

**Outcomes
First
Group.**

CURRICULUM POLICY

Brick Lane School
September 2023

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1.0 CURRICULUM INTENT

At Brick Lane School, the curriculum underpins the ethos of the school and strives to provide the context within which pupils with autism are given the opportunity to achieve high standards.

In line with the National Curriculum aims, we aim to:

- Help students to understand mathematical ideas and apply numerical skills
- Help students to understand basic scientific ideas and concepts
- Gain a basic understanding of historical and geographical skills and knowledge
- Acquire control of tools, computers and digital technology
- Appreciate the joys and benefits of physical education and experience a range of sporting activities
- Use music, drama and arts and craft forms as a means of creative expression
- Teach students how to spend their leisure time imaginatively, independently and co-operatively in formal and non-structured environment
- Develop self-help skills and be aware of the rewards and dangers of society in preparation for adult life
- Access meaningful work experience and non-biased careers advice

Implementation of this policy: It is the responsibility of line managers to ensure that staff members are aware of and understand this policy and any subsequent revisions.

Compliance: This policy complies with all relevant regulations and other legislation as detailed in the *Compliance with Regulations & Legislation Statement*.

2.0 CURRICULUM IMPLEMENTATION

Brick Lane School provides a broad and balanced curriculum over time, with learning broken into small steps and frequent opportunities to repeat and practice skills before becoming independent. We use evidence-based practice to identify the unique needs, difficulties and learning skills of each student, then provide personalised learning experiences that:

- are appropriately challenging and enjoyable in varied environments
- utilise approaches, programmes and plans based on evidence of their progress and learning outcomes

- include opportunities for students to be involved in making choices and decisions
- have a cross-curricular focus on developing functional skills, knowledge and understanding
- include planned opportunities to generalise skills, knowledge and understanding to natural situations and settings (including the family home and the community)
- prepare for adulthood and a life that is as independent and fulfilled as possible.

The delivery of the curriculum at Brick Lane School is personalised to meet the individual needs of our pupils. It has an emphasis on experiential and sensory learning across the curriculum, while providing access to a highly differentiated National Curriculum. The curriculum places an emphasis on addressing the core characteristics and challenges associated with autism by offering a comprehensive educational programme via their timetable, designed to promote social communication, language, literacy, problem-solving and self-management of behaviour and emotions.

Teachers develop the curriculum through the use of some of the following working documents:

- PHONICS
- Equals
- White Rose
- National Curriculum
- PSHE Association Framework
- ASDAN and Unit Award Scheme
- Exam board subject specifications if applicable (GCSE, ELC, Functional Skills, BTEC)

We ensure effective and consistent planning and delivery of a personally engaging curriculum that maximises the ability of our students with autism and complex needs to enjoy learning and achieve their individual potential.

We support staff in making personalised professional responses to meet the profile of learning need of each student through personalising recognised approaches based upon best practice in Autism and Complex Learning Needs.

Our curriculum policy sets out the roles and responsibilities of different staff within the school, promoting curriculum access and achievement.

We provide a broad and balanced curriculum that introduces new ideas and experience to all. We teach respect and consideration for theirs and others individuality, particular backgrounds, cultures and religions as reflected in the inclusive ethos and multicultural nature of the school and in preparation for life in a diverse society promoting and supporting the development and understanding of fundamental British Values.

We also aim to offer:

- The benefits of learning and growing in a calm, friendly, stable and structured environment
- An education, which prepares them for successful, inclusive, enjoyable, rich and active lives
- An education, which gives them high expectations for their future
- A curriculum that builds on a variety of approaches to teaching and learning
- An education that allows development and expression through creative opportunities
- An education that uses real experiences as a foundation for learning
- A curriculum that supports the physical, emotional, moral and spiritual development of the child.

3.0 CURRICULUM IMPACT

We hope and aim that our curriculum will lead to qualifications that hold currency for employers and for entry to higher education all the while fulfilling statutory requirements. We prepare students to make informed and appropriate choices at the end of KS3, KS4 and beyond, ensuring continuity and progression within the school and between phases of education, increasing students' choices during their school career and beyond.

