



**MAPLE  
GROVE**

# **CURRICULUM POLICY**

To be read in conjunction with:

- Accessibility Plan
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- E-Safety Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Inclusion
- SMSC and British Values
- Assessment
- Teaching and Learning

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## Legislation

This policy is designed to ensure that the school complies with, and exceeds, the expectations of all relevant legislation. We commit to meeting and surpassing the principles set out in The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2014 and Equality Act 2010 with regards to:

### Curriculum:

- (a) *full-time supervised education for pupils of compulsory school age (construed in accordance with section 8 of the Education Act 1996(1)), which gives pupils experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative education;*
- (b) *that pupils acquire speaking, listening, literacy and numeracy skills to the standard expected of pupils nationally;*
- (c) *where the principal language of instruction is a language other than English, lessons in written and spoken English so that pupils achieve the fluency of pupils nationally in speaking, reading and writing English;*
- (d) *where a student has a statement of special educational needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan, education which fulfils its requirements;*
- (e) *personal, social, health and economic education which –*
  - i) *reflects the school's aim and ethos*
  - ii) *encourages respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010;*
- (f) *for pupils receiving secondary education, access to accurate, up-to-date careers guidance that:*
  - *is presented in an impartial manner;*
  - *enables them to make informed choices about a broad range of career options;*
  - *helps to encourage them to fulfil their potential;*
- (g) *where the school has pupils below compulsory school age, a programme of activities which is appropriate to their educational needs in relation to personal, social, emotional and physical development and communication and language skills;*
- (h) *where the school has pupils above compulsory school age, a programme of activities which is appropriate to their needs;*
- (i) *that all pupils learn and make progress at the rate expected of pupils nationally;*
- (j) *effective preparation of pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in British society*

### Teaching:

- (a) *enables pupils to acquire new knowledge and make good progress according to their ability so that they increase their understanding and develop their skills in the subjects taught;*
- (b) *fosters in pupils self-motivation, the application of intellectual, physical and creative effort, interest in their work and the ability to think and learn for themselves;*
- (c) *involves well planned lessons and effective teaching methods, activities and management of class time;*
- (d) *shows a good understanding of the aptitudes, needs and prior attainments of the pupils, and ensures that these are taken into account in the planning of lessons;*
- (e) *demonstrates good knowledge and understanding of the subject matter being taught;*
- (f) *utilises effectively classroom resources of a good quality, quantity and range;*
- (g) *demonstrates that a framework is in place to assess pupils' work regularly and thoroughly and that pupils make good progress because teaching is planned using information from those assessments;*
- (h) *utilises effective strategies for managing behaviour and encouraging pupils to act responsibly;*

- (i) does not undermine the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs;*
- (j) does not discriminate against pupils contrary to Part 6 of the Equality Act 2010.*

*We also commit to meeting and exceeding the expectations set, with regards to the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development of our pupils. We will actively promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and will ensure that principles are promoted which:*

- (a) enable pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence;*
- (b) enable pupils to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England;*
- (c) encourage pupils to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative and understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality in which the school is situated and to society more widely;*
- (d) enable pupils to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England;*
- (e) lead to further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling pupils to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures*
- (f) encourage respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010;*
- (g) encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England.*

*We will preclude the promotion of partisan political views in the teaching of any subject in the school and take such steps as are reasonably practicable to ensure that where political issues are brought to the attention of pupils are offered a balanced presentation of opposing views —*

- while they are in attendance at the school;*
- while they are taking part in extra-curricular activities which are provided or organised by or on behalf of the school;*
- in the promotion at the school, including through the distribution of promotional material, of extra-curricular activities taking place at the school or elsewhere.*

## Section A – Intent

### A.1 Curriculum Rationale

Maple Grove School is a day school for boys and girls aged 5 to 16 with a diagnosis of autism, and who have a range of complex learning needs, communication difficulties and social, emotional and mental health difficulties. Pupils are placed from a wide range of local authorities and they all have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). All of our pupils have experienced significant barriers to learning, due to either their developmental profile, negative life experiences, or both. Before joining our school many have been unable to access a school-based curriculum effectively, and many have experienced multiple placement breakdowns. As a result, pupils start their time at Maple Grove with significant gaps in their learning, and all pupils are working below age-related expectations, many are working significantly below.

