

Local Procedure/Protocol

School/Home Name:	Bescot Hall School
Local Procedure/Protocol Title:	Curriculum Protocol and Procedures
Linked to Group Policy Title & Code:	Curriculum Policy
Date Reviewed:	July 2026
Next Update Due:	July 2027
Procedure/Protocol Lead:	Katelyn McHugh – Deputy Headteacher
Procedure/Protocol Sponsor:	Brin Kelleher – Regional Director

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY STATEMENT

Witherslack Group is committed to the fair treatment of all in line with the Equality Act 2010. An equality impact assessment has been completed on this policy to ensure that it can be implemented consistently regardless of any protected characteristics and all will be treated with dignity and respect.

ENVIRONMENT, SOCIAL, GOVERNANCE (ESG) STATEMENT

Witherslack Group is committed to responsible business practices in the areas of: Environmental Stewardship, Social Responsibility, Governance, Ethics & Compliance. An ESG impact assessment has been completed on this procedure/protocol to ensure it can be implemented successfully without adverse implications on Group goals.

To ensure that this procedure/protocol is relevant and up to date, comments and suggestions for additions or amendments are sought from users of this document. To contribute towards the process of review, please email the named policy lead.

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1. CONTEXT

- 1.1** Bescot School is an independent coeducational special school and part of the Witherslack Group. Our pupils are aged 8 to 16, with many strengths and interests, along with complex educational needs, such as social communication difficulties, trauma and Autism. Pupils who attend Bescot School have invariably experienced disrupted education placements with some pupils also in the care of their local authorities. Pupils have often had limited positive experiences of education and may be working below age-related expectations when they join us. All pupils have an Education, Health and Care Plan.
- 1.2** Bescot Hall School is a purpose-built provision with state-of-the-art facilities in the heart of Walsall. This contributes to making our school a positive and happy place in which to learn, work and live and we make full use of the environment. Bescot Hall School is well-resourced and has a comprehensive range of facilities including a science laboratory, a specialist food technology room, a design technology, computing and art rooms. The school has been designed with separate areas for Primary and Secondary adjoined by a shared hall. Class sizes are deliberately small in order to ensure pupils feel safe and well supported by our highly skilled education staff team, a Clinical Services Team consisting of Speech and Language Therapist, Occupational Therapist, Psychologist, Therapist, Assistant Psychologist, Therapy Assistant and a Pastoral Team.

2. VISION, AIMS AND INTENT

- 2.1** At Bescot Hall School, we are fully committed to helping pupils to flourish and achieve their aspirations. This is done through the highest quality educational experience, ensuring that they are given the best possible opportunity to succeed and be prepared for life after full time education. The curriculum incorporates a multi-disciplinary approach to maximising every pupil's personal growth. Bescot Hall School provides a curriculum which is pupil-centred, ambitious, engaging, and relevant which means the content of the curriculum will continue to evolve to reflect our pupils' interests, needs and aspirations so that they continue to be inspired, ensure pupils enjoy learning and follow a pathway linked to their next destination. The curriculum is our mechanism for giving every moment of school purpose and focus because it promotes the development of the whole child. As a result, it means that the curriculum is more than merely subjects being taught but is encapsulated in every moment of the school day creating endless opportunities to make a real difference and improve the quality of life for pupils and their families.
- It is essential to encourage pupils to study a broad and balanced curriculum. Bescot Hall pupils are encouraged to believe that nothing is out of reach and that if you dream of something and believe in yourself then you will have the ability to be able to achieve anything.
- We are committed to helping our pupils to flourish and achieve their aspirations through our approach to education and care. We have high expectations of all pupils, with the aim that they leave us with qualifications and experiences which will prepare them for the next chapter of their lives. We aim to do this by:
- Inspiring pupils to develop a love of learning, experience success and achieve positive outcomes
 - Helping pupils to remember what they learn and make progress in all subject areas
 - Preparing pupils to be ready for the next stage of learning.
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- Enabling pupils to achieve qualifications and accreditation reflective of their strengths, needs and interests and aspirations.

