

CURRICULUM POLICY

Aim

The aim of My Choice School is:

- To develop the self esteem of all students and encourage sound choices in their behaviour.
- To develop a desire to achieve and learn new skills in all students.
- To engage students and parents / carers in our approach to education and build a successful partnership between home and school.
- To prepare students for adult life.
- To ensure that all Year 11 students achieve a place at post 16 provision or employment

Our curriculum intends to support the aims of the school and aims to:

- Provide a broad and balanced education that is coherently planned and sequenced to develop sufficient knowledge and skills for future learning and employment.
- Enable students to develop knowledge, understand concepts and acquire skills; being able to apply these in relevant situations
- Support students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- Support students' physical development and responsibility for their own health, encouraging and enabling them to be active
- Have a realistic and high ambition for students
- Enable students to develop the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life.

Roles and Responsibilities

The **Head of Education** will monitor the effectiveness of this policy and hold the Headteacher accountable for its implementation.

Curriculum reviews will take place termly through the course of Senior Management Meetings (Head of Education, Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher) and weekly Deputy Head / Headteacher Meetings, discussing curriculum content, changes and development.

The **Headteacher** will ensure that:

- Schemes of Work and Medium Term Planning is monitored and that teachers are supported to set targets, assess students and incorporate this into their planning.
- The school team work together to ensure that resources are available, appropriate and replaced and updated as necessary

- The school team have curriculum training and direction through inset days and team meetings
- The school team understands the emotional needs of our students and delivers the curriculum with a therapeutic approach

The **Headteacher** will monitor success through:

- Learning walks
- Lesson observations
- Work scrutinies
- IEP reviews
- Student Progress tracking

Indicators will be:

- Completion of targets on IEPs
- Student Progress tracking data
- Awarding of Certificates of Achievement from My Choice School
- Achievement of accreditation including completion of ASDAN short courses and Functional Skills
- Student feedback

The **Exam Officer** will communicate developments in Functional Skills English and maths, submission dates and curriculum requirements.

The **teachers** will ensure that:

- Planning, teaching and assessing follows the timetable, assessment schedules and Schemes of Work
- Learning objectives and activities are suitably differentiated to meet the needs of all students
- Students work is marked in line with the Marking Policy in order to plan next steps
- Students' work is displayed in the classroom and that students' voices are heard and included in the planning.
- Resources are available and include educational visits where appropriate

Organisation and Planning

Our curriculum approaches learning at the appropriate level of the students, taking into account the challenges posed by their gaps in learning, their behavioural and emotional barriers to learning, any prior misconceptions and providing opportunity for enrichment, enjoyment and personal development.

Our students join My Choice School at any time during the academic year and priority is given to providing a curriculum which meets their needs and engages them. Our students often join My Choice School with varying levels of knowledge, skills, understanding and motivation and are often functioning below year group expectations due to emotional difficulties, interruptions in previous educational experiences and trauma.

My Choice School uses AQA Functional Skills English and maths Entry level 1-3, TQUK Functional Skills English and maths Level 1 and Level 2, ASDAN Short Courses, Key Steps, Lift Off, and other learning opportunities.

Core subjects for all year groups

Functional Skills

- English
- Maths

Asdan Short Courses

- Science
- PSHE (including SRE)
- Careers and Work Experience
- Beliefs and Values
- Citizenship
- Roadwise

Additional subjects

Asdan Short Courses

- Sports and Fitness
- Creative and music
- History
- Geography
- Gardening
- Hair and Beauty
- Animal Care

Workshops may be delivered by external providers such as All Things Active (Velobuild Project), West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service (Fire Prevention and Safety) to enhance the curriculum and contribute to student development.

Personal Projects are incorporated in order to harness students' specific interests and to engage learning and **school projects** can be scheduled for creative subjects and SMSC.

A **Social Curriculum** is delivered through lunchtime activity clubs, such as:

- Dungeons and Dragons Club
- Craft Club
- Lego Club

- Warhammer Club
- Music Club

The intention of the activity clubs is to provide a platform of mutual interest for the students to develop their social interaction across all year groups. The activity clubs foster a sense of community and belonging, while also introducing teamwork and creativity.

Sex and Relationship Education

Sex and Relationship Education is delivered through Asdan PSHE Short Course and individual student needs are taken into consideration, particularly their age and development. Relationship education is also addressed through the assemblies and through Anti Bullying work at school; developing appropriate relationships with peers and adults is including in the majority of students' IEPs.

Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Development

My Choice School has a strong focus on SMSC and this is delivered through:

- PSHE curriculum
- Assembly themes
- Feel Good Fridays – focus on health and wellbeing, learning about different countries and cultures and broadening opinions
- Health and Wellbeing weeks – planned for each term, addressing specific emotional and mental health needs in the school community and providing resources and toolkits for self help
- Supporting student interaction and encouraging a sense of community within the school
- Student Voice and Student Council - encouraging participation in school community
- Celebrating festivals, embracing diversity and nature
- Encouraging an awareness of environmental issues and the responsibility of all to contribute to society and the world
- Educational visits to places of natural beauty, places of worship and historical monuments

Fundamental British Values

Fundamental British Values are included on every IEP and are incorporated into the thread of learning and the school community. The Asdan Short Course in Beliefs and Values also contributes to an understanding of British Values.

Students are encouraged to develop an understanding of the **Rule of Law** and **Democracy** through the Student Voice, feedback opportunities, assemblies and school rules. My Choice School uses a Restorative Justice approach to encouraging students to understand and manage rules.

Students are encouraged to understand **Individual Liberty** and **Mutual Respect and Tolerance** through being respectful to each other, being respected by others,

understanding rights and affording dignity to others, valuing consent, and making appropriate choices.