At Maple Grove the curriculum is every planned learning experience the pupils have as a member of the school, both learnt formally within a lesson or informally outside the classroom throughout the whole school day. It is all the planned activities that we organise in order to promote learning, personal growth, and development. Teachers, support staff, therapists and instructors structure these experiences to ensure that they have the most positive effect on the attainment, progress and personal development of all pupils. Our curriculum also incorporates the opportunistic learning experiences that occur throughout the day, and which staff pro-actively seek out and capitalise on in line with the autism-specific elements of our curriculum framework.

### A.2 Curriculum Aims

Although we admit learners from as young as five years old, from day one our focus is on preparing them to leave us at age 16. Regardless of the age at which our pupils join us, our priority from the outset is to ensure they are ready for the next stage of their journey, be that full-time education, a traineeship, or an apprenticeship. Our curriculum, therefore, is designed to prepare our pupils for life in modern Britain, and to address any barriers to learning they experience as a result of their autism, additional diagnoses, or past experiences. We understand that at Maple Grove the learning journey, personal circumstances and educational and personal outcomes for every pupil are entirely unique, and so our curriculum strives to provide pathways to vocational and academic qualifications that match the capacity and potential of each learner. Built on both the **Autism Education Trust's Pupil Progression Framework**, and the **National Curriculum** programmes of study, our curriculum is broad and varied, and provides pupils with rich learning experiences that are both highly personalised, and aligned to the structures that lead to formal, external accreditation. We are committed to core British Values, including **democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect for, and tolerance of, those with different faiths and beliefs**, and through our PSHEE curriculum we actively promote our pupils' understanding of and respect for a diverse range of people, especially those who belong to groups susceptible to discrimination. As a school for children with autism, our aim is that pupils make the maximum progress possible in the areas of difficulty typically associated with that diagnosis, including their social communication, emotional regulation, and sensory processing. Our curriculum also aims to ensure pupils are able to both sustain and generalise the skills they acquire, over time, and across

different contexts and circumstances. Above all, our aim as a school is to ensure our pupils leave us with the highest possible levels of independence and autonomy, whether that be through the acquisition of practical and academic skills, regulation of their own sensory and emotional needs, or effective articulation of their own choices and pursuit of their own interests and life goals.

Given the diversity of needs and strengths across our pupil population, we aim to establish and sustain the very highest standards of teaching and learning in order that gaps and specific areas of challenge can be addressed and overcome. There are three key factors within our control that will enable us to do this. These are:

1. The **Environment**. The physical environment (and the resources within it) must be carefully designed and managed to actively contribute to pupils' learning. We aim to provide a therapeutic, supportive and nurturing environment for each individual.
2. Our **Expectations**. The level, type and volume of work in any activity or lesson must be specifically tuned to the needs and abilities of individual learners. Expectations placed on pupils must build on their previous experiences, and promote the highest possible level of progress.
3. Pupil **Experience**. Engagement is key to successful learning. In line with the research behind The Leuven Scales, SCERTS, PBS and Attention Autism, our curriculum, therefore, is predicated on the **wellbeing** and **involvement** of all pupils.

### A.3 Curriculum Design

Our pupils require us to have an agile and reflexive approach to curriculum design. The need for our curriculum to be flexible, adaptable and robust enough to meet the ever changing demands of the modern world, and best prepare our pupils for a life within it, is the cornerstone of this policy, and our curriculum will also be shaped by and adapted to the needs of our diverse and changing pupil population. We offer two interwoven curriculum pathways, and as a specialist setting, all our pupils benefit from accessing a blend of each. Our formal curriculum offer is comprised of the National Curriculum programmes of study, and extends as far as GCSE examinations. The autism-specific element is based on the Autism Education Trust's Pupil Progression Framework, and provides a broad range of functional skills areas. Underpinning all of this is our obligation to meet the specific individual needs outlined in each pupil's Education Health and Care Plan; these objectives are central to the evidence of learning we capture on a daily basis.

While not bound to as an independent provider, our school is committed to covering the 2014 National Curriculum and its programmes of study. This commitment must however be consistent with any statement of SEN or Education Health Care Plan for any young person, which may well prioritise particular subjects or key areas of learning.

