



Engage Develop Aspire Communicate

DAWN HOUSE SCHOOL – STAFF HANDBOOK	
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Our INTENT

At Dawn House School, the intent of our curriculum is to **engage** children in active learning that contributes to their successful futures. Our curriculum content **develops** a can-do approach to problem solving and supports pupils to **communicate** confidently. Our curriculum aims to enable our pupils to make a positive contribution and to **aspire** to meet their full potential in all aspects of life at Dawn House School and beyond.

The curriculum is shaped to the primary need of our intake which is SLCN, other individual learning difficulties and individual EHCP's.

The four Pathways to Adulthood, namely Employment, Good Health, Independent Living and Community Inclusion are embedded and support the development of skills such as those needed for employability, relationships, independence and self-advocacy.

The curriculum is designed to develop the appropriate subject specific knowledge, skills and understanding based on the National Curriculum and wider skills so that children can flourish, reach and exceed their potential academically, physically, socially and emotionally.

The curriculum supports pupils to understand spirituality in themselves and others, develop social skills and understand society, build a firm set of personal morals based on Fundamental British Values, and to engage in the culture they live in and understand the cultures of others.

Each subject area has developed a subject specific intent which reflects and embeds the overall intent for the school.

Chimes

In Chimes we have an **engaging**, creative and bespoke curriculum for each pupil linked meaningfully to their individual needs, targets and EHCP. We have a **developmental** culture fuelled by high **aspirations**, orbiting a **communicative** core.

Primary

The Primary curriculum is centred around our children's needs, developing communication skills, deepening their knowledge and fulfilling their potential alongside the National Curriculum. Our curriculum is delivered through an **engaging** thematic learning approach to support pupils to **develop** lifelong skills for safe, healthy and positive living. Our curriculum supports pupils to **communicate** with both direct and embedded teaching and learning.



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Each annual plan is developed alongside the current cohort's needs, ensuring that each pupil achieves or exceeds what they are capable of and works towards their **aspirations** now, and for the future. Our curriculum continuously develops to ensure that all children's needs are met as they develop and change over the course of the year.

English

English aims to **engage** pupils in active learning that is creative and adapted to meet all students' needs. Our curriculum **develops** students' imagination, independence and lifelong learning skills like problem-solving, critical thinking, perseverance and empathy. It is our ambition for our students to **communicate** confidently in social and professional circumstances. We support our students in developing their language acquisition by raising their phonological awareness, providing vocabulary and developing their syntax structure skills. The English curriculum aims to enable our pupils to make a positive contribution to the wider society and to inspire them to **aspire** meet their full potential in all aspects of life at Dawn House School and beyond.

Mathematics

Through mathematics, we **engage** children in active learning that enables students to envisage or experience real life situations where mathematics may be necessary. Our curriculum content **develops** students' knowledge to enable them to solve real life and abstract concepts by providing opportunities to investigate and apply knowledge which becomes increasingly sophisticated. We promote an ethos of positivity around maths and its place in the world and support pupils to **communicate** confidently by ensuring an appropriate pace and depth suited to individual learning styles is utilised. The mathematics curriculum aims to enable our pupils to make a positive contribution and to **aspire** to meet their full potential in all aspects of life at Dawn House School and beyond.

Science

The intent of our Science curriculum is to **engage** children in active learning that contributes to their successful futures. The science curriculum content **develops** a can-do approach to problem solving and involves lots of STEAM learning opportunities. Our curriculum is developed with speech and language therapists to support pupils to **communicate** confidently. The Science curriculum aims to enable our pupils to make a positive contribution and to **aspire** to meet their full potential in all aspects of life at Dawn House School and beyond.

Computing

The Computing curriculum **engages** pupils through an interactive and exciting curriculum. It **develops** pupils' Computing skills, knowledge and the ability to use technology to **communicate** about their work and with the wider community. The Computing curriculum supports pupils to use technology in a safe and respectful way. The Computing curriculum aims to inspire pupils to **aspire** to use their skills and knowledge for their life at Dawn House School and beyond.



