness to Learn' activities, Vocational learning, Personal and Social Development and Functional Skills (English, Maths and ICT). Throughout these programmes, students receive ongoing support, advice and guidance. In line with national expectations, our learning programmes work to enable students to progress towards relevant and realistic outcomes;

1. Further Education – GCSEs, A Levels, or college courses
2. Employment with training
3. Apprenticeship or Employment
4. Independent Living

Following our initial assessment process which uses the B Squared assessment programme to record prior learning and identification of intended outcomes and progression pathways, our students will work towards a suite of accreditation based on prior achievement and ability to learn. The 'building blocks' in our range of accreditation are the AQA Unit Award Scheme (UAS). These provide certification for student achievement in a vast array of learning opportunities across a broad range of curriculum areas; both practical and academic. Since students can join the school at any point in the academic year, the UAS enables accreditation to be gained for short pieces of learning and achievement.

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Our students will then follow an Entry Level and/or Level 1 programme comprising of English, Maths, ICT, PSD, Employability, Creative Arts, Vocational Studies, Home Cooking Skills and Learning outside the Classroom dependent on individual interests and choice. On successful completion of these programmes, students may progress onto Level 2 accreditation, depending on their particular interests and abilities. Further to this, students will be provided with the opportunity to gain GCSE awards in a range of curriculum areas, depending on individual needs and aptitudes. The Greater Horseshoe School has approval as an exams centre from; AQA, Pearson/Edexcel and ASDAN.

As well as providing a safe and secure base at our school in Heathfield, students can access a broad range of learning opportunities at our nearby Care Farm (Chiple Mill). This has enabled the school to extend its' curriculum provision into the fields of Animal Care, Horticulture and Land-Based Studies, together with an appreciation of our natural environment and sustainability. Chiple Mill Farm also provides enormous therapeutic benefits for many of our students and in future, we hope to develop this facility further in order to enrich our curriculum offer in the areas of; construction, enterprise and retail.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, the Greater Horseshoe School strives to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, social, emotional and physical development of all students in school and society. Through themed weeks a selected theme is threaded throughout the curriculum to promote and develop this entitlement. Developing student's spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness is at the heart of our curriculum and learning outside the classroom is a key area in our work to encourage personal development. Teacher's planning will seek opportunities for students to work together and learn in the surrounding community. Consequently, we accompany students on a wide range of out of school activities including; trampolining, rock climbing, go-karting, dog-walking, bowling, sea-life centre visit, zoo visit, caving, cinema, horse-riding, ice-skating, pottery and visits to local places of interest. We are constantly working to develop a network of suitable employers to increase our provision of work experience placements. Most recently, our students have benefitted from work placements in; Office Administration, Painting and Decorating, Animal Care and in Retail at the British Heart Foundation charity shops.

The 'enhanced' curriculum offered at the Greater Horseshoe School enables access to a range of therapeutic professions and services through which our students can begin to identify and understand their particular barriers to education, work to increase self-esteem and confidence and reduce any anxieties which may have a damaging effect on progress and future life chances. The school liaises closely with the Residential homes in which our students live on a daily basis and elements of our 'Readiness to Learn' strategy are developed between the homes and school, resulting in a 24/7 curriculum which aims to address individual needs and prepare students for positive learning experiences.

Our overarching aim at the Greater Horseshoe School is to provide the highest quality education where inclusion, enrichment and progression enables personal achievement for all students in preparation for the responsibilities, experiences and opportunities of adult life (with appropriate levels of support). We actively support British values such as; democracy, law and order, individual liberty and freedom of speech, together with mutual tolerance and respect for race, culture, gender and religious belief through our curriculum and its' delivery.

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All teachers are responsible to teach and role model these British values, as we aim to promote cohesion and prepare our students for life as good citizens in a modern, multi-cultural United Kingdom.

We wholeheartedly believe that our curriculum actively promotes personalised learning and holistically prepares students to experience success and achievement every day, whilst developing the life skills required for a safe, healthy and aspirational independent future.

2.2. National Curriculum Strategy

Subjects are accessible to all students, at appropriate levels according to their age and ability. The main focus of the teaching is on developing functional skills and applying them to real situations throughout each students programme. They can be accredited via **AQA Unit Awards** and build towards **AQA Entry Level Certificates, AQA Functional Skills Level 1 and Level 2** and **GCSE** exam entry where appropriate.

These subjects are:

- English
- IT/Computing
- Maths
- Science

2.3. National Curriculum Foundation Subjects

Subjects are included in programmes of study and are accessible according to ability, need and age. These include:

- Physical Education
- Geography
- History
- Art
- Music and Drama
- Languages
- Computing
- Food Technology
- PHSE and Citizenship
- Religious Studies
- Photography

Supplementary subjects and therapeutic experiences are available for students to access based on their ability, need, age and preference. These include:

- BTEC Vocational Studies
- BTEC Home Cooking Skills
- ASDAN Award in Personal social Development
- ASDAN Award in Employability
- Horticulture/Land-based Studies
- Forest School
- Outdoor Education
- Animal Care
- Construction
- Drama Group (Inclusion project)

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- Music enrichment and lessons/Trinity Arts Award
- Work Experience at post 16
- Supportive college placement
- Counselling

2.4. Independent Living Skills activities are included in programmes of study. These activities are wide ranging and structured to allow for incremental steps in achievement. Activities are grouped into main areas and can be individually accredited through the **AQA Unit Award Scheme and Entry Level and Level 1 PSHE**. These topics are covered in Personal Health and Social Education lessons and further developed in all curriculum areas whenever there is the opportunity to do so. Issues are also addressed in tutorials with individual students.

2.5. Personal Projects offer a way of combining classroom based learning objectives in functional contexts. They are planned with students from 14+ years and include elements of Transition Action Plans, LA advice, IEP targets, hobbies, interests, work experience, spiritual and cultural events and community access.

3. Equality Impact Statement

All relevant persons are required to comply with this policy and must demonstrate sensitivity and competence in relation to diversity in race, faith, age, gender, disability and sexual orientation. If you, or any other groups, believe you are disadvantaged by this policy please contact the Group Director for Education and Learning. Enhanced Children's Services will then actively respond to the enquiry.

This policy is written by Lukasz Miecznikowski

Date: 1st of May 2020

Signed 

This policy is quality assured by Jason Goddard, Group Director for Education and Learning.

Signed: 

Date: 1st of June 2020

The policy is quality assured by Governor: