



Curriculum Policy

Amended 08.01.2024

Reviewed by	Date	Signature

Curriculum Statement

At Alpha Learning we aim to provide an engaging curriculum which will inspire a passion for learning whilst, at the same time nurturing the social and emotional needs of our students.

Our Curriculum is well planned for each Key Stage and ensures that children of all abilities, including those with special education needs and/or disabilities are able to acquire knowledge and understanding, develop and practise new skills and make progress in a range of areas of learning.

We set the highest standards of expectation for our students, whilst being aware that many have faced challenges to their learning and some come to us with a plethora of Special Educational Needs (SEN). We passionately believe that a Special Educational Need does not have to be a barrier to accessing the best quality learning. All students access a personalised learning experience that enables them to enjoy and thrive in equal measure. Where a child has an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) we will ensure that the requirements stated in the plan are met.

The curriculum at Alpha Learning,

- Inspires all involved.
- Challenges all pupils.
- Develops a love of learning.
- Supports the development of individuals with the skills needed for life.
- Is meaningful and purposeful.
- Is rich in opportunity.
- Develops independence, questioning and thinking skills.

Our Curriculum

Maths

At Alpha Learning, a full Mathematics Curriculum is offered which incorporates GCSE and Functional Skills qualifications (Entry 1 – Level 2).

The curriculum is offered across KS3 and KS4. Each student will complete assessments at the start of their placement which provides a baseline from which we are able to track progress on a termly basis.

Topics covered include:

- Number
- Algebra
- Multiplicative reasoning
- Geometry & Measure
- Probability & Statistics.
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English

At Alpha Learning, a full English Curriculum is offered which incorporates GCSE and Functional Skills qualifications (Entry 1 – Level 2).

The Curriculum offered at Alpha Learning aims to inspire and motivate students through relevant and engaging lessons. They have an opportunity to read a wide range of texts, discover an understanding in relation to the correct use of grammar and improve their spelling and punctuation. Students have an opportunity to study creative writing and explore how to use descriptive techniques to enhance their work.

Each student will complete assessments at the start of their placement which provides a baseline from which we are able to track progress on a termly basis

English Literature

English Literature is offered as an option at KS3 and KS4, with a GCSE qualification at the end of Year 11.

Students will study a mixture of the following texts :

- A work of William Shakespeare (Macbeth, Romeo & Juliet)
- A 19th Century Novel (Frankenstein, Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde, A Christmas Carol)
- Modern Texts (Our Day Out, The Woman in Black, Lord of the Flies)
- Poetry (Power & Conflict and Unseen Poetry)

Science

Alpha Learning offers BTEC Level 1 Introductory Award/Certificate in Applied Science across KS3 and KS4 which is designed to help to build confidence and engagement in Science

This qualification has been designed explicitly to meet the needs of our learners in terms of content, assessment and progression. The qualifications have been created by Pearson in line with the ethos and recommendations of study programmes for pre-16 to 19+ year olds and recommendations from centres. The qualifications are designed to meet Ofqual requirements. All qualifications across the suite share common core units as these units contain the generic attributes learners need to be able to progress to further study. These new graded qualifications provide a broad introduction to a sector and give learners the opportunity to demonstrate increased skill levels. Learners will develop the necessary transferable and sector skills to progress more quickly. The qualifications prepare learners for progression to Level 2 BTECs or other study programmes. They provide for progression by either meeting entry requirements in their own right or by being accepted alongside other qualifications at the same level and adding value to them, typically alongside maths and English studies.

Progress is monitored on a termly basis.

The Btec Level 1 introductory Award in Applied Science is designed for learners wishing to gain an introduction to a chosen vocation area. The Award offers the opportunity for learners to study a sector unit and plan for their next steps by completing the mandatory unit : Developing a Personal Progression Plan.

The Award also covers ASc12 – Investigating Crime Scene Evidence.

The Btec Level 1 Introductory Certificate in Applied Science is designed for learners who may be ready to progress quickly to further study, the Certificate offers a basic introduction to the applied science sector. The Certificate covers 2 core units –

A1 – Being organised

A2 – Developing a Personal Progression Plan

As well as 3 sector units :

ASc12 – Investigating Crime Scene Evidence

ASc6 – Carrying out a scientific Experiment.

And one of the following

ASc13 – Exploring Biology

ASc14 – Exploring Chemistry

ASc15 – Exploring Physics.

BTEC Sport

Alongside the extensive practical work which is offered within the gym, and other off-site sporting activities, students at Alpha Learning are given the opportunity to study the BTEC Introductory Level and Level 1 & 2 in Sport. (Level 1 & 2 Optional)

Theory lessons are delivered for the course, alongside numerous practical activities.

Units studied may include the following dependant upon the course taken :

- Personal Progression Plan
- Playing Sport
- Fitness for sport
- Practical Performance in Sport
- Applying the Principles of Personal Training
- The Mind and Sports Performance
- The Sports Performer in Action
- Leading Sports Activities.

Btec Level 1 Introductory Level in Sport

Skills-based qualification designed to help learners develop the personal and social skills needed to help them to progress to independent living, future employment or further vocational study. All units are 100% internally assessed

Designed for learners wishing to gain an introduction to a chosen vocation area. The Award offers the opportunity for learners to study a sector unit and plan for their next steps by completing the mandatory unit: Developing a Personal Progression Plan.

Pupil Progress is monitored on a termly basis.

ICT - one of 2 qualifications will be covered. Either Pearson Entry Level 3 in ICT or the new Digital Skills Qualification – Entry 3 – Level 1.

Pearson Entry Level 3

In order to pass this qualification, the evidence that the learner presents for assessment needs to demonstrate that they can meet all the skill standards for the qualification. The coverage and range determine the standard required to achieve the qualification.

At each level, this has been sub-divided into:

- using ICT
- finding and selecting information
- developing, presenting and communicating information.

On completion of this qualification a learner should cover the following skills :

Using ICT

- 1 interact with and use ICT systems to meet given needs
 - 1.1 use correct procedures to start and shutdown and ICT system
 - 1.2 use input and output devices
 - 1.3 use software applications to meet needs and solve given problems
 - 1.4 recognise and use interface
 - 1.5 change simple software settings

Features

- 2 store information
 - 2.1 open and save files
 - 2.2 know how to insert and remove media
- 3 follow safety and security practices
 - 3.1 use and change passwords
 - 3.2 minimise physical stress

Finding and selecting information

- 4 use simple searches to find information
 - 4.1 search stored information
 - 4.2 search web-based sources of information
- 5 select relevant information that matches requirements of given task

Digital Skills Qualification ICT Entry Level– Level 1

The Digital Skills Qualification is designed to meet digital knowledge gaps and provide vital skills, such as:

- Using devices and handling information
- Creating and editing
- Communicating
- Transacting
- Being safe and responsible online.

This qualification is available at Entry Level 3 and Level 1.

Humanities

The programme of study sets out learning opportunities for young people to engage in History, Geography and Religious Studies

AQA Unit Awards in Religious Studies, Geography and History and their relevant schemes of work will be implemented in order for most young people to have the opportunity for Certification within the relevant programmes of study. Pupil progress is tracked on a termly basis.

Each topic is designed in such a way that they can be adapted to suit the needs of the young people and ensures opportunities to develop knowledge, skills and attributes through their programme that are relevant and appropriate to the ethos of our school and the needs of our young people.

All AQA Unit Awards focus on completing challenges and skills development according to individual ability, rather than attainment at a specific level.

BTEC First Award Health & Social Care Level 1 / 2 (Optional)

Adds breadth to learners' knowledge and understanding of the Health and Social Care sector as part of their career progression and development plan

Areas of study :

- Human Lifespan Development (External Examination)
- Health and Social Care Values
- Effective Communication in Health and Social Care
- Healthy Living
- Promoting Health and Wellbeing

PSHEE

Working within the guidelines of the PHSEE Association Programme Builders 'Thematic Model' our programme of study sets out learning opportunities for each key stage, in three core themes : Health and Wellbeing, Relationships and Living in the Wider World.

Each topic is designed in such a way that they can be adapted to suit the needs of the young people and ensures opportunities to develop knowledge, skills and attributes through their programme that are relevant and appropriate to the ethos of our school and the needs of our young people.

- Drug Education
- Financial Education
- Sex and Relationships Education (SRE)
- Healthy Lifestyles.

Students will be encouraged to share knowledge and opinions and listen to and accept the opinions/beliefs of others.

Implementation of Curriculum Policy

Planning

Planning is vital to the educational process. Looking at the curriculum lessons are planned to take account of each subject area and the skills and knowledge that we hope our children will acquire. This planning takes account of the range of the aptitudes, needs, skills and prior knowledge within the class. Our staff use prior knowledge of the subjects to ensure that the lesson is taught in an appropriate room with the appropriate materials available.

We do this by establishing,

- Long Term plans for each Key Stage, indicating what topics are taught in each term and to which group of children. This takes account of the mixed age teaching groups within the school.
- Medium Term Plans which clear guidance on the objectives that are set for each topic.
- Short Term plans when required are prepared to set out the objectives for a session and to identify differentiation, resources and activities for that lesson.

A detailed guide on Learning, Teaching and Assessment can be found in the *Learning, Teaching, Assessment and Marking Policy Handbook*.