#### **Our curriculum is designed on the following 10 principles:**

- a) Meeting individual needs is set in the context of a broad, balanced, relevant and differentiated curriculum that helps pupils understand the world in which they live.
- b) The most significant barriers to learning for some pupils stem from negative (or restricted) social and educational experiences in the past. Establishing and sustaining **engagement** in learning is key.

- c) The three priorities in our curriculum design are functional **literacy**, functional **numeracy**, and **personal development** (incorporating our ASC curriculum).
- d) The **wellbeing** of all learners is fundamental to their success in school and beyond.
- e) **Outstanding progress** is possible for every pupil at Maple Grove, but will look different for every pupil. The curriculum should be sufficiently flexible to enable pupils to achieve and exceed the expectations outlined in their personalised targets and Education, Health and Care Plans.
- f) External examinations and accreditation may be appropriate for some pupils, and our curriculum should provide pathways to **academic success** where that is the case.
- g) Development of **communication**, **sensory processing** and **emotional regulation** skills are fundamental to the progress our pupils make.
- h) The path towards maximum **independence** and autonomy when leaving us at 16 starts on a pupil's first day at Maple Grove.
- i) All pupils are entitled to a curriculum that supports the development of their personal moral values, respect for religious values, and tolerance of other people's backgrounds, beliefs and ways of life
- j) Our pupils may need to be grouped with reference to their **needs** and cognitive ability, rather than strictly on their chronological age

## Section B – Implementation

### B.1 Curriculum Structure

#### ASC-Specific Curriculum

Maple Grove School offers a specially adapted curriculum for pupils with Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC). Based on collaboration between the Autism Centre for Education and Research (ACER) at Birmingham University and the Autism Education Trust (AET) our ASC curriculum is designed to capture individual pupils' learning needs as well as addressing the specific social, emotional, sensory and communication needs associated with autism; it fosters their independence and well-being and creates an inclusive learning environment.

Commissioned by the Department for Education, and based on research and consultation with a wide range of practitioners, academics, parents, and people on the autism spectrum (AET, 2021), the AET Autism Progression Framework 2.0 provides the structure for Maple Grove's specialist curriculum.

Our ASC curriculum is built on the following areas:

<p>Communication and interaction</p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Engaging in interaction</li> <li>2. Making requests</li> <li>3. Communicating information /commenting on events</li> <li>4. Listening and understanding</li> <li>5. Greetings</li> <li>6. Conversations</li> <li>7. Non-verbal communication</li> </ol>
<p>Social understanding and relationships</p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Being with others</li> <li>2. Interactive play</li> <li>3. Positive relationships (supporting adults)</li> <li>4. Positive relationships and friendships (peers)</li> <li>5. Group activities</li> </ol>
<p>Sensory processing</p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Understanding and expressing own sensory needs</li> <li>2. Responding to sensory interventions</li> <li>3. Increasing tolerance of sensory input</li> <li>4. Managing own sensory needs</li> </ol>
<p>Interests, routines and processing</p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Coping with change</li> <li>2. Transitions</li> <li>3. Special interests</li> <li>4. Problem solving and thinking skills</li> </ol>
<p>Emotional understanding and self-awareness</p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Understanding and expressing own emotions</li> <li>2. Managing emotions and behaviour</li> <li>3. Understanding others' emotions/ intentions</li> <li>4. Self-awareness</li> <li>5. Developing confidence and self-esteem</li> </ol>
<p>Learning and engagement</p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Learning through play</li> <li>2. Motivation and engagement</li> <li>3. Organisation and independent learning</li> <li>4. Understanding and following rules, routines and expectations</li> <li>5. Evaluating own learning</li> </ol>
<p>Healthy living</p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Keeping Healthy</li> <li>2. Personal Care</li> <li>3. Relationships and Sex Education</li> </ol>
<p>Independence and community participation</p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Independent Living</li> <li>2. Personal Safety</li> <li>3. Road Safety and Travel</li> <li>4. Leisure</li> </ol>



**Personal Development** at Maple Grove School covers a significant proportion of our curriculum, including the AET Progression Framework, PSHEE, SMSC and British Values, Citizenship and development of Cultural Capital. Personal development therefore is identified as key in all areas of the school, and addressed by joint working between education and therapy colleagues. In all that the school offers the key is to provide for the support and challenge that meet individual interests and aspirations. In terms of delivery, the key features of personal and social development are covered in the Key Stage 1 and 2 curriculum through elements of the Jigsaw programme and through the Speech and Language Therapy lessons. The school strives to ensure that young people leave equipped with the knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes to cope with life in the wider world; in particular, to establish positive relationships and to be able to live safe and healthy lifestyles.

