



What I learn today, prepares me for tomorrow.

Curriculum, Assessment & Progress Policy

Policy Location:	Written:	Review Due:	Person Responsible:
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Appendix 1: Curriculum Information Leaflet

Rationale

This policy identifies how, we at Barndale, approach our curriculum to provide a quality education and provision to the pupils who attend the school. As all pupils attending will also have an EHCP it was also explain how the long and short term targets dovetail into our curriculum to ensure our pupils have positive future outcomes and independence into adulthood.

About us

Barndale is a specialist provision for pupils aged 3-19yrs old. The main cohort of students we cater for are those with 'communication & interaction' and 'cognition & learning' as their main area of need. We feel it is important we deliver our learning through a 'primary model' whereby all learning happens in home groups with familiar staff, routines and expectations. This has the additional benefit that pupils feel safe in their environment, specialist resources are available to them and progression can be more carefully monitored.

The school is based across two sites; Howling Lane for our youngest and oldest pupils and Windsor Gardens for the cohorts in between. Facilities and resources are shared between the two sites and pupils still get the opportunity to interact with the larger school community.

Whilst still a relatively small school, we also have a residential provision so that our curriculum offer can be extended beyond the school day- our 24 hour step curriculum programme. This allows us to ensure we are offering a bespoke and personalised approach to every child's learning and special educational needs. The residential provision has also supported parents and families through the increase of time in which pupils attend our school.

The breakdown of pupils who attend Barndale

Over the last few years the cohort of pupils attending Barndale has grown and changed. The school predominantly meets the needs of pupils with specific learning difficulties (SLD), autism spectrum condition (ASC) and those which relate to communication and learning. We do have young people with more complex difficulties and where possible they will be taught alongside their peers.

Intention- What we will offer....and why

The outcomes for adults with any form of disability are significantly less than those who don't. This injustice has formed our rationale of our curriculum offer and the importance of trying to make a difference for the children that attend Barndale.

Six per cent of adults with learning disabilities are in paid employment (March 2019)

The employment rates for adults with disabilities are dismal. In 2018, only 51 per cent of people with disabilities were in paid employment, compared with 81 per cent of the general population.

<https://feweek.co.uk/2019/03/12/education-that-gets-out-of-classrooms-and-into-the-community/>

...children and young people with a disability – including those with a learning disability or SEN – are more likely to be bullied than those without a learning disability (Rose 2011; Fink et al. 2015 Chatzitheochari et al. 2016).

<https://www.mencap.org.uk/learning-disability-explained/research-and-statistics/children-research-and-statistics>

Children and young people with a disability are more likely to live in poverty than those without a disability (Emerson, 2012; PHE 2015).

..an estimated 1,200 people with a learning disability are dying avoidably each year due to a lack of good quality and timely healthcare. Furthermore, people with a learning disability still have a life expectancy that is 29.3 years lower than the general population for women, and 22.8 years lower for men.

<https://www.mencap.org.uk/sites/default/files/2019-11/Mencap%20Annual%20Report%202019.pdf>

Considering the evidence for outcomes for adults with SEND we have carefully reviewed our curriculum to ensure what we deliver supports pupils beyond the school day. As a school we developed the motto 'What I learn today, prepares me for tomorrow'. This is to capture that learning has a purpose and that everything we do will support our young people into adulthood.

Whilst we do follow the National Curriculum it is difficult for us to complete the breadth and depth required. As such we do our very best to ensure all of our young people have a curriculum that is fit for purpose and allows them to have sufficient skills and knowledge that is embedded, connected and transferrable. Our curriculum offer will be highly focussed on the fundamental and functional aspects that will prepare all of our young people for adulthood.