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Food and Nutrition

Food and Nutrition lessons aim to **engage** children in both theoretical and practical learning which will equip them with relevant life skills and independent living abilities; such as writing a shopping list and buying food or cooking and understanding healthy meal planning. The Food and Nutrition curriculum content **develops** a can-do and hands on approach to problem solving and supports pupils to **communicate** effectively both orally and written with confidence as they plan, prepare, cook and serve meals. The Food and Nutrition curriculum aims to encourage short and long term aspirations whether it be in the form of successful meal outcomes or a consideration of the host of careers and vocations that they may **aspire** to as they enter adulthood.

Art

It is the intent of the Art curriculum to **engage** children in active learning, identifying the needs and interests of individual students so that they are able to access all areas of this subject and are equipped with the skills needed to be successful in their future endeavours. Our curriculum content **develops** student's knowledge and understanding of the world around us giving opportunities for creativity, imagination and problem solving. Students learn to use a variety of different media and processes to produce work that allows them to **communicate** their own ideas and thoughts with confidence. Our curriculum aims to enable our pupils to make a positive contribution and to **aspire** to meet their full potential in all aspects of life at Dawn House School and beyond.

Design Technology

In Design Technology, we offer a broad and balanced curriculum that focusses on current trends and interests. These projects are developed to capture the imagination of all students and enable them to fully **engage** in active learning that contributes to life-long skills and successful futures. Our curriculum content **develops** a wide range of skills so that individuals can confidently use a selection of machines, tools and processes independently. Students are taught a can-do approach to problem solving and develop an awareness of social demands and expectations in relation to the environment and consumerism. Our curriculum is developed with speech and language therapists to support pupils to **communicate** their ideas and solutions with confidence. Students are encouraged to make a positive contribution and to **aspire** to meet their full potential in all aspects of life at Dawn House School and beyond.

Performing Arts

Performing Arts aims to **engage** pupils using the broad range of the performing arts; Music, Drama, Dance/Movement and Film Making to promote communication, life skills and confidence. The curriculum content support pupils to **develop** a voice through the performing arts using an individualised approach which is differentiated to each learner's needs. Live and recorded performances support pupils to **communicate** in different ways with different audiences. Pupils are supported to **aspire** through the showcasing of their creative work using up to the minute technology and strong outside arts links locally and nationally.



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History

In History we provide an **engaging**, innovative, and collaborative learning experience to inspire pupils' curiosity about the past in Britain and the wider world so that they understand how the past has influenced our cultures, attitudes, and beliefs today. Pupils should be able to understand and **communicate** how significant events and people from the past have influenced change and how their rights and responsibilities within our democracy have evolved. Pupils **develop** an understanding that the past can influence their decisions about personal choices, attitudes and values today so that they can meet a full potential as citizens. Understanding the past can provide pupils with a jumping off point to access literature, art, and popular culture for their pleasure and so that they can better access other areas of the curriculum. Pupils will gain the knowledge, skills and values that will enable them to **aspire** to meet their full potential in all aspects of life at Dawn House School and beyond.

Geography

In Geography we provide an **engaging**, innovative, and collaborative learning experience to inspire pupils' curiosity about Britain and the wider world so that they understand how Geography has influenced our cultures, attitudes, and practices today. Pupils should be able to understand and **communicate** how significant events and places have influenced change and how their responsibilities within our environment have evolved. Pupils **develop** an understanding that the world around them can influence their decisions about personal choices, attitudes and values today so that they can meet a full potential as citizens. Understanding Geography can provide pupils with a jumping off point to access literature, art, and popular culture from across the world for their pleasure and so that they can better access other areas of the curriculum. Pupils will gain the knowledge, skills and values that will enable them to **aspire** to meet their full potential in all aspects of life at Dawn House School and beyond.