In addition, the National Curriculum is organised for pupils in the following ways:

National Curriculum – Key Stage 1 & 2	National Curriculum – Key Stage 3
English Maths Humanities (History, Geography, RE, MfL) STEM (Science, Computing, Design Technology) Creative Arts (Art and Design, Music) PE Plus (PE, Outdoor Learning)	English Maths Science Computing Humanities Art and Design Music Enterprise (including Design & Technology) PE Plus
Although Key Stage 1 and 2 classes are taught all areas of the curriculum in discrete lessons, half-termly topics provide opportunities to enrich learning and bring together experiences across different subjects.	In Key Stage 3 the curriculum is designed to give pupils access to age-relevant curriculum content (EG Shakespeare or 'Acids and Alkalis'), but delivered at a developmentally-appropriate level. Cross-curricular learning is promoted where possible, but there is not prescribed topic cycle.
National Curriculum – Key Stage 4	
Linguistic Mathematical Scientific Technological Human and Social Physical Aesthetic and Creative  In KS4, pupils have further opportunities to develop their own personal interests throughout the curriculum. Due to learning barriers linked to developmental delay and/or time out of school during their previous placements, most pupils have not acquired the academic standards expected of their chronological age when they start at Maple Grove School. Our emphasis, therefore is on rate of progress that is measured against the pupil's starting point, rather than age related expectations. We carefully assess our pupils' levels of tolerance so that we are sure that they can successfully meet appropriate challenges. We aim to balance this by also giving pupils opportunities to gain qualifications or accreditations that are not exam-based. It is of the utmost importance to us that our	

pupils do not have experiences of failure as these are usually what have led them to withdraw from learning and have contributed significantly to poor emotional wellbeing in their previous educational settings. Staff make use of the ASDAN awards programmes ([www.asdan.org.uk](http://www.asdan.org.uk)) with older pupils in as many areas as possible to assist them to gain certification. KS3 pupils start with the Bronze and Silver Personal Development programmes and progress to COPE Level two in KS4 (this programme will be replaced by Asdan's Personal and Social Programme in September 2021). This enables all pupils to gain accreditation which is nationally recognized and appropriate to their own individual needs and also helps to improve pupil self-esteem and confidence. Short courses are also available in independent living and employability as well as more personalised programmes such as animal care, environmental studies and hospitality. Work experience will be set up in areas that have been identified by pupils of interest to them and which can be facilitated through school in partnership with external providers in order to develop both academic and developmental objectives. Some of our pupils are academically able, but their difficulties managing their anxiety mean that the pressure of taking exams of any kind is counterproductive for them as it would be detrimental to their emotional wellbeing. The use of Functional Skills programmes in KS4 helps prepare pupils through practical skills in English, Maths and IT whilst providing individuals with essential knowledge, skills and understanding as well as practical experience that will enable them to operate confidently, effectively and independently in taking their next steps for life after school. With parental permission, pupils will be entered into Functional skills exams at levels determined by staff through their own assessments to ensure they leave school at the end of Year 11 with a qualification relevant to their ability, and which will enable them to engage in a post 16 course of their own choice. Wherever possible, initially pupils will take a test at a lower level than they are capable of, in order to compensate for anxieties (most will never have sat an external test before) and to develop confidence in the whole process in order that they gain the level that staff expect of them and is crucial in the next steps of their education choices. All KS4 pupils have Key skills, IT, PE and PSHE on their timetables, but all other sessions are personalised to take account of their needs in readiness for leaving Maple Grove School at the end of Year 11.

## **B.2 Curriculum Delivery**

### **Structure of the School Day**

The school opens to pupils at 8:45am, and pupils go home at 2:45pm (1:45pm on a Friday). The school day is carefully planned in each class, according to the needs of pupils. There are four main learning activities in each class, each day. These are augmented by several carefully planned and structured, shorter activities to support literacy, numeracy and personal development. Each class submits a timetable for approval to the headteacher, and makes this available to visitors in their Class File. All classes are expected to provide at least one outdoor learning session each week.