Barndale Curriculum Offer

Core Curriculum Values

Ready to Learn

Meeting Needs

Building Ambition

Developing Interests

Skills Builder

Speaking

Listening

Creativity

Teamwork

Leadership

Aiming High

Problem Solving

Staying Positive

EHCP Targets

Input from Professionals- Occupation Health, Speech and Language Therapy, Hearing/Visual Impairment Service, Physiotherapy, School Nursing, Paediatricians, CYPS

Provision maps- completed for every child
Pupil on a page plan- guidance for every team

Curriculum Pathways

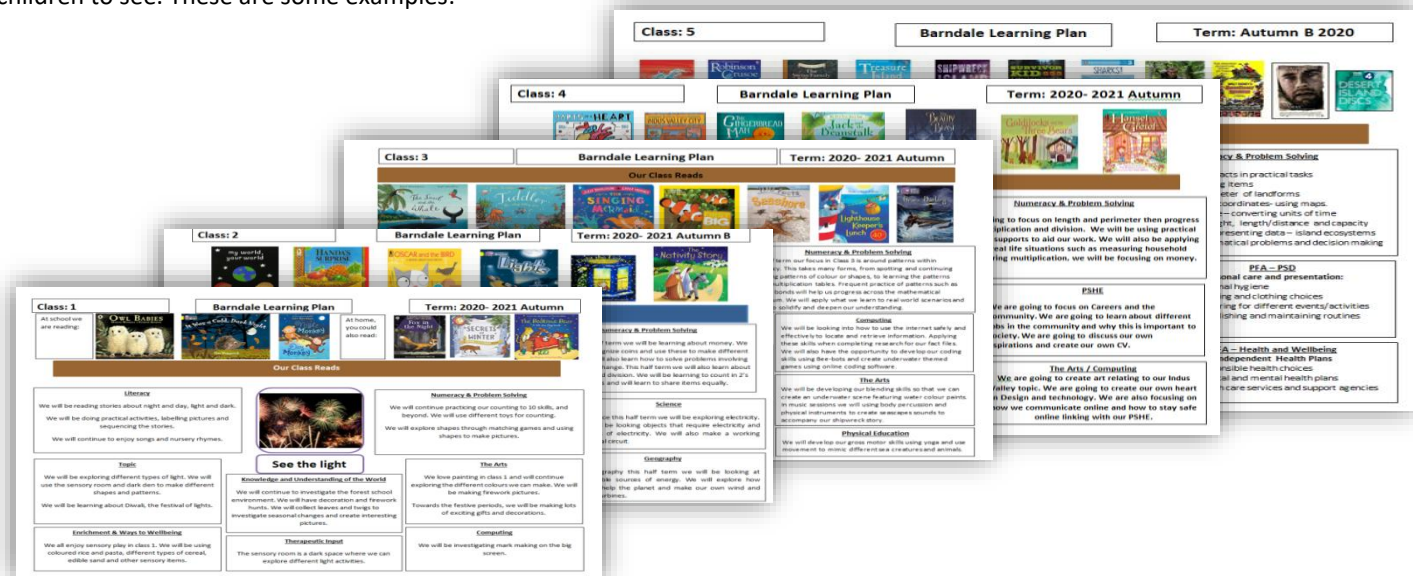
	Engagement	Activate	Consolidate	Accomplish
Coverage	This initial pathway uses the EYFS areas of learning to establish the fundamental areas of learning. Communication is at the heart of the curriculum and the young people will explore their environment and participate in adult led sessions to build their language, experiences and skills around thematic topics.	This pathway will be focussed on the breadth of the National Curriculum. Pupils will learn 'subjects' through topic based approaches, developing depth of learning in the core areas of; English, Maths, Science, Computing, PSHE & PE. The arts and humanities will also be taught as part of Activate and students will be joining up learning experiences.	This is our post 14 curriculum to support the transition into adulthood. This pathway will be built around the key areas of; English, Maths, Digital Skills, PSD, Employability, Preparing Food, Self-Care, Independence and Travel. All areas of the curriculum will be accredited to ensure that the transition to further education/employment can be continued.	This pathway is to support our learners continue their journey on their foundations for learning. It supports them accessing learning that is appropriate to their needs, interests and stage of development. See Appendix 4.
Expected Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Communicate choices and needs ✓ Develop independence exploring the environment ✓ Develop confidence in physical/personal development ✓ Engage with others through play and learning ✓ Understand initial concepts of language, words, numbers and the world around them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Pupils will have developed a depth of learning in the wider subject areas of the curriculum, at a level appropriate to their developmental stage. ✓ Pupils will show greater independence in meeting their own learning, educational and health/wellbeing needs ✓ Pupils will have developed the skills to be part of a wider community-engaging positively and respectfully with others ✓ Pupils will have developed an understanding of adulthood in preparation for making choices 	<p>Pupils will leave Barndale with the confidence and ability to move onto their own bespoke pathways.</p> <p><u>Accreditations 22/23</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ NCFE English- Functional Skills Entry 1-3 ✓ NCFE Maths- Functional Skills Entry 1-3 ✓ NCFE ICT- Functional Skills Entry 1-3 ✓ ASDAN- PSD ✓ ASDAN- Life skills Challenges ✓ Duke of Edinburgh 	Pupils on this pathways will continue onto the Accomplish P4A pathway which takes their learning into practical situations to support them in preparing for adulthood. The students will get to experience adulthood with the support of an adult and accredited curriculum.

