



Document C-72

**CURRICULUM PLAN FOR
ARNFIELD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL**

Original document approved by W Relf, Head of Care
& Responsible Individual, in August 2008

Reviewed by J Wager, Head Teacher and J Simmons, consultant,
in May 2019.

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1. Introduction

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

- Classroom based education
- ASDAN award schemes
- AQA accredited outdoor education
- Cross-curricular projects

Classroom based education and work on ASDAN and AQA award schemes and outdoor education is provided at Arnfield Tower Activity Centre and at Greenfield House on weekdays (Mondays through to Fridays) throughout the year.

2. Classroom- and workshop- based curriculum areas

2.1 Expressive and creative arts.

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

2.3 Human and social studies: history

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

2.4 Linguistics

Studies in this curriculum area enable children to:

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

2.5 Mathematics

Studies in this curriculum 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
- Apply mathematical knowledge to real life situations

2.6 Science

Studies in this curriculum 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 curriculum 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.

The emphasis is on re-introducing children who may have been out of education for some time back in to a flexible yet formal setting, and ultimately back into mainstream education.

The 'basic key skills builder' (BKSB) programme is initially used so that children's abilities can be ascertained to provide 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.

Functional skills exams in Maths and English are arranged for students on a case by case basis when appropriate. Other external examinations and vocational courses can also be arranged.

3. ASDAN award schemes

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

- Personal Development Programme in Bronze, Silver and Gold.

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:

- Citizenship and community
- Communication
- Sport and Leisure
- Home Management
- Environment
- Number Handling
- Expressive arts
- Health and fitness
- International links
- Science and technology
- Work related learning and enterprise
- Beliefs and values

4. 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.
- Provide a practical outdoor education element to cross-curricular work.

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	Kayaking
Campcraft	Mountain biking
Canoeing	Mountain walking
Caving	Mountaineering
Horse riding	Rock climbing

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

5. Cross-curricular work

Students follow project work that covers National Curriculum objectives in Geography, History, Science, PSHE, PE, MFL, Art and Technology.

KS3 Projects:

- My Footprint (Science, Technology)
- Where Am I (Geography, History)
- Image (Science, Art)
- Independent Living (Science)
- Emojis (Technology, Art, History)
- Charity Fundraiser (Art, Technology, Geography)
- MFL (Modern Foreign Languages)

KS4 Projects:

- Image (Science, Art)
- Trip Advisor (History, Geography)
- Event Management (Geography, Art)
- Public Services (History, Technology)
- Independent Living (Science)
- Charity Fundraiser (Art, Technology, Geography)

See Arnfield Independent School Curriculum Map for KS3 and KS4 for more information. Projects are taught through classroom work, ASDAN trips and Outdoor Education days.

6. Extra-curricular activities

Children at Arnfield Tower Activity Centre and Greenfield House also have access to extra-curricular activities in the evenings and at weekends. Children are encouraged and supported to take up new hobbies and interests such as horse riding, dancing, ice-skating, go-karting and musical tuition.

7. 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*.

8. Promoting British Values.

The Government emphasises that schools are required to ensure that key 'British Values' are taught in all UK schools. The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy. The five British Values are:

Democracy
The rule of law
Individual liberty
Mutual respect
Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

The school uses strategies within the National curriculum and beyond to secure such outcomes for students. Learning walks take place to ensure that British Values are not undermined during any education activity.

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Relevant legislation, guidance and organizational information:

'Keeping Children Safe in Education' DfE (2018)

C-70: Education policy for Arnfield Independent School

C-76: *Inclusion policy*

C-80: *Outdoor Education Code of Practice*