We hope that our students will develop an enquiring mind with the confidence to explore through trial and error, communicating effectively in verbal and written form, as well as teaching them to acquire information from various sources and to record findings in various ways including the use of digital technology to make informed decisions about their education and life in general.

The opportunities provided during work experience placements support pupils in trying out jobs they may not have considered and make an informed decision about what further studies they would benefit from attending, once they leave BLS.

In line with the National Curriculum aims, we would like all students who attend Brick Lane School to become:

- Successful learners who enjoy learning, make progress and achieve
- Confident individuals who are able to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives
- Responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to society.

4.0 TEACHING & LEARNING

Teaching at Brick Lane School is the practice carried out by all staff to ensure all students acquire knowledge, skills and understanding as they progress through a curriculum designed to meet their special educational needs. This practice is multi-sensory, language-centered and connective. Learning is the process through which the students can develop their knowledge, skills and understanding to the point where they have retained and generalised what has been taught. Teaching and learning is carried out in a context, which is relevant and meaningful to all students on the autism spectrum to ensure effective learning and appropriate accreditation.

The curriculum design across all age ranges connects each student with the acquisition of knowledge, skill and understanding related to minimising the effects of a diagnosis of autism and its associated learning difficulties. This design makes meaningful connections for students, which maximises their potential for success, access and independence.

Learning Prompts

Where appropriate, classes should use a 'learning board/wall' in order to support the students to identify the sequence, focus and intended learning objectives within each lesson. This enables the students to know what is expected of them, discuss the relevance of what is being learned, and identify and celebrate achievement within the sessions.

Planning

Teachers start their planning by looking at established route planners, schemes of work and exam specifications depending on their phase. They adapt these planning documents into half-termly medium-term planners.

Resources

The school recognises that quality education needs quality resources and there is a commitment to provide a breadth of exciting, suitable and up to date resources in all subjects.

Across the different key stages, the curriculum is planned to provide a wealth of opportunities to design engaging, challenging and coherent learning experiences, which will improve progression and achievement for all children who have autism. Subject teaching and cross-curricular studies are considered to be complementary and act together to benefit pupils' learning. Some of the most effective learning occurs when connections are made between subjects. While the school sets out the curriculum in traditional areas of learning, planning is focused on making many of these connections more explicit and manageable. All students work at their own level through individualised teaching strategies and differentiated lessons, based on the expectations of the National Curriculum.

5.0 EDUCATION – KEY STAGES

Key Stage 1 and 2

Access to the National Curriculum is tailored to the individual needs of the pupils and is supported through a communication-centred environment. Classes are taught the core and non-core foundation subjects.

CORE CURRICULUM

- **English/Literacy:** with an emphasis on social communication and functional skills
- **Mathematics/Numeracy:** including direct teaching of problem-solving and reasoning skills
- **Computing**
- **Science**

WIDER CURRICULUM

- **PSHE, including relationship education**
- **RE**
- **Physical Education**
- **Humanities**
- **Performing Arts**
- **Creative Skills:** Pupils at KS2 and on the KS3 nurture model will have the following two subjects:
 - Art
 - Food Tech
- **KS2/3 Enrichment:** Teachers plan opportunities for extended learning of the pupil's curriculum to take place 'outside of the classroom'. Teachers use the 'Outdoor Learning made Easy' model to do this.

Key Stage 3

CORE CURRICULUM

- **English:** with an emphasis on social communication and functional skills
- **Mathematics:** including direct teaching of problem-solving and reasoning skills
- **Computing**
- **Science**

WIDER CURRICULUM

- **PSHE, including RE, Relationship and Sex Education**
- **Physical Education**
- **Humanities**
- **Performing Arts**
- **Art**
- **Careers**
- **Technology:** Pupils at KS3 will access Food Technology and Arts. DT is part of the Food Tech curriculum.