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- Using Clinical Services and Positive Behaviour Support approaches inform provision and strategies to reduce barriers to learning and participation. This will include developing effective social and communications skills, an ability to make choices and a toolkit of self-regulation strategies generating a positive perception of self.
- Encouraging pupils to raise their career aspirations.
- Providing pupils with knowledge and experience of the workplace.
- Developing pupils' employability skills, including literacy, numeracy, IT, motivation, perseverance, creativity, innovation, leadership and enterprise
- Supporting pupils to develop their independence
- Ensuring pupils are ready for transition and life beyond Our School
- Encouraging pupils to develop a positive perception of themselves and a sense of belonging
- Supporting pupils to optimise their health and well-being, manage their emotions effectively and develop their resilience
- Enabling pupils to understand their rights and responsibilities and appropriately express their views
- Helping pupils to develop spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) awareness, preparing them for life in modern Britain, including respect for diversity, British Values and protected characteristics.

3. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 *Leaders at Bescot Hall School ensure that:*

- Staff in the school are involved in decision-making processes that relate to the vision, intent and development of the curriculum.
- Pupils are involved in the content and learning opportunities within the curriculum.
- Regular monitoring activities are carried out to ensure that the curriculum offered is progressive and appropriate, enabling all pupils to achieve positive outcomes.
- All teaching staff fulfil their roles and responsibilities, including high quality planning and teaching methods, use of regular assessment and consistent implementation of the agreed school policies and procedures.
- Teachers are provided with opportunities to sustain strong subject knowledge and pedagogy as required and the whole-staff team remain upskilled in supporting the needs of pupils.
- Parents/carers receive regular communication from staff, including information about the curriculum and school strategies, their child's progress and next steps.
- Subject curriculum leads provide support and advice for colleagues and monitor progress in their subject area and contribute to professional development.
- Subject curriculum leads ensure connectivity and cohesion across subjects.

3.2 *The teaching staff at Bescot Hall School ensure that:*

- The curriculum is ambitious and is planned and delivered to support pupils to develop skills, knowledge and vocabulary, helping pupils to know more and remember more and to be prepared for their adult lives.
- The curriculum is planned and devised to best suit the needs of each individual pupil and takes account of outcomes and strategies outlined in Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), PEPs and other key documents.
- A range of teaching and differentiation strategies are used to ensure all pupils are stretched and able to progress at their own pace.
- Apply pedagogy to planning and the delivery of learning.
- Pupils are given the opportunity to experience safely planned activities outside of the usual classroom environment.
- Pupils know their next steps and how to get there, with opportunities to discuss their own learning
- Parents/carers are provided with high-quality reports which reflect what their children have been learning and how they will be supported to progress
- The procedures for assessment are used to support the learning and development of the pupils, including identifying gaps in knowledge and next steps

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3.3 *Clinical staff at Bescot Hall School ensure that:*

- Appropriate clinical support is provided to assess and meet the social, emotional and mental health needs of pupils.
- Suggestions, strategies and bespoke interventions are provided to support pupils' learning, competencies, development and preparation for adulthood.
- Suggestions, strategies and bespoke interventions are provided to support pupils to develop a toolkit of strategies to reduce barriers to learning and increase consistency in engagement in learning.

3.4 *All staff at Bescot Hall School ensure that:*

- High expectations are maintained for pupils and themselves at all times.
- Reading, learning and high aspirations are role-modelled by all members of the school community.
- Positive contributions are made to the whole-school Internal Team Around the Child (ITAC) approach.
- Pupils are supported to express themselves appropriately socially and emotionally.
- Pupils are helped to develop their literacy and numeracy skills and achieve their next steps with increasing independence.
- Pupil achievements are celebrated, and positivity is promoted in all aspects of school life.

4. IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 The Bescot Hall School timetable comprises of thirty teaching periods per week for each year group. Small class sizes with a high staff to pupil ratio supports effective implementation of the curriculum, along with clinical support from the Speech and Language Therapist, Mental Health Practitioners, Occupational Therapist, Assistant Educational Psychologist and Clinical Psychologist. Most pupils at Key Stage 4 are taught by subject specialists. Some pupils may have bespoke timetables that take account of particular strengths and areas of need. Individual interventions are planned as required in order to close gaps in knowledge and skills, supporting pupils to make progress.