Preparation for Adulthood Outcomes

	Engagement	Activate & Accomplish	Consolidate
Life/Employment Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Following instructions * Adapting to environments * Playing with others * Real world play * Real world visits * Numeracy * Language Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Talk about careers * Meeting role models * Building ambitions and interest * Real world experiences and visits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Careers advisory sessions * Person centred planning * Work experience/tasters * Qualifications * Enterprise projects * Building vocational profiles * Transition work
Independent Living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Feeding & Drinking * Toileting * Real world play * Getting dressed * Making choices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Personal hygiene * Telling the time * Managing money (shopping) * Cooking * Staying away from home * Travel training * Safety & signs in the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Making decisions * Managing incomes and expenditures * Supervised access to the local area * Life skills and planning for the future * Managing time * Safety in the home * Understand types of living arrangements
Friends, relationships & Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Making friends * Social interaction * Visits and day trips 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Developing reciprocal friendships * Learning to be safe on and offline * Knowing the local area * Walking short distances alone * Understand bullying * Managing change * Making decisions on using free time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Belonging to different groups * Having safe relationships * Managing social media and technology * Staying safe * Understand risks- drugs and alcohol * Understanding the criminal justice system * Knowing where to go for help
Health & Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Diet and food variety * Developmental checks * Immunisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Diet and obesity choices and checks * Physical exercise * Medical visits (optician, dentist, CYPS) * Understanding puberty and relationships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Relationship and sex education * Managing their own health/medical need * Staying physically active and healthy * Managing own wellbeing * Healthy choices- sleep, drugs & alcohol

Communicating our Curriculum to pupils and parents/carers

One aspect that we are promoting is our communication with parents/carers and the pupils about the learning that they are doing. For every half term we will produce a topic overview which will be shared with parents/carers and be in the classroom for children to see. These are some examples:



Promoting home engagement with learning and reading

Each overview will be headed with a library of books, texts, media that will support the topic that is being delivered. This is to ensure that parents/carers can actively engage with learning and promote reading skills, develop pre-learning and support with building foundations for learning in school.

We publish these and all of our wider curriculum documents on the school website to ease access for parents/carer and young pupils. http://www.barndalehouse.northumberland.sch.uk/web/what_i_learn_today_prepares_me_for_tomorrow/573223

What will learning look like?

This will vary depending on the curriculum the child/young person is on, the way they learn best and the most effective way to get the high level of engagement and interaction needed to make progress. Each class will have an explanation outside or in the entrance of their room to explain what learning looks like for that class.

What you will see consistently across the school...

- ✓ Children happy and engaged in their learning
- ✓ All adults engaged with pupils throughout their learning, sensory support or regulation activities
- ✓ Children encouraged to be independent in their work, using resources or digital technology
- ✓ Staff feeding back progress and offering support/challenge
- ✓ Purposeful learning environments across the whole site
- ✓ A key focus on communication
- ✓ A steady and consistent pace to learning with adults giving children time to communicate, respond and engage

Marking, Feedback and evidence gathering

For pupils to make the best progress they need instant, quality feedback on their learning so they are able to make changes and have work sufficiently differentiated or made more challenging. In Barndale we use a simple highlighter system as not to make language/reading a barrier to progress being made. See key below:

Dan was **excellent** at riding his red BMX. = **Green** means great work/objective achieved
 dan was **eggsilent** at riding his red BMX? = **Pink WE** (teacher-pupil) need to think/reflect and make changes

Pupils will be aware of what they are learning through the use of objective/enquiry question headers attached to their work or in books.