Timetabling

- English and Maths are timetabled for 4 lessons a week
- Science is timetabled for 1 lesson a week
- Literacy and numeracy are incorporated into all lessons in order to reinforce skills and to provide relevance; this includes phonics
- Creativity is encouraged throughout the school week through writing, arts, music and self expression. Music is available twice a week and delivered by a peripatetic music teacher.
- Sports and Fitness is timetabled weekly and increased according to individual student needs. Fitness is encouraged daily through walking and playing games at school in break times.
- PSHE is timetabled for 2 lessons a week and also delivered through the school assembly themes
- All other subjects are timetabled for 1 lesson per week (Careers and Work Experience, Beliefs and Values, Citizenship, Vocational short courses and Personal Projects) depending on need.
- ICT is encouraged and used throughout the school day to support subjects and as reward and incentives.

My Choice School provides a full time timetable however we will be flexible within the planning and ensure a varied day to support attendance and engagement. Some students may have a full timetable comprising an academic programme and a practical programme. Some students attend Alternative Provisions; these are used as additional external provisions to enhance their learning such as college (Yr10/ Yr11) or other contractors.

Part time or reduced timetable are for fixed periods and agreed with parents / carers and local authorities where applicable.

Educational visits are used as much as is practical to encourage learning and also to develop an ability to engage safely and meaningfully with their community.

Resources and teaching

Resources are used to stimulate and support the students as appropriate to their needs. Resources and media appropriate to KS3 and KS4 are used. When need arises resources appropriate to KS1 and KS2 are used if a student has significant learning needs. Kinaesthetic resources will be used for students in order to engage and support learning particularly for English, maths and science.

Online resources and games are also used to support students and some students may benefit from a playbased approach to learning. Students may complete projects of their own choice which may be linked to Asdan awards or may showcase their talents and interests.

Educational visits are planned for students which complement their learning, provide an opportunity to explore their community including public services, and provide opportunity to develop social skills and to provide cultural capital.

Key Stage 3

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will complete ASDAN courses as appropriate to their needs and interests plus (where appropriate):

- Asdan Key Steps
- Asdan Lift Off

Focus for **Key Stage 3** students will be on:

- Promoting active and meaningful participation in the school day
- Providing opportunity to achieve academically and socially in order to provide a positive experience of school
- The development of functional literacy and numeracy skills
- The development of self regulation abilities
- Providing support to make a transition to Key Stage 4 at My Choice School working towards accreditation in Yr10 and Yr11 and being able to attend college in Yr10.

Key Stage 4

Students in Years 10 and 11 will complete Functional Skills English and maths at Level 1 and Level 2 and ASDAN courses as appropriate to their needs plus:

- Careers and Work Experience

Online Learning is available using High Speed Training (or other online learning platforms) for:

- Health and Safety
- Food Hygiene
- First Aid

Dule of Edinburgh Award Scheme is also available for Yr10s and Yr11s in the Summer term.

Focus for **Key Stage 4** students will be on:

- Accessing college on Yr10 / Yr11 programmes, where provision is available, in order to broaden their educational experience, provide experience of an alternative learning environment, preparing for post Yr11 and providing access to a wider peer group
- Accessing Careers Information and Guidance from NCAS at school
- Developing independent learning skills and improving their ability to maintain an appropriate independent routine
- Developing an understanding of adult life including economic, emotional and social wellbeing.
- Plan for their future in education, training or employment

Educational visits for Key Stage 4 students may include the Fire and Rescue Service (including in school visits from the Arson Prevention Team), the Police (including the Brighton Police Museum), advisory services, Law Courts (if appropriate to the

students understanding and experience), Life Guards / Coastguards and Paramedics (if appropriate). This programme of visits is intended to promote SMSC development and foster an understanding of community and public service.

As students' progress through their programme at My Choice School they will be increasingly able to:

- engage in a daily programme and develop a learning routine
- use literacy and numeracy skills effectively and with confidence
- acquire and demonstrate the skills necessary to be independent
- recognise their own achievements, strengths and weaknesses
- work with others to achieve a common goal
- plan for their future

Variations to the Curriculum

Variations to the curriculum will be made where:

- students are unable to engage with or see the relevance of learning or routine and are at risk of disengaging from education and becoming long term NEET
- students emotional and behavioural needs overwhelm their ability to engage with learning or with routines and expectations of My Choice School
- students are experiencing a crisis in their time with us and need additional intensive emotional and behavioural support
- students needs are too complex to be met by an academic programme and require a developmental programme that provides opportunity for play and nurture in order to access learning in an academic or social context
- students are placed in Year 11 without a history of previous school engagement or learning to build on

Where students are placed at My Choice School in Year 11 and have not had any successful engagement with education, learning or routine in previous schools priority will be given to developing literacy, numeracy and employability skills and preparation for attending post Yr11 settings.

My Choice School recognises that students placed in Year 11 are at a higher risk of becoming NEET and focus will be on delivering a programme that reduces the risk of this.

Variations to the curriculum will be made in consultation with the Headteacher and may include the following:

- SEAL or other Emotional Literacy targeted work to develop emotional skills
- In school interventions including 1:1 phonics or other activities
- Reduced or part time timetables with Blended Learning with reduced on site attendance and on line learning delivered by a My Choice teacher or a tuition agency; reviewed frequently and intended as a short term measure
- The use of Alternative Provisions to complement the curriculum and provide additional support for student.

Policy link:

My Choice School Behaviour policy
My Choice School Health and Safety on Educational Visits policy
My Choice School SMSC policy
My Choice School Assessment policy
My Choice School Marking policy
My Choice School Curriculum Overview Booklet and Curriculum Maps

Reviewed April 2025

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