Our timetable has been carefully designed to meet the individual needs of existing cohort. This includes careful planning in order to reduce transitions and plentiful opportunities to support sensory, social communication and mental health needs. As such, Forest Schools, Zones of Regulation, Clinical Interventions and Life Skills have all been included in curriculum.

Through high quality teaching of knowledge, skills and vocabulary across core and foundation subjects, all pupils are challenged to achieve the best possible outcomes and make progress across all Key Stages. Detailed schemes of work are used to ensure pupils cover the content for their key stage and close any gaps in knowledge, so they are prepared for the following key stage and transition. The delivery of key focus areas related to learning, work and life are reflective of age, stage, and carefully selected learning experiences based on individual pupil needs. A range of specific approaches are used to implement and deliver the curriculum, such as:

- Learning outside of the classroom and personal development activities such as educational trips and experiences
- Fieldwork and studies
- Interdisciplinary approaches, using strategies from education, care and therapy
- Real-world and functional activities
- Interactive activities and games
- Exploration of new vocabulary and ambiguous language
- Recall tasks

Worksheets/work books/extended writing opportunities

- Role-play and discussion
- Activation of prior learning
- Practical activities
- Modelling, questioning and scaffolding

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- Inquiry and project-based tasks
- Collaborative and independent learning
- Cross-curricular learning
- Daily EHCP, literacy and numeracy tasks
- Opportunities to develop fluency in knowledge and skills e.g. times tables, spellings, handwriting
- Twice weekly assemblies and carefully planned themes

4.2 Key Stage 2 (Years 3 - 6)

KS2 pupils start their school journey in designated primary classrooms and are taught most of their lessons by their class teachers. Pupils access the National Curriculum, with additional interventions offered as required. There is a focus on reading, including the teaching of phonics to early readers using the Little Wandle programme.

Pupils access:

English, Maths, Science, Computing, PE, PSHE (including Relationships and Health Education), Humanities (Geography, History, R.S.), Art & Design, Technology (Food Technology, Design Technology), Forest Schools, Life Skills, SMSC and Enrichment. Individual pupils access clinical/therapeutic input as appropriate to their needs. Enrichment. Individual pupils access clinical/therapeutic input as appropriate to their needs.

4.3 Key Stage 3 (Years 7 – 9)

Pupils at KS3 continue to be taught for most subjects in their own dedicated form classrooms. They access National Curriculum subjects with a continued focus on reading. Pupils are taught by their form teachers for English, Maths and PSHE/Careers/Citizenship but progress to being taught by a wider range of other subject specific teachers for the rest of the curriculum. They visit specialist teaching rooms as appropriate to the subject e.g. the Science Lab, the Art Room and Food Tech Room.

Pupils access:

English, Maths, Science, Computing, PE, PSHE (including Relationships and Health Education), Humanities (Geography, History, R.S.), Art & Design, Technology (Food Technology, Design Technology), Forest Schools, Life Skills, SMSC and Enrichment. Individual pupils access clinical/therapeutic input as appropriate to their needs.

4.4 Key Stage 4 (Years 10 – 11)

Our current Key Stage 4 offer is a mix of GCSE, vocational and functional skills qualifications, from Entry Level to GCSE, depending on pupils' level of attainment. In Year 10 and Year 11, pupils follow a core curriculum of English, Mathematics, Science, PE, PSHE (including Relationships, Sex and Health Education), Life Skills, SMSC and Enrichment. Pupils select additional 'option' subjects to cater to their individual interests and career aspirations, and these include Food Technology, Duke of Edinburgh, Child Development, History and Art. KS4 pupils continue to access clinical/therapeutic input as appropriate to their needs.