Impact- How do we know the children are making progress? How do we know our curriculum is working?

How do we monitor the curriculum?

Monitoring learning is equally as important as the planning and delivery. At Barndale we see this as a cycle of curriculum developments and improvements and this involves more than just our class based staff. We have Curriculum Champions rather than Subject Leaders within our school- this is to ensure the role is as much about advocating and promoting than just scrutinizing. We have developed an annual curriculum action plan and monitoring plan that details how the SLT, Curriculum Champions and Governors can ascertain the effectiveness of the curriculum. This is then validated independently by our School Improvement Partner (SIP).

Key monitoring areas and evidence gathered

Monitoring Planning & Curriculum Design

- Whole school overview
- Curriculum coverage- breakdown of EYFS/national curriculum/P4A outcomes by topic and curriculum subject
- Accessibility- curriculum champion and SLT meeting reviewing pupils needs and curriculum routes
- Topic Overviews- A4 topic/theme overview for each ½ term for communication with parents/carers

Monitoring Delivery of Learning

- Teaching- learning walks, peer observations, colleague coaching sessions, formal lesson showcase (video)
- Resourcing- resource audits, digital resources, curriculum topic boxes, abstract/concrete
- Subject knowledge- planning reviews, vocabulary banks, key concepts, pre/post learning
- Differentiation and challenge- bespoke learning plans and timetables, pre learning and stretch activities

Monitoring Pupil Progress

- Enquiry based progress- pupils will respond, in a way appropriate to their needs, to the questions as part of the topic
- Tapestry- photographic evidence library, linked direct to learning outcomes, communicated to parents/carers
- Evidence of learning- books, marking & feedback, photo journal, learning/subject trackers

Monitoring Outcomes of Pupils

- Attainment- projections and target setting
- EHCP- provision maps and annual reviews
- Accreditations/Qualifications- quality and quantity
- Further education/Transition/Careers- log of progression beyond Barndale.

Feedback from Pupils

- Interviews- understand their experiences
- Questionnaires- reflecting on learning challenges and successes
- School council items- areas of school and curriculum improvements

Assessment & Pupil Progress

As a school we use Bsquared as our main assessment (academic) platform. This carefully links to our curriculum offer but also supports the tracking of progress similarly, irrespective of the pathway being followed. We also like Bsquared as our pupil progress transfers as the young people progress onto new pathways.