### **Schemes of Work and Lesson Planning**

Curriculum planning will reflect both the breadth of the National Curriculum, and our specialist autism-specific curriculum. Each subject leader is required to have long and medium term planning of work for all subjects, related, where appropriate, to the national curriculum and or Asdan / AQA requirements. This planning will be followed by all teaching staff and their delivery monitored by subject leaders. Planning sets out how the content of the course is structured, so that pupils' skills, knowledge and understanding are developed progressively, and how the teaching is organised. (See additional assessment policy). In order to best meet individual pupil and class needs, teachers have the autonomy to plan individual lessons, or sequences of lessons, in different ways. The headteacher ensures that planning is carried out to a high standard, in sufficient detail to ensure that pupils achieve high

standards and make optimal progress. Teachers are expected to evaluate their planning on a regular basis for all subjects, and on a weekly basis for English and Mathematics.

### **Homework**

Where it used correctly, homework can be a valuable aid to learning. Used in the wrong circumstances, it can be counter-productive to an individual's progress, and their attitude to school. At Maple Grove we take an entirely individualised approach, and will agree with parents and carers the volume and frequency of homework. We encourage all parents to provide opportunities for reading at home, following either the school scheme, or materials in the home. We also know that pupils on the autism spectrum often find it difficult to generalise learning, IE transfer newly acquired skills to different settings, and so we also ask parents to not just check their Evidence Me account for photographs and videos of the learning that has taken place, but to encourage their son/daughter to demonstrate the same skills and knowledge at home or in the community.

## **B.3 Overcoming Barriers to Learning**

### **Sensory Processing**

At Maple Grove School there is recognition of the sensory differences, difficulties and challenges many pupils with ASC face on a daily basis. There is an understanding of how this can affect learning and behaviour and the focus of the ASC Curriculum is to reasonably adjust all aspects of school life in order to meet the student's sensory needs. Pupils with ASC often find it difficult to process and organise the different sensory input they receive. This can make it difficult for them to perform the many complex tasks necessary for learning and functioning in real life situations. The ASC Curriculum at Maple Grove School places a great deal of emphasis on sensory processing, allowing the student to thrive in an environment that aids learning and supports the student to organise and process sensory input, and to use that input to respond. Each learner's sensory processing system may be hypo or hyper-sensitive to one or all sensory channels, and some experience extremes of both across their sensory profile.

### **The Learning Environment**

The school is aware that a calm, purposeful and structured learning environment is essential in promoting high standards and good working practices. Displays of pupils' work, stimulus materials and appropriate resources are very important in setting standards, raising expectations and also play a key role in effective behavior management. However, given the needs of or pupils, it is important that such displays are limited to the designated boards in each room, and never on the 'front' wall of the classroom. All class teachers and teaching assistants are expected to manage their display areas effectively and to contribute to displays in public areas of the school. The structure and organisation of the classroom is also an important factor in developing effective working methods and a positive ethos. Whilst this is left to individual teachers and their teams, it is expected that classrooms are orderly environments where pupils can work effectively, comfortably and most importantly of all – safely. It is crucial that adequate resources are provided and are accessible, and that pupils are encouraged to treat classrooms, workshops and any other learning environments with respect.

### **Applied Classroom Strategies**

The following strategies are suitable for all pupils, particularly those with sensory differences:

- The learning areas are adapted so there is less sensory stimulus so that pupils can work at times without distraction and they don't distract others.

- There are breakout spaces where pupils can go if they need a sensory break, or time and space to relax. These areas are separate from the classroom, and include outdoor spaces.
- As part of the curriculum each sensory difficulty is considered, to provide a carefully planned and reasonably adjusted learning environment.

### **Visual Processing**

- Clearly displayed timetables (visual and interactive), which are changed on a day to day basis.
- Keywords/Topic vocabulary clearly labelled areas and resources clearly labelled with expectations and objectives.
- If required, pastel paper and/or coloured overlays are available to reduce visual stress and help organise and track text.
- Fewer displays are used around the classroom to avoid visual over stimulation and so emphasis can be put onto the displays that are used.
- The main 'teaching wall' (typically where the screen and teacher desk are located) does not contain any displays or excess visual distraction.