4.5 Key Stage 5 (Years 12 – 14)

N/A

4.6 Residential Pupils

N/A

4.7 Homework

At our School, teachers provide opportunities for extended learning and homework when it is appropriate and pertinent to a pupil's needs. For example, if a child would like homework, they may receive a homework 'menu' where pupils' can choose a range of activities linked in with their learning experiences for the half term. Some pupils may be provided with weekly or fortnightly tasks as linked to the core subjects and some pupils may be provided with revision booklets to complete in preparation for the exam period. All pupils are encouraged to read regularly at home.

4.8 Reading

At Bescot Hall School, reading is integral to our curriculum. There are allocated daily reading sessions for all pupils. We are committed to ensuring that all pupils leave us as 'a reader' and we have a robust reading strategy in place to achieve this. For pupils with early reading skills, explicit teaching of phonics is provided. Reading interventions are provided when necessary, in line with a pupil's individual needs. Reading skills are taught explicitly in English lessons, as well as other areas of the curriculum where appropriate.

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Reading for pleasure is actively promoted through staff and pupil role-models, on-site library, classroom reading areas, class texts and story-time and regular pupil reading challenges.

Speech and Language therapists support pupils and staff where appropriate and can include provision such as (but not limited to) phonological awareness screening, vocabulary development and colourful semantics.

4.9 Oracy

Oracy is a fundamental component of our curriculum, integral to students' cognitive, social, physical and emotional development. It encompasses the ability to communicate effectively using spoken language, engage in dialogue, and listen actively. We recognise oracy as a vital skill that underpins not only academic achievement but also students' ability to participate fully in a democratic society, both within and beyond Bescot Hall School.

We believe that Oracy skills are essential for students to articulate their ideas, feelings and needs, collaborate with others, and engage critically with diverse viewpoints. Developing these skills prepares students for future personal and professional success, enhances their capacity to learn across the curriculum, and promotes well-being by fostering confidence and self-expression.

- Develop students' ability to express themselves, speak fluently, coherently, and confidently in a range of formal and informal contexts.
- Equip students with the skills to use their voice to express ideas and feelings whilst considering the perspectives of others.
- Teach students to listen actively and respond appropriately to the contributions of others.
- Encourage students to use spoken language to reason, question, and challenge assumptions and opinions.
- Provide opportunities for students to present information and ideas clearly, using appropriate language and tone for different audiences and purposes.
- Work closely with Speech and Language therapists to consider the best approaches for developing confident speakers.
- Plan opportunities for integrated structured talk activities, such as discussions, debates, presentations, and role-plays, into lessons and throughout the school day.
- Ensure that classroom environments are conducive to effective communication, encouraging respectful dialogue and valuing every voice.

4.10 Therapeutic Provision

Our on-site clinical team work with teachers and support staff to provide a 'Zones of Regulation' curriculum, which is delivered by classroom staff throughout the school day. This helps pupils to understand and regulate their own emotions, develop appropriate coping strategies and achieve personal targets as set out in pupil EHCPs and PEPs. Pupils have access to on-site sensory areas and safe spaces throughout the school day in order to support their self-regulation of emotions and behaviour. Pupils are offered group or individual therapeutic sessions, as appropriate to their needs.

4.11 Physical Education

All pupils access PE lessons at Bescot Hall School with physical well-being being seen as a priority. Lessons mostly take place on the Multi-Use Games Area but some may also take place off-site e.g. swimming. We also offer PE as an option in KS4, where students can work towards obtaining a PE qualification.

Where possible the PE curriculum is linked to inter and intra sporting competitions and experiences within the local and wider community.

4.12 PSHE, Citizenship and Careers Education

All pupils access PSHE and Citizenship at Bescot Hall School and this aims to be needs-led whilst gaining coverage across three core themes:

1. Health and wellbeing (including statutory Health Education)
2. Relationships (including statutory Relationships and Sex Education)
3. Living in the wider world (including Social, Moral, Spiritual, Cultural Education, Economic wellbeing, Careers Education and Citizenship).

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from Sex Education delivered as part of PSHE/Citizenship/Careers up until three terms before a child's 16th birthday (please refer to the school's RSE Policy). RSE lessons are carefully planned and taught in a sensitive and age-appropriate way using a variety of resources.

