



Local Procedure/Protocol

School/Home Name:	Hall Cliffe School
Local Procedure/Protocol Title:	Curriculum Protocol and Procedures
Linked to Group Policy Title & Code:	Curriculum Policy
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Procedure/Protocol Lead:	Ailsa Stainthorpe
Procedure/Protocol Sponsor:	Brin Kelleher – School Development Lead

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** Our School is an independent special school and part of the Witherslack Group. Pupils are aged 8 to 17, with many strengths and interests, along with complex educational needs, such as social communication difficulties, trauma and behaviours which challenge. Pupils who attend our 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** Our school operates across two campuses. Key Stage 2 and 3 are located in Horbury, within a beautiful historic building that boasts a variety of facilities, including a cooking room, media room, science laboratories, and several specialised therapy suites. Our Key Stage 4 site is situated in Grange Moor, where, in addition to traditional classrooms, we have a fully operational salon, a motor vehicle garage, a construction workshop, and science laboratories, among other amenities. We intentionally maintain small class sizes to ensure that pupils receive ample support from our highly skilled team of educational, pastoral, care, and therapy staff.

2. VISION, AIMS AND INTENT

- 2.1** At Hall Cliffe School, we are committed to providing a holistic curriculum that nurtures the personal, social, and academic development of every pupil. Our curriculum is designed not only to support young people in fulfilling their academic potential but also to equip them with the essential skills and knowledge they need to thrive in their future careers and contribute positively to society.

We strive to achieve this by:

- Inspiring pupils to cultivate a love for learning, experience success, and attain positive outcomes.
- Assisting pupils in retaining knowledge and making progress across all subject areas.
- Preparing pupils for the next stage of their education.
- Ensuring that every pupil becomes a proficient reader.
- Enabling pupils to earn qualifications and accreditations that reflect their strengths, needs, and interests.
- Encouraging pupils to elevate their career aspirations.
- Providing pupils with insights and experiences related to the workplace.
- Developing pupils' employability skills, including literacy, numeracy, IT, motivation, perseverance, creativity, innovation, leadership, and entrepreneurship.
- Supporting pupils in fostering their independence.
- Ensuring pupils are prepared for transitions and life beyond our school.
- Encouraging pupils to cultivate a positive self-image and a sense of belonging.
- Supporting pupils in optimising their health and well-being, managing their emotions effectively, and building resilience.
- Helping pupils understand their rights and responsibilities while appropriately expressing their views.

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- Assisting pupils in developing spiritual, moral, social, and cultural (SMSC) awareness, preparing them for life in modern Britain, including respect for diversity, British values, and protected characteristics.
- Promote a lifelong love of reading among all pupils, ensuring they receive targeted support in reading, writing, and phonics to help them succeed throughout their school journey and beyond.

3. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 *Leaders at our school ensure that:*

- Staff members are actively engaged in decision-making processes concerning the vision, intent, and development of the curriculum.
- Regular monitoring activities are conducted to guarantee that the curriculum is progressive and suitable, allowing all pupils to achieve positive outcomes.
- All teaching staff meet their roles and responsibilities, which include high-quality planning and teaching methods, regular assessments, and consistent application of the established school policies and procedures.
- Teachers are given opportunities to maintain strong subject knowledge and effective pedagogy as needed, while the entire staff team remains skilled in addressing the needs of pupils.
- Parents and carers receive consistent communication from staff, including updates on the curriculum and school strategies, as well as information about their child's progress and next steps.

3.2 *The teaching staff at our School ensure that:*

- The curriculum is thoughtfully planned and delivered to help pupils develop their skills, knowledge, and vocabulary, enabling them to know more, remember more, and prepare for their adult lives.
- The curriculum is tailored to meet the individual needs of each pupil, taking into consideration the outcomes and strategies outlined in Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), Personal Education Plans (PEPs), and other essential documents.
- A variety of teaching and differentiation strategies are employed to ensure that all pupils are challenged and can progress at their own pace.
- Pupils are provided with opportunities to engage in safely planned activities outside of the traditional classroom setting.
- Pupils are aware of their next steps in learning and how to achieve them, with opportunities to discuss their own educational progress.
- Parents and carers receive high-quality reports that reflect their children's learning experiences and outline how they will be supported in their progression.
- Assessment procedures are utilised to enhance the learning and development of pupils, including identifying gaps in knowledge and determining next steps.
- Subject coordinators offer support and guidance to colleagues while monitoring progress within their specific subject areas.