PE

In PE, we **engage** children by creating a fun and inclusive environment for pupils to express themselves individually and as part of a team, developing fundamental life skills in the process - such as teamwork, resilience, creativity and self-awareness. Physical education enables students to **develop** confidence and self-esteem which has a fundamental impact on their success in other subject areas too. The PE curriculum content develops a positive attitude to problem solving and supports pupils to **communicate** confidently. The curriculum aims to encourage pupils to lead more active and healthier lifestyles, creates a platform for pupils to develop greater resolve and an ability to overcome adversity, and encourages pupils to make a positive contribution and to **aspire** to meet their full potential in all aspects of life at Dawn House School and beyond.

Preparation for Adulthood (6th Form)

Preparation for Adulthood (PfA), a life skills curriculum which enables our students to build key life skills which will ensure, in addition to curriculum knowledge, they **develop** in the following areas: making relationships; confidence and self-awareness; managing feelings and behaviour; and keeping safe. Within these areas pupils will **engage** in learning key skills such as playing with their peers and demonstrating sportsmanship, an understanding of



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money, recognising emotions and communicating them appropriately, internet safety and how to address or deal with bullying.

Life skills are not skills that can be taught in isolation. We provide experiences both formally and informally across the school week to enable our pupils to **develop** a can-do approach to problem solving and supports pupils to **communicate** confidently. Our curriculum aims to enable our pupils to make a positive contribution and to **aspire** to build on their independence and support them in becoming ready for life at Dawn House School and beyond.

Implementation relating to the Intent

Our breadth of teaching and learning, developed through collaborative planning between education, speech and language, occupational therapist and wellbeing teams, means that our pupils progress holistically, fulfilling their SEND and educational needs. In order for our pupils to achieve their successful futures, we implement the curriculum through providing the **means**, **reasons** and **opportunities** –

- We provide the **means** through an inclusive, innovative and collaborative learning experience. We provide differentiated learning and a range of approaches that are personalised for every pupil based on their EHCP Outcomes. The collaboration of multi-disciplinary teams in and out of the classroom provides the **means** for every pupil to have full access to our curriculum. We offer a wide range of lunchtime activities, extra-curricular activities, visits and trips to compliment and broaden the curriculum.
- We provide **reasons** for our pupils to engage in active learning and work towards successful futures. We enable them to make positive contributions and work towards achieving economic wellbeing. Our curriculum provides **reasons** to develop the behaviours and attitudes they need to succeed in the world such as resilience, problem solving, co-operation, creativity and independence.
- We provide all pupils with the **opportunities** to thrive, to communicate and gain the knowledge, skills and values that will enable them to meet their full potential in all aspects of life at Dawn House School and beyond. We provide the **opportunities** to have meaningful learning and be supported to make informed choices that promote independence. Staff receive training so the importance of literacy and numeracy skills are understood and embedded throughout the day showing their relevance and application across the whole curriculum.

IMPACT on the Quality of Teaching and Learning:

The way our curriculum is delivered supports pupils to develop detailed knowledge and skills across the curriculum and make good progress from their individual start points. We ensure pupils are ready for the next stage of education, employment or training and support those to whom it is relevant, to gain qualifications. We measure the impact of our curriculum and the effectiveness of its implementation through a number of different means including but not exclusive to; progress towards achieving EHCP outcomes; improved attendance and punctuality; greater independence both in and outside of lessons in the community local to



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the school and where they live; improved academic progress; records of encounters with employers/number of Work experience/placements; and improvement in formal SLT/OT scores.

We also use the following sources of information and strategies to capture the IMPACT of our curriculum and the progress that our pupils make:

- **Observations of pupils learning**
- **Lesson visits and learning walks**
- **Feedback from teachers/TA's**
- **Pupils books**
- **EHCP reviews**
- **Standardised reading assessments**
- **Pupil voice, including self-assessment**
- **Parents voice, including information from home-school communication, parent survey**
- **Subject moderations**
- **Assessment through Solar and relevant qualification trackers**
- **Reviews and observations from specialist practitioner's e.g. Occupational Therapists, Speech And Language Therapist, School Nurse, Educational Psychologist, Social Care**
- **Behaviour and attendance information**