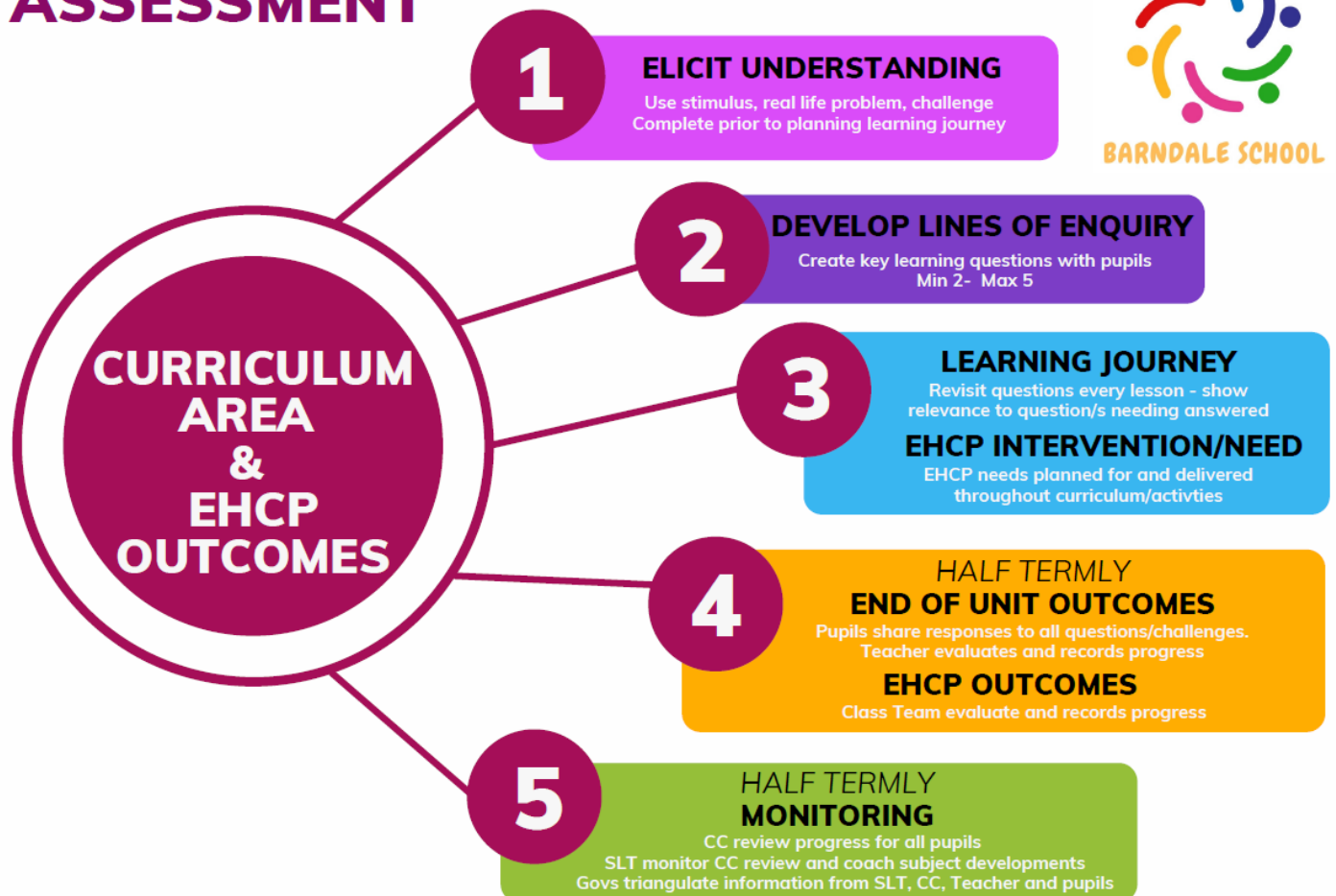
We recognise that our pupils also make progress in their holistic development. To capture this we use our 'Ready to Learn' holistic tool to see how our young people are developing the skills to be confident, independent and effective learners. We track their progress in:

- Self control
- Social Skills
- Self Awareness
- Skills for Learning
- Approach to Learning

Pupil Progress

It is incredibly difficult for us to measure progress as a set value. As such we have a range of ways to ensure we know if our pupils are making progress. Whilst, for students in mainstream education, there are end of key stage measures we feel these are neither appropriate or obtainable for many of our students. Instead we look at their age, cognitive development, academic progress and holistic development. We pull this together and use the professional judgement of our staff, and the evidence they have, to measure progress, set realistic targets and relate these to the EHCP for each child.

ASSESSMENT



Statutory Testing

Our pupils are able to sit statutory testing if it is attainable and appropriate for their needs. Where this wouldn't be the case the school would disapply the young person and ensure their parents/carers were also in agreement. For some examining bodies we would be too small a centre to deliver their accreditations, but we would always try and source alternatives.

Continuous Development and Curriculum Review

As a school we feel our curriculum should never be static. The needs, ambitions and interest of our pupils change frequently and as such our curriculum should be adaptive, responsive and appropriate for all of our pupils to make progress. Each area of the school and subject is continually reviewed and adapted to ensure it is fit for purpose.

