

# **CURRICULUM PLAN FOR ARNFIELD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL**

March 2017.

## **1. Introduction**

The curriculum at Arnfield School has evolved over many years of education provision. The curriculum comprises three basic elements that combine a more traditional classroom/workshop based learning with a dynamic out-of-classroom based approach. These three areas are:

- Classroom/workshop based education
- ASDAN award schemes
- AQA accredited outdoor education

Classroom/workshop based education is provided at Arnfield Tower Activity Centre on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week throughout the year, and at Greenfield House each weekday throughout the year. Work on ASDAN and AQA award schemes and outdoor education take place on weekdays throughout the year at both sites.

## **2. Classroom/workshop based curriculum areas**

### **2.1 Expressive and creative arts.**

Studies in this subject area enable children to:

- Communicate through visual means, ideas, thoughts and feelings
- Express their emotions
- Develop their imagination
- Develop and increase visual awareness
- Learn a variety of practical skills and techniques
- Develop an awareness of the importance of art in everyday life.

### **2.2 Human and social studies: geography**

Studies in this subject area enable children to understand their environment.

### 2.3 Human and social studies: history

Studies in this area enable children to understand how human action has influenced events and conditions

### 2.4 Linguistics

Studies in this subject area enable children to:

- Develop communication skills
- Increase their command of language through listening, speaking, reading and writing

### 2.5 Mathematics

Studies in this subject area enable children to:

- Make calculations using a variety of methods
- Understand relationships and patterns in number and space
- Develop the ability to think logically
- Express themselves clearly

### 2.6 Science

Studies in this subject area enable children to:

- Develop an understanding of life processes and living things, materials and their properties, and physical processes
- Develop skills associated with science as a process of enquiry: observing, forming hypotheses, conducting experiments and recording their findings.

### 2.7 Technology

Studies in this subject area enable children to:

- Use information and communication technology
- Develop plans and communicate ideas
- Work with tools, equipment and materials to produce good quality products.

A flexible timetable is provided at both sites to meet the individual needs of each child. Each child is allowed to develop at his/her own pace, regaining confidence, finding long-forgotten skills and gaining new skills and knowledge without the constraints of academic terms and the pressure of formal examinations.

At Arnfield Tower Activity Centre, the emphasis is on project work incorporating basic key skills and National Curriculum schemes of work where applicable. The five primary projects are:

- Self-image – personal development and interest in learning
- Personal design project – complete the process of design to production of a useful object

- Community based project – community and citizenship, use of photography and ICT
- Something I feel strongly about – incorporating current issues
- Special interest – craft or design based project

These projects serve to encourage a culture of learning through involving children in planning their own education. The focus on subjects that can easily be tailored to individual interests allows them to be used as a vehicle for teaching basic key skills and elements of the National Curriculum.

Basic key skills builder software and paper-based learning materials are used in conjunction with these projects, enabling children's abilities to be ascertained and providing a starting point from which teaching can begin. Diagnostic assessments enable gaps in a child's key skills to be identified and built on, so that positive progress can be monitored.

### **3. ASDAN award schemes**

Arnfield Care Ltd is a registered centre for the ASDAN award scheme. At present the following awards are offered:

- Adventure and residential award
- Key decisions in citizenship
- Key decisions in personal, social and health education
- Sex and relationships

Completion of some of these awards can be credited towards the ADSAN Certificate of Personal Effectiveness (*see paragraph 4*)

Children work towards the ASDAN awards outside the more structured classroom/workshop environment on weekdays. ASDAN learning is supported by Residential Care Workers at both sites, and provides a diversity of challenges incorporated in the following modules:

- Beliefs and values
- Citizenship and community
- Communication
- Environment
- Expressive arts
- Health and fitness
- Independent living
- International links
- Science and technology
- Sport and leisure
- Vocational preparation
- Work related learning and enterprise

#### **4. ASDAN Certificate of Personal Effectiveness (CoPE)**

CoPE is ASDAN's flagship award with GCSE equivalence. It offers imaginative ways of accrediting a child's activities. It promotes and allows Arnfield School to record a wide range of the child's personal qualities, abilities and achievements, as well as introducing them to new activities and challenges.

This certificated ASDAN scheme works towards developing key skills in communication, working with others and problem solving, by offering the children:

- Structured challenges
- Opportunities to include activities both inside and outside the workshop
- Regular recognition and reward to sustain motivation
- Action planning and reviewing to develop self-awareness
- Portfolio development
- Nationally recognised certification for levels 1, 2 and 3
- Access to wider key skills accreditation.

#### **5. Outdoor Education – AQA Unit Award Scheme**

Outdoor education takes place on weekdays, usually within the Peak District National Park area. Additionally an expedition/trip runs from Monday through to Friday somewhere in Great Britain. Outdoor education facilitates learning by using the outdoor environment as a teaching medium, with a strong emphasis on experiential learning.

Progression and development are encouraged through the outdoor education programme using the Assessment and Qualifications Alliance (AQA) Unit Award Scheme to recognise achievement.

The primary aim of these awards is to:

- Maintain enthusiasm and motivation for learning through the outdoor environment
- Instil a culture of learning – producing a sense of progression and development
- Use outdoor activities as a learning experience in their own right, and as a platform for teaching key skills
- Provide opportunities to gain access to National Governing Body awards.

Accredited levels 1 to 3 are gained through participation in each of the activities offered below, all of which have been developed by Arnfield Care Ltd and have been validated by AQA:

- Bushcraft
- Campcraft
- Canoeing

- Caving
- Horse riding
- Kayaking
- Kiting
- Mountain biking
- Mountain walking
- Mountaineering
- Rock climbing
- Windsurfing

The outdoor education programme at Arnfield School aims to:

- Provide a platform for learning, in order to develop skills necessary to gain accredited awards, thus recognising progress
- Promote teamwork, trust, self-awareness and self-confidence
- Encourage a culture of vitality and physical fitness
- Incorporate necessary key skills into a range of alternative activities
- Broaden horizons and enrich life experiences
- Promote risk awareness and decision making
- Promote environmental awareness

## 6. Special educational needs

Individual help is provided for children who have learning difficulties and emotional or behavioural problems. Mary Duroshola, Consultant Educational Psychologist, carries out assessments on children with special educational needs, and is available for consultation with staff and individual work with children. For further guidance refer to *document C-73*.

R MacKenzie (Head Teacher)  
 J Simmons (Training Officer)  
 W Relf (Head of Care & Responsible Individual)  
 Arnfield Care Ltd

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### Relevant organizational information:

*C-70: Education policy for Arnfield Independent School*  
*C-73: Special educational needs*  
*C-80: Outdoor Education Code of Practice*