3.3 *Clinical staff 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

3.4 *All staff 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

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- 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 Curriculum Delivery

Our school timetable consists of thirty teaching periods each week for every year group. The small class sizes, combined with a high staff-to-pupil ratio, facilitate effective curriculum implementation. This is further enhanced by specialised support from our Speech and Language Therapist, Mental Health Practitioners, Occupational Therapist, Assistant Educational Psychologist, and Clinical Psychologist. Most pupils in Key Stage 4 are instructed by subject specialists, while some may follow bespoke timetables tailored to their specific strengths and needs. Individual interventions are planned as necessary to address gaps in knowledge and skills, ensuring that pupils can make progress.

Our timetable is thoughtfully designed to cater to the unique needs of the current cohort. It includes careful planning to minimise transitions and provides ample opportunities to support sensory, social communication, and mental health needs. As a result, initiatives such as Emotional Check-In, Clinical Interventions, and Life Skills have been integrated into the curriculum.

Through high-quality instruction in knowledge, skills, and vocabulary across both core and foundation subjects, all pupils are encouraged to achieve optimal outcomes and make progress throughout all Key Stages. Detailed schemes of work ensure that pupils cover the necessary content for their key stage and address any knowledge gaps, preparing them for subsequent key stages and transitions. The delivery of key focus areas related to learning, work, and life is aligned with pupils' age and developmental stage, incorporating carefully selected learning experiences based on individual needs. A variety of specific approaches are employed to implement and deliver the curriculum, including:

- Learning outside of the classroom and personal development activities
- Interdisciplinary strategies that integrate education, care, and therapy
- Real-world and functional activities
- Interactive activities and games
- Exploration of new vocabulary and complex language
- Recall tasks
- Worksheets, workbooks, and extended writing opportunities
- Role-play and discussion
- Practical activities
- Modelling, questioning, and scaffolding
- Inquiry-based and project-based tasks
- Collaborative and independent learning
- Cross-curricular learning

4.2 Key Stage 2 (Years 4 - 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 Read, Write, Inc. Fresh Start programme.

Pupils access:

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English, Maths, Science, Computing, PE, PSHE/Careers/Citizenship (including Relationships and Health Education), Humanities (Geography and History), Art & Design, Design Technology, Personal Development and 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 and extended writing. Pupils requiring targeted support in phonics, reading, and writing will continue their literacy development through the Read Write Inc. Fresh Start programme. The majority of pupils are taught by specialist teachers for core subjects as well as P.E, DT and Art and Design.

Pupils access:

English, Maths, Science, Computing, PE, PSHE/Careers/Citizenship (including Relationships and Health Education), Humanities (Geography and History), Art & Design, Design Technology, Personal Development, Enrichment, Outdoor Ed/ Forest School and a carousel of vocational sessions at the Grange Moor site on a half termly basis. KS3 pupils continue to 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, Computing, PSHE/Citizenship/Careers (including Relationships, Sex and Health Education), Personal Development and Enrichment. Pupils select additional 'Key Stage 4 Programme of Study' subjects to cater to their individual interests and career aspirations and these include Motor Vehicle Engineering, Construction, Catering, and Skills Passport. KS4 pupils continue to access clinical/therapeutic input as appropriate to their needs. Pupils requiring targeted support in phonics, reading, and writing will continue their literacy development through the Read Write Inc. Fresh Start programme.

4.5 Key Stage 5 (Years 12 – 13)

At Key Stage 5, any young people facing difficulties in securing post-16 placements will receive support at the Grange Moor site in collaboration with the Futures Team. This assistance aims to facilitate a successful transition to a local post-16 placement. Additionally, GCSE resits will be provided for any young people where appropriate.