### **Auditory processing**

- Language is reduced and simplified as far as possible, and idiomatic, sarcastic or metaphorical language is avoided where possible, unless the speaker is also giving an explanation of their choice of words (EG explaining humour to a pupil),
- Processing time is given to pupils when information is presented verbally,
- Ear defenders are available for pupils in classrooms and the hall,
- Sensory breaks are permitted, where it is clear noise is causing, or likely to cause, distress.

### **Proprioceptive/Vestibular Processing**

At Maple Grove School each lesson is reasonably adjusted, including splitting up lessons that otherwise involve a lot of sitting. Some pupils are allowed to (and encouraged to) stand and/or walk within a lesson, if it is felt that this promotes focus, calmness and engagement.

Whenever possible we split lessons to stimulate proprioceptive, vestibular responses and in any lesson we emphasise a period of focused learning, offering additional time in an alternative learning activity which can involve movement or other educational stimulation. Individual pupils may be supported by an adult to move in or out of the classroom, in agreement with the class teacher.

### **Whole Class Strategies**

Class teams ensure consistent routines, rules and boundaries are assessed and reassessed on a weekly basis. They meet regularly to assess whether interventions are working (and tailor support if necessary) for each individual student and invite support from SLT or the multi-disciplinary team as appropriate. Class teams are supported in this process by half-termly Class Conferences with the school's Wellbeing Team

### **Specialist Staff**

Teaching and support staff at Maple Grove School are trained in both delivery of the individualised Curriculum, and in understanding the specific emotional and social needs of the pupils in a therapeutic nurturing environment. Staff work closely in collaboration with multi-disciplinary teams including specialist health practitioners, in particular speech and language therapists, occupational movement therapists and mental-health professionals, to provide a unique package of support which offers the best possible outcomes for pupils with autism both educationally and therapeutically. Maple Grove School has high ambitions and aspirations for pupils with autism to reach their full potential and to be

included in school and society. The school recognises the importance of working in a multi-disciplinary way to promote pupils' independence both at school and into adult life.

### **Gifted Pupils**

A small number of pupils may display special talents, skills, expertise and understanding in particular areas. These include both high levels of ability in subject disciplines and in activities beyond the curriculum - sporting prowess or musical ability, for example. It is the responsibility of all staff to identify such pupils, to encourage their interests and to make appropriate provision for them. Such provision includes planning classroom-based work which genuinely stretches such pupils, and additional challenges and experiences offered through clubs, interest and support groups, and opportunities to participate in external groups, societies, teams and organisations and external visits. Opportunities to celebrate such success include commendations in school assembly, letters of acknowledgement sent to parents and carers and records held in student's records of achievement.

### **Educational Visits**

Planned, structured experiences for learners outside of the classroom and school environment add to each individual's overall learning experience. Intrinsic to these opportunities will be a thoughtful focus on personal development, and Educational Visits are considered to be a very important area of the whole school curriculum. Teachers are encouraged to make use of community facilities in Hoole, Chester, and further afield. Access to a range of environments not only supports and enriches National Curriculum-related learning, but promotes the development of cultural capital, and meets many of the requirements of the 'Independence and Community Participation' strand of our ASC curriculum.

### **Outdoor Learning**

Research indicates that curriculum-based outdoor learning benefits pupils in multiple ways, including increased engagement, improvements in behaviour and opportunities to be physically active (with all of the associated benefits). The outdoors can provide space and freedom for a type of learning that is difficult to replicate indoors, and that meets some of the sensory needs of our learners in ways that cannot be achieved in a classroom. All pupils have the right to experience the unique and special nature of being outdoors, and at Maple Grove School we feel it is important to enable children to use the outside environment as a context for learning. To this end an outdoor learning (Forest Schools) scheme of work has been developed, and Horticulture is offered at Key Stage 4. Further opportunities for learning outdoors are presented at KS4 through the Duke of Edinburgh programme and options including Outdoor Education and Cycling.

## **B.4 Roles and Responsibilities**

### **The Headteacher will ensure that:**

- They have an oversight of curriculum structure and delivery within the school.
- Detailed and up-to-date schemes of learning are in place for the delivery of courses.
- Schemes of learning are monitored and reviewed on a regular basis.
- Levels of attainment and rates of progression are discussed with teachers on a regular basis and that actions are taken where necessary to improve these.
- Overall trends in progress and attainment inform strategic school development planning.