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We also offer Citizenship as an option in KS4, where students can work towards obtaining a GCSE in the subject.

There is a focus at all Key Stages on the development of skills and attributes such as resilience, self-esteem, risk-management, team-working and critical thinking. Pupils are prepared for life, learning how to become responsible citizens, how to manage their money well and make sound financial decisions. They learn how to keep themselves safe and well.

Pupils at Key Stages 3 and 4 have access to impartial careers advice from Sharon Harvey – Ideas4Careers. Sharon provides up to date careers guidance which allows pupils to make informed choices about a broad range of career options, helping pupils to fulfil their potential and prepare successfully for further learning and work.

4.13 Handwriting

In line with Ofsted expectations and the DfE's The Writing Framework (2025), we recognise fluent, legible and automatic handwriting as a foundational skill. Writing depends on both transcription (handwriting and spelling) and composition. When transcription is not automatic, cognitive load increases and limits pupils' ability to communicate ideas effectively. Our aim is for all pupils to develop handwriting fluency, speed and legibility so they can focus on planning, structuring and expressing their thinking.

Handwriting is explicitly taught and practised through a consistent, evidence-informed approach. Pupils will receive short handwriting sessions where needed, beginning with posture, grip and paper positioning before letter formation. This may be delivered by teachers, support staff or our Occupational Therapist, where needed. Teaching follows a clear progression from motor-skill development and pre-writing patterns to accurate letter formation, legibility, speed and stamina. Dictation activities provide opportunities to practise transcription separately from composition, reducing cognitive demands for developing writers.

Adaptations might include sensory-motor activities, specialist equipment and individualised support, with alternative recording methods used where appropriate. High expectations for handwriting are maintained across all subjects, supported by staff modelling.

4.14 Social, Moral, Spiritual, Cultural (SMSC) Education, British Values and Protected Characteristics

At Bescot Hall School, SMSC and British Values are promoted in so much of what we do, not least during school assemblies and in PSHE/Citizenship/Careers lessons.

We encourage pupils to respect the fundamental British Values of democracy, the rule of the law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. As well as actively promoting British Values in school, the opposite also applies: we would actively challenge pupils, staff or professionals expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including 'extremist' views.

As part of the wider SMSC curriculum, pupils are encouraged to experience awe and wonder, act responsibly and support their community. In addition, we help pupils to learn about the protected characteristics as defined in The Equality Act 2010: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

4.15 COVID-19 Recovery Curriculum

At Bescot Hall School, we recognise that pupil well-being is at the forefront of recovery from the Covid19 crisis. Specific support from education, pastoral, care and clinical staff is offered to pupils where required. We continue to overcome the impact of any lost learning time and isolation periods by re-visiting key concepts, knowledge and skills in each subject area, provide high-quality learning strategies and personalised support as required.

5. IMPACT, ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING

5.1 Impact

The impact of the curriculum at Bescot Hall School is evidenced by the work that the pupils produce, their progression over time and how well-prepared pupils are for further learning, work and life. We recognise

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that we may never see the long-term impact of curriculum, but we make every attempt to find out the wider impact using key indicators (outlined below) which relate directly to curriculum intent:

- Pupils will be enthused by learning and achieve positive outcomes
- Pupils will remember what they learn and make progress in all subject areas
- Pupils will leave us with a reading age beyond a functional level and they will be well-prepared for the next stage of learning
- Pupils will achieve a range of nationally recognised qualifications, including English and Maths, and will have achieved the outcomes and targets outlined on their EHCPs and PEPs
- Pupils will have identified possible career pathways in line with their strengths and interests
- Pupils will have an understanding of different workplaces
- Pupils will have developed a range of skills transferrable to the workplace
- Pupils will be far less reliant on adult support and will be working towards independence in many ways
- Pupils will be socially and emotionally prepared for transition to further education, employment or training
- Pupils will feel accepted and valued and will demonstrate improved self-esteem and confidence
- Pupils will know how to keep themselves safe and healthy and they will have developed a range of positive coping strategies
- Pupils will have an awareness of their rights and responsibilities, and they will be able to express their own views effectively
- Pupils will demonstrate respect, kindness and pride, an ability to form positive relationships with others and they will be well-prepared to contribute positively to their communities

5.2 **Assessment**

We use assessment as a key part of approach to inform the next steps for pupils and to monitor the wider impact of curriculum. Achievement of key concepts and skills are tracked three times a year using assessment system, known as TrackAble.