Key Stage 4

CORE CURRICULUM

- **English:** with an emphasis on social communication and functional skills
- **Mathematics:** including direct teaching of problem-solving and reasoning skills
- **Computing**
- **Science**

WIDER CURRICULUM

- **PSHE, including RE, Relationship and Sex Education**
- **Physical Education**
- **Careers**

OPTIONS

At KS4 each pupil will have the opportunity to choose and study three specialist subjects. There will be a wide range of specialist subjects available, spanning a variety of exam board subject specifications (GCSE, ELC, Functional Skills, BTEC). Examples include:

Example of a KS4 option selection sheet:

Each academic year, the KS4 option curriculum booklet with subject snapshots of the current offer at Brick Lane School is shared with students and parents. Our students will follow a broad and balanced curriculum, which prepares them for future study, careers and skills for independent living. During our options evening, students and parents have the opportunity to ask any questions to the specific option Teacher. Following this, students are given the option sheets to select from three option pathways, which will be reviewed by the subject specialist teacher to ensure students are entered and achieve the accredited qualifications relevant to their academic ability:

ACADEMIC Options One		VOCATIONAL Options Two		COMBINED Option Three	
Media Studies GCSE Eduqas- 2 year course		Horticulture AQA Unit Award Scheme 1 year course		Media Studies GCSE Eduqas- 2 year course	
History GCSE AQA- 2 year course		Design and Technology NCFE- 1 or 2 year course		ICT BTEC 2 year course	
PE GCSE Eduqas- 2 year course		Music Entry Pathways/ Trinity Pop & Rock 2 year course		Music Entry Pathways/ Trinity Pop & Rock 2 year course	
Computing GCSE OCR- 2 year course		Home Cooking Skills BTEC 1 year course each level		History ASDAN Short courses 1 year course	
English Literature GCSE AQA- 2 year course		Art and Design BTEC 2 year course		PE GCSE Eduqas- 2 year course	
Design and Technology NCFE- 1 or 2 year course		ICT BTEC 2 year course		Home Cooking Skills BTEC 1 year course each level	
		Painting and decorating AQA Unit Award Scheme 1 year course		Art and Design BTEC 2 year course	
				Painting and decorating AQA Unit Award Scheme 1 year course	

Key Stage 5

CORE CURRICULUM

- **English-** Continuation or resits
- **Mathematics-** Continuation or resits

WIDER CURRICULUM

- **PSHE, including RE, Relationship and Sex Education**
- **Physical Education**
- **Careers**
- **KS5 Enrichment:** Pupils will participate in
 - ASDAN short course accreditation including gardening or expressive arts
 - Work Experience
 - Project Qualification/Independent Study

OPTIONS

At KS5 each pupil will have the opportunity to choose and study three specialist subjects. There is a wide range of specialist subjects available, spanning a variety of exam board subject specifications (GCSE, ELC, Functional Skills, BTEC, ASDAN, etc.). In addition to the options available at KS4, KS5 also have the opportunity to study:

- **Biology GCSE**
- **Hospitality and Catering L1/L2**
- **Fashion and Design BTEC**

Example of a KS5 option selection sheet:

Each academic year, the KS5 option curriculum booklet with subject snapshots of the current offer at Brick Lane School is shared with students and parents. Our students will follow a broad and balanced curriculum, which prepares them for future study, careers and skills for independent living. During our options evening, students and parents have the opportunity to ask any questions to the specific option Teacher. Following this, students are given the option sheets to select from three option pathways, which will be reviewed by the subject specialist teacher to ensure students are entered and achieve the accredited qualifications relevant to their academic ability:

Options One		Options Two		Option Three	
English Literature GCSE 2 year course		Media Studies GCSE 2 year course		Biology GCSE 2 year course	
GCSE History 2 year course		Art and Design BTEC 2 year course		Art and Design BTEC 2 year course	
Media Studies GCSE 2 year course		Music Entry Pathways/ Trinity Rock & Pop 2 year course		Computing GCSE 2 year course	
Design and Technology NCFE 1 or 2 year course		History ASDAN Short Course 1 year course		Painting and Decorating AQA Unit Award Scheme 1 year course	
BTEC ICT 2 year course		Horticulture AQA Unit Award Scheme 1 year course		Music Entry Pathways/ Trinity Rock & Pop 2 year course	
Horticulture AQA Unit Award Scheme 1 year course		Design and Technology NCFE 1 or 2 year course		Hospitality and Catering Level 1 / 2 2 year course	
Fashion and Design BTEC 1 year course		PE GCSE 2 year course			
GCSE Business Studies 2 year course		BTEC Home Cooking Skills 1 year course			
Painting and Decorating AQA Unit Award Scheme 1 year course					

6.0 GENERAL

Equal Opportunities

We actively promote, through our teaching, both discretely and in direct ways, the rights of all individuals to receive the optimum opportunity in all facets of school life. This is an integral part of the school's ethos and practices. We aim to promote acceptable values and attitudes in this area for all our pupils.

Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Values

Spiritual Development:

The specific spiritual needs of young people with Autism are as diverse as their academic profiles. At Brick Lane School, spiritual development enables our young people to look within themselves, at their human relationships and at the wider world. The spiritual development of all our children is addressed through the ethos of the school and explicitly through the curriculum.

We are committed to:

- Celebrate the religious and non-religious beliefs and values that our pupils bring as part of their family/culture heritage and to building an awareness of and respect for others' spiritual and religious beliefs
- Foster common human values and build spiritual capacities to promote self-worth
- Help our pupils to come to an understanding of themselves as unique individuals and encourage them to reflect on ultimate questions
- Develop our pupils' curiosity, imagination, and creativity and promote a sense of awe and wonder.

Moral Development

Moral development is the ability to know what is right and wrong and to act on it accordingly. We are committed to encourage pupils to:

- Be truthful and honest
- Respect the rights and property of others, their opinions and customs, even when they are different from their own
- Help others
- Solve differences of opinion in non-violent ways
- Reject all forms of bullying, cruelty, dishonesty, violence and discrimination.

Social Development

Social development is at the very core of our educational ethos in that social communication is a core deficit that accompanies a diagnosis of Autism. We are committed to:

- Develop a social skills curriculum that is tailored to the individual needs of pupils in order for them to be able to access the wider world outside of school
- Provide an environment where pupils can take responsibility for themselves and others in school and the wider society
- Develop the life skills required to socialise appropriately and independently

Cultural development

We believe in affirming and respecting the diverse cultures represented within our school environment and in society as a whole.

We aim for our pupils to become aware of differing cultures, be tolerant of other viewpoints and heritages, and be able to join and share the delights of our diverse population from an informed position.

Citizenship

We believe that Brick Lane School has a role to play in developing responsible attitudes by our pupils towards society. We actively promote the common tenets of good citizenship through assemblies, PSHE and whenever the opportunity arises throughout our daily activities. The ethos and practices of the school combine to establish this as a feature of daily interaction between pupils, staff and friends of the school. We aim for our pupils to be motivated to join in with positive citizenship practices.

Careers Education / Environmental and Economic Understanding

The approach to these strands is essentially cross-curricular in the primary phase, they can be taught discreetly or explicitly, in a classroom setting. The aim of these themes is to give our pupils a rounded sense of life's opportunities and expectations at this early stage.

From Key Stage 3, these skills are embedded through timetabled careers, independent living and PSHE lessons. In Key Stage 4 and 5, pupils have access to work experience placements in school and external placements, a careers and work experience coordinator, access to the community with travel training and a holistic approach throughout the curriculum to prepare for the future after Brick Lane School.

Role of Parents & Wider Community

Parents and the wider community are welcome into the school. Parents are a valuable resource to the school and their knowledge of their children is central to all planning in school. Parents may have their own expertise, which can help provide stimulus to a topic or lesson. We aim to involve the local community in the curriculum through assemblies, using guest speakers and by visits to local areas, as a further, concrete aid to learning.

Monitoring

Leadership and management of the school monitor the content of the curriculum and its implementation to ensure partisan political views are not promoted in school. When global and sensitive issues have been discussed, a balanced presentation of views is offered to students.

Themed weeks

Anti-bullying week, black history month, LGBTQ+, road safety week, safer internet week, mental health week, careers and enterprise week, science week, math's week, book week and more themed weeks are all regular features of the curriculum.

Physical Education (PE)

At Brick Lane School, we follow the National Curriculum programme for PE. We are privileged to have use of outdoor grounds and a PE hall.

Swimming

All pupils at KS2 and KS3 have the opportunity to access swimming lessons.

We are part of the Outcomes First Group Family, by working together we will build incredible futures by empowering vulnerable children, young people and adults in the UK to be happy and make their way in the world

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