### **Subject Coordinators will ensure that:**

- Long term planning is in place for all subjects. Schemes of learning are designed using the school pro-forma and will contain curriculum detail on context, expectations, key skills, learning objectives, learning outcomes, learning activities, differentiation and resources.
- Schemes of learning encourage progression at least in line with national standards.
- There is consistency in terms of curriculum delivery. Schemes of learning are in place and used by all staff delivering a particular course.
- Appropriate awarding bodies and courses are selected so that they best meet the learning needs of our pupils.
- Where necessary an appropriate combination of qualifications or alternative qualifications is offered which best suit the needs of learners.
- Assessment is appropriate to the course and the pupils following particular courses. There should be consistency of approach towards assessment.
- Pupil performance data is reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that any necessary changes in terms of curriculum delivery are planned and carried out in a timely fashion.
- They share best practice with other colleagues in terms of curriculum design and delivery.
- They oversee CPD needs with regard to curriculum planning and delivery within their area of responsibility.

**Teaching staff and learning support staff will:**

- Ensure that the school curriculum is implemented in accordance with this policy.
- Keep up to date with developments in their subjects.
- Have access to, and be able to interpret, data on each pupil to inform the design of the curriculum in order that it best meets the needs of each cohort of pupils.
- Share and exchange information about best practice amongst their colleagues in different schools and through external networks, resulting in a dynamic and relevant curriculum.
- Participate in high quality professional development, working with other teachers to develop their skills in understanding the learning needs of their pupils and how best to address those needs and engage them.
- Work in partnership with other agencies to provide an appropriate range of curriculum opportunities.
- Actively support pupils in their progress through the new curriculum.

**Pupils will:**

- Be treated as partners in their learning, contributing to the design of the curriculum.
- Have their individual needs addressed, both within the school and extending beyond the classroom into the family and community through a curriculum which offers breadth, support and challenge.
- Be given additional support if they start to fall behind in their learning, helping them get back on track quickly.
- receive coordinated support to enable them to make the appropriate curriculum choices

**Parents and carers will:**

- Be consulted about their children's learning and in planning their future education.

- Be confident that their child is receiving a high quality education that is designed to meet their learning needs and which will equip them with the skills they need to thrive throughout their lives.
- Be informed about the curriculum on offer and understand the rationale behind it.
- Support learning at home where possible.

## Section C – Monitoring & Evaluation

### C.1 Subject Leadership

Subject leaders, supported by their team members, have school-wide responsibility for the coordination of their subject. They are required to submit to the headteacher a subject development action plan, including detailed plans for enrichment activities throughout the year. Subject leadership forms part of the appraisal and professional development programme for teachers.

Subject		Subject Lead	Team Members
English		Alix Laing	Megan Coffey James Christensen
Maths		Elle Hughes	Shelly Wilson Naomi Pendleton
Science		Jess Dean	Stacey Richards
Humanities	History	Elle Hughes	James Christensen
	Geography		
	MfL		
	RE		
STEM	Design Technology	Jess Dean	David Churchill Abigail Taylor
	Computing		
Creative Arts	Music	Alix Laing	Laura Wilson Claire Mercer
	Art & Design		
PE PLUS	PE	Ben Reading/Tom Bainbridge	Stacey Richards Abigail Taylor Shelly Wilson Julian Rees
	Forest Schools		
	Duke of Edinburgh		
Personal Development	PSHE	Elle Hughes / Nic Sawyer	Catherine Lenihan Nic Slawson
	SMSC		
	Personal Development		
	AET		

## **C.2 Quality Assurance**

The quality of education provided to pupils at Maple Grove is subject to regular and varied assurance activity. These include:

- Termly lesson observations
- Termly pupil progress meetings
- Half-termly supervisions for all teaching and teaching assistant staff
- Work scrutiny, including marking and assessment, and 'deep dive' activities.
- Moderation with subject leaders from other schools within OFG.
- Learning walks with visiting staff, including Clinical colleagues, Quality team members, and governors.

## **C.3 Reporting to Parents**

The primary means of reporting on progress to parents is via the Annual Review process, in which detailed feedback is given in relation to the short and long-term objectives identified in Section E of their son or daughter's Education, Health and Care Plan. However, parents are also kept informed of the breadth, depth and quality of the education to their son or daughter via:

- Termly Parents' Evenings
- Half-termly school newsletters
- Weekly Facebook updates
- Daily, child-specific Evidence Me records
- End of year report.