

Bankside School

Bankside School is a specialist service providing education for children between the ages of 11 and 18 with a diagnosis of autism and mild learning difficulties. Many of our young people have experienced significant childhood trauma, which often has resulted in long periods of absence from school, breaks in formal education, multiple placement breakdowns and gaps in attainment.

In addition, this means that some young people have significant difficulties in developing positive relationships and also present barriers to learning and additional learning needs.

All students have Education Health Care Plans (EHCP), and all students experience difficulties which has an impact upon their learning. For the majority, this is the first formal education they have attended in a considerable time. The majority, therefore, arrive below age related academic expectations and anticipate that students will follow formal or semi-formal curriculum pathways. We work closely with our placing authorities and parents to agree and facilitate appropriate transitional learning plans.

Each student's EHCP and initial baseline assessments directly inform personalised starting points. A transition plan will be implemented at each student's starting point which will include agreed outcomes, therapeutic, clinical and curriculum provision. The transition plan will be reviewed within a 6-week timeframe and subsequent Individual Education Plans (IEPs) will be reviewed and updated every term.

We are aspirational for all pupils. Many pupils have not experienced success and it is important that we create a safe learning environment where students are able to flourish and achieve more than they believed to be possible. Learning opportunities are personalised, recognising the vastly differing needs and starting points of our students.

Bankside School Curriculum Intent

Bankside School is an Options Autism educational setting and fully develops the organisation's vision, mission and promise:

- **Vision:** *'We build incredible futures by empowering vulnerable children and young adults in the UK to be happy and make their way in the world.'*
- **Mission:** *'Everyday we improve the lives of those we educate and look after, their families and communities through a relentless focus on learning and caring.'*
- **Promise:** *'We are kind to each other....we work together.....and we make things happen.'*

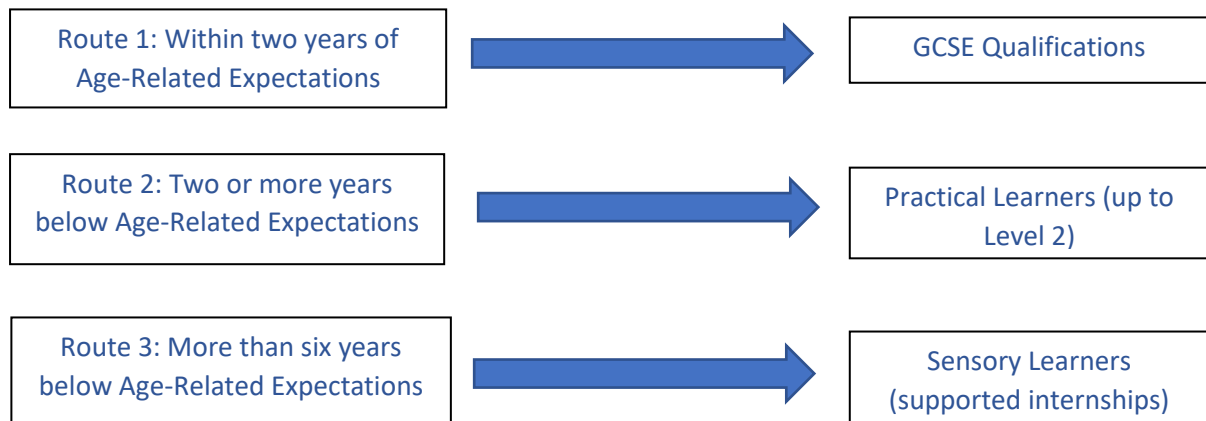
Within this framework, Bankside School's curriculum intent and core purpose is defined below:

'We build incredible futures by empowering young people to develop their **independence, self-esteem and confidence** through a relentless focus on learning and caring.'

Therefore, our curriculum intent is constructed to meet students' personalised learning and social development needs. We are committed to develop students' individual strengths and talents. Our curriculum is also mindful that our students need to be fully involved in preparing for their next steps towards independent living, employability and community inclusion.

Bankside School Curriculum Implementation

Our thematic curriculum follows the International Middle Years Curriculum at Key Stage 3 and for some students into Key Stage 4. During students' transition to Bankside, a series of informal baseline assessments and knowledge gap identification will be completed. In collaboration with the student, their family and other professionals each student will be allocated personal targets linked to their EHCP, baseline assessments and Preparation for Adulthood. Students will follow one of the following routes through the curriculum:



Bankside School is aspirational for all its students and the appropriateness of an agreed route will be regularly reviewed with the student, family, teacher and other professionals. Students will make progress towards their personalised targets through our thematic curriculum. Each subject will develop specific knowledge and skills around a 'The Big Idea' which in our first year will focus on adaptability. Students will also be encouraged to develop their international mindedness about how new concepts and ideas fit into the world and how this develops their sense of self. Additionally, students will undertake reflective journaling to assist in evidence gathering ahead of a final collective project of ideas gathered around the thematic topic of the year.

Mathematics will stand-alone in regards to assessment and teaching and learning. However, cross-curricular mathematics skills will be highlighted on curriculum documentation.

Each student will be informally assessed through a 6-week transition programme when joining Bankside School. An integral feature of this informal assessment window will be to evaluate students' confidence and proficiency with reading. Students assessed as requiring a systematic synthetic phonics teaching programme will initially engage with Twinkl Phonics. Bankside School will assess the suitability of alternative phonics programmes (i.e. Dandelion or Read/Write Inc) when student cohorts have been confirmed.

Key Stage 4/5 Curriculum

While some students will access our Key Stage 3 curriculum, other students in Key Stages 4 and 5 will access accredited qualifications and the next stage of our Preparation for Adulthood curriculum. Students will be able to study appropriate GCSEs and others will follow Bankside College's thematic curriculum that supports students' progress and achievement through a range of ASDAN and NOCN qualifications.

Employability Curriculum

Careers and employability will be delivered across Bankside School's thematic curriculum. Related content will be identified as cross-curricular links on subject documentation. Students will be able to participate in a range of enterprise and community projects across all key stages. Bankside School is committed to provide all students with relevant and appropriate work-related experiences and access to impartial careers-based education and guidance through an appropriately trained professional.

Enrichment Curriculum

An important aspect of our curriculum is to deliver a depth and breadth of experience for each student. Therefore, we are passionate about students participating in the following enrichment opportunities:

- Forest School
- Horticulture
- Design Technology
- ICT
- Local trips and visits
- Sport and Leisure

Our enrichment curriculum will be designed and delivered around the personal interests, skills and talents of each students.