Wherever possible, we enter Key Stage 2 pupils to sit external tests (KS2 SATs). However, due to the gaps in learning that some of pupils have previously experienced, some pupils may not be yet able to achieve the national expected standard in their tests. If it is felt not to be appropriate for a pupil to participate in the SATs, parents/carers will be notified in writing.

Our expectation is that all Key Stage 4 pupils will achieve externally recognised qualifications and accreditation which are both ambitious and reflective of their abilities.

Experiences related to the teaching of protected characteristics, British Values and SMSC activities are all tracked using SMSC Gridmaker.

5.3 **Monitoring**

The school's usual monitoring activities ensure that the curriculum offered is progressive and appropriate, enabling all pupils to achieve positive outcomes. Such monitoring activities include planning and work scrutiny, lesson observations and learning walks, which are carried out by leaders.

Bescot Hall School will review this local protocol annually to ensure it continues to reflect its best practice and that it meets the requirements of the Witherslack Group Curriculum Policy.

6. **CURRICULUM MODEL**

6.1 Please see Appendix 1 Bescot Hall's visual Curriculum Model

7. **REFERENCES**

National curriculum - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Keeping children safe in education - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

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PSHE education for pupils with SEND (pshe-association.org.uk)

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE, 2021)
- Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education (DfE, 2019)
- 16-19 Study Programmes Guidance (DfE/ESFA, 2019)
- The Independent School Standards Guidance for independent schools (DfE, 2019)
- Review of sexual abuse in schools and colleges (Ofsted, 2021)
- Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges (DfE, 2021)
- Preventing and tackling bullying (DfE, 2017)
- Three steps to RSHE success (Sex Education Forum, 2021)

8. ASSOCIATED FORMS

9. APPENDICES

1. BHS Visual Curriculum Model

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BESCOT HALL VISUAL CURRICULUM

(Acceptance, Achievement & Resilience)



What we want Bescot Hall pupils to achieve:

Academic Pathways

- Have the knowledge and skills to be able to progress onto the next phase of learning, employment or training in line with their careers aspirations
- Gain at least 5 qualifications including English, Maths and Science

Personal Development

- Enjoy learning
- Understand healthy lifestyles and reflect wisely
- Manage and express emotions, wishes and feelings in an appropriate manner
- EHCP outcomes achieved
- Self-awareness
- Communicate effectively

Preparation for Adulthood

- Inspired and motivated to continue learning
- Aspirations for the future
- Able to access the community and the world safely and successfully
- Work and contribute to society
- Understand personal responsibility and respect
- Lead a life that is meaningful and of interest

How is Bescot Hall going to do it?

Core

The knowledge and skills we need to succeed in all areas of learning.

English Maths Science

Explore & Understand

We ask questions, investigate the world and discover how things work.

History Geography R.S. Computing

Belong & Grow

We learn how to look after ourselves, care for others and grow as people.

PSHE Life Skills SMSC Enrichment

Participate & Perform

We challenge ourselves through movement, teamwork and real-world experiences

P.E. Forest Schools

Imagine & Create

We express ideas, design solutions and bring our imagination to life.

Art Design Technology Food Technology

What Bescot Hall aims to do:

Academic Pathways

- Broad curriculum based on National Curriculum
- Programmes which support aspirations, interests and strengths
- Functional reading, writing, numeracy and computing skills

Personal Development

- Reduce barriers to learning and participation
- Self-regulation strategies
- Social communication skills
- Making choices

Preparation for Adulthood

- Living skills
- Employability skills
- Quality careers advice and guidance, next destinations and transition support

EHCP

SMSC, Fundamental British Values & Cultural Capital

Safeguarding, Pupil Wellbeing & Positive Behaviour Support

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