KS5 pupils continue to access clinical/therapeutic input as appropriate to their needs.

4.6 Homework

At our school, teachers offer opportunities for extended learning and homework when it aligns with a pupil's individual needs and educational development. All pupils are actively encouraged and supported to engage in regular reading at home as part of our commitment to fostering a lifelong love of literacy.

To further enhance their literacy skills, pupils are provided with a range of supplementary resources throughout the academic year. These include age-appropriate reading materials, structured phonics programmes, and opportunities for extended writing. Notably, pupils are invited to participate in creative writing competitions during the summer holidays, promoting continued engagement and enrichment beyond the classroom.

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4.7 Reading

At our School, reading is integral to curriculum. 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 explicitly taught during English lessons, integrated across the wider curriculum, and further reinforced during form time through ERIC sessions (Everyone Reads In Class). 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 through the Accelerated Reader programme.

4.8 Oracy

Oracy statement

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 Hall Cliffe 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 [choice boards/word mats] to reason, question, and challenge assumptions and opinions.*
- *Provide opportunities for students to present information and ideas clearly, using appropriate language [word choices] 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.*

4.9 Therapeutic Provision

Our on-site clinical team work with teachers and support staff to provide a ‘Zones of Regulation’ and PACE in the 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, PEPs and Boxall profiles. 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.

4.10 Physical Education

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All pupils access PE lessons at our 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 subject at KS4-5 for those pupils who would like to pursue a related qualification.

4.11 PSHE, Citizenship and Careers Education

All pupils access PSHE and Citizenship at our 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 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.

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 the Futures Team. They provide 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.

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

At our 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 engaged 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.

4.13 COVID-19 Recovery Curriculum

At our School, we recognise that pupil well-being is at the forefront of recovery from the Covid-19 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

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The impact of the curriculum at our 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 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*

Assessment is a central component of our approach, used to inform pupils' next steps and evaluate the broader impact of the curriculum. Progress in key concepts and skills is systematically tracked and updated every two weeks using our assessment platform, TrackAble.

Where appropriate, Key Stage 2 pupils are entered for external assessments (KS2 SATs). However, due to prior gaps in learning, some pupils may not yet be working at a level that aligns with the national expected standard. In cases where participation in the SATs is deemed unsuitable, parents and carers will be informed in writing.

The expectation is that all Key Stage 4 and 5 pupils will achieve externally recognised qualifications and accreditation which are both ambitious and reflective of their abilities.

Softer skills are tracked using the Boxall Profile. 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 routine monitoring processes ensure that the curriculum remains progressive, inclusive, and aligned with high standards, supporting all pupils in achieving positive outcomes. These processes include planning reviews, work scrutiny, lesson observations, pupil and parent/career voice, and learning walks, conducted by senior leaders and subject coordinators.

This local protocol will be reviewed annually to ensure it continues to reflect best practice and remains fully aligned with the requirements of the Witherslack Group Curriculum Policy.

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6. CURRICULUM MODEL

6.1 At Hall Cliffe School, we are committed to recognising and celebrating individuality while ensuring fair and equitable access to learning for all pupils.

We offer bespoke learning pathways tailored to meet the diverse needs and aspirations of our learners, with pupil well-being placed firmly at the centre of our provision. Our aim is for every child to enjoy their learning journey, actively engage in their education, and make meaningful progress.

We take great pride in our attendance figures, which reflect the positive relationships and safe, supportive environment we foster. Pupils attend because they feel valued, secure, and motivated to learn - an ethos that underpins their academic and personal development.

We continually strive to deliver a high-quality, inclusive, and enriching curriculum that meets the expectations of Ofsted and the Independent School Standards, ensuring all pupils have access to a broad and deep educational experience.

7. REFERENCES

OPSP 11 – Curriculum policy
OPSP29 – Assessment, Marking & Feedback Policy

8. ASSOCIATED FORMS

N/A

9. APPENDICES

N/A

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