Reporting & Validation

As a school we would want our judgements and achievements to be validated from external partners to ensure we receive sufficient challenge, praise and recognition. As such the following partners will have an active role in providing this:

- ✓ Parents/carers-through feedback, questionnaires, curriculum forums and EHCP reviews
- ✓ Governors-curriculum audits, meetings with curriculum leads, learning walks, evidence scrutiny
- ✓ School Improvement Partner (SIP)- curriculum and evidence scrutinies
- ✓ OFSTED- quality assurance of curriculum offer, pupil outcomes and quality of education

ASSESSMENT



COMMUNICATING LEARNING

We want all of our parents and carers to be involved with learning- at home and at school. Each half term we will share topic overviews (below) which will share the curriculum coverage being followed.

We will also share learning with you using Tapestry Online. You can comment on this and also upload progress your child is making at home too.

We will have opportunities throughout the year where you can come in and see your child's work and join in activities.



PREPARATION FOR ADULTHOOD

We are committed to supporting and preparing our young people for the future. We want to ensure they are ready for life beyond school; have the opportunity to work, live independently, be included in their community and be able to manage their own health needs.

We thread this into our curriculum to ensure our students are as ready as possible for their next steps.



BEYOND BARNDALE...

Pupils are able to transition from Barndale from 16yr old onwards. We have put together a section on our website which has links, prospectus and provider information so that you and your child can see what is available locally for education, training and employment.



CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

A guide for parents, carers and visitors.



RATIONALE

What our young people learn is really important to us. We see learning as the knowledge, skills and understanding that supports all of our young people to successfully access adult life. Learning is much more than the curriculum we deliver but the way we approach this to raise aspirations, make it engaging, meaningful and ensure we add value to it through recognised qualifications that will provide firm foundations for next steps.

We follow the National Curriculum but adapt this to ensure our young people can effectively apply what they learn and make sure it is meaningful- we focus on the depth of learning not just the breadth.

MORE INFORMATION:

www.barndale.uk -> curriculum



What I learn today, prepares me for tomorrow...

WHY PATHWAYS?

We recognise that not all pupils learn in the same way and are at the same stage in their own learning journey. As such we have several pathways that allow us to tailor the offer to fit what approach will support that young person learn best and be most appropriate for their needs now and in the future.

SKILLS BUILDER

Our curriculum design incorporates core skills as a constant thread through our pathways. We have adopted Skills Builder which allows us to teach the the core areas of: listening, speaking, problem solving, creativity, staying positive, aiming high, leadership and teamwork.



ACCREDITATIONS

It is really important our curriculum is accredited so that our young people can use their learning as foundations for further learning. We try and match all of our curriculum areas to accredited qualifications that are recognised in the world of work, training and by further education providers. We also choose accreditation routes that are flexible to fit in with the needs, strengths, abilities and learning styles of our young people.

ENGAGEMENT PATHWAY

This is our initial pathway which is an adaptation on the EYFS framework. This pathway is to develop the foundations for learning. From this initial phase pupils will then progress onto one of the core pathways.

ACCOMPLISH PATHWAY

This pathway is for those pupils who need to continue their foundations for learning. The focus will remain on the key developmental areas but use different approaches to deliver this in a way that will be more formal.



ACCOMPLISH PATHWAY- ADULTHOOD

This is our final pathway to support those pupils who are continuing on the accomplish pathway and are ready to start applying these skills ready for the transition into adulthood. Most aspects of this curriculum are accredited or recognised.



ESTABLISH PATHWAY

Some of our pupils are not yet ready to access formal learning, due to their their social, emotional and mental health needs. We have developed this pathway to support the transition from play based/child led learning to more formal learning routes in a bespoke way. These will often be adult led for individuals or small groups.



ACTIVATE PATHWAY

This pathway is designed for students who are able to access the National Curriculum. It is tailored to focus on the core skills and knowledge in all subject areas but differentiated to ensure it is engaging and purposeful.



CONSOLIDATE PATHWAY

This is our fully accredited pathway which will support our pupils on their next steps. It will continue to follow most areas of the national curriculum and be tailored towards transition and planning for next steps into further education, training or employment.

