



CURRICULUM OFFER 2023-26

Mission Statement

We will enable each child to achieve his or her personal best both now and in the future. We will support our pupils to be resilient in an ever changing world through developing a cutting edge curriculum with Oak Lodge at its heart.

Curriculum Intent

At Oak Lodge, we aim to have:

- **Outstanding teaching** to achieve the best outcomes for students
- A curriculum that develops key skills and meets the challenges of a changing world.
- Effective communication skills to promote social inclusion in the future.

To this end, we provide a curriculum, which:

- is broad and balanced.
- is challenging, enabling students to acquire the skills, knowledge and concepts relevant to their future.
- is sequenced and systematically planned to build knowledge.
- is differentiated appropriately for individuals.
- builds an understanding of British values.
- promotes an ethos of care, mutual respect and support, where effort is valued and success celebrated.
- enables learners to become active, responsible and caring members of the school and wider community.



Sixth Form Intent:

- Oak Lodge Sixth Form is committed to ensuring that all students have access to experiences that challenge, motivate and enable individual progression and successful transition to their next steps in education, training or work and adulthood.
- By providing students with opportunities to develop their skills, increase their confidence and resilience, raise their aspirations and broaden their awareness of careers and employability skills, students are motivated and inspired to be ambitious and to have an ethos of high aspiration to help each of them reach their full potential.
- Oak Lodge Sixth Form nurture active partnerships to offer high quality teaching and learning for our students to encourage participation and raise achievement.
- Students work towards achieving nationally recognised accreditations and qualifications

Curriculum Offer

Students at Oak Lodge study a broad curriculum meeting adapted National Curriculum requirements to suit the needs of our students. British Sign Language is the modern foreign language offered.

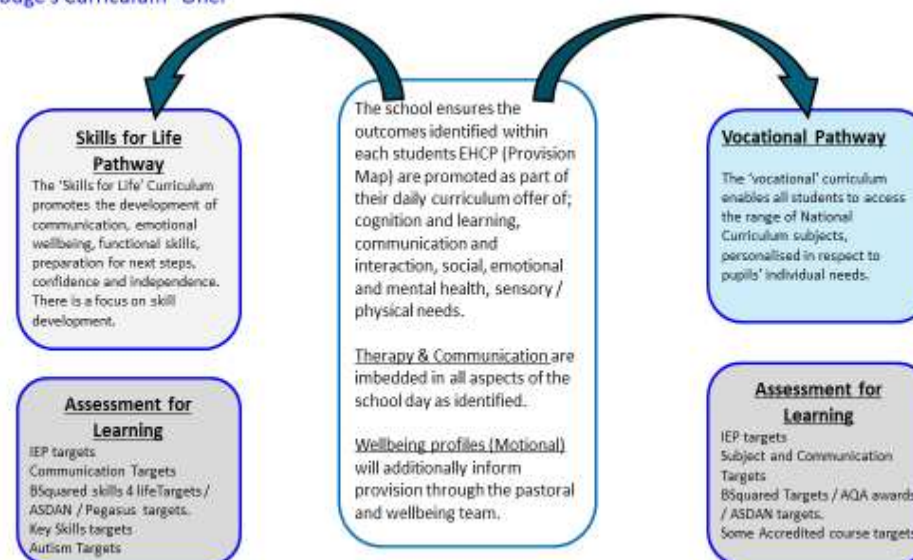
Across all lessons in the Oak Lodge curriculum there is a focus on the development of literacy, numeracy and communication skills.

We aim to offer a curriculum that develops the whole student. Through all subjects we aim to enable progress in all areas including cognition and learning, communication and interaction, social, emotional and mental health and physical and sensory development.

Our residential provision provides a life skills programme to support pupil's development in skills needed for assisted and independent living.

Emotional wellbeing is crucial and students have the chance to access programmes and interventions with pastoral staff, our wellbeing team and relevant external professionals.

Oak Lodge's Curriculum Offer



Enjoyment of and engagement in learning

The curriculum aims to stimulate a love of learning. We want to promote enjoyment of and engagement in learning through new experiences for all students.

Across the curriculum students are encouraged to gain a deeper knowledge and understanding of key ideas and concepts, to experience wonder and develop the ability to ask thoughtful questions appropriate to their cognitive ability to support their learning.

Communication

Oak Lodge uses a student-centred **Total Communication** approach to the delivery of education.

This incorporates all means of communication; British Sign Language, Sign Supported English, AAC, natural gestures, fingerspelling, body language, listening, lip-reading and speech.

Each student works towards communicative competency in their first language (be it in BSL, SSE or spoken English).

Oak Lodge aims to develop students' functional language and communication skills, so that students leave school confident and competent in using a variety of communication methods.

Students benefit from state-of-the-art audiology and technology resources including a comprehensive soundfield system.

Literacy and numeracy

Across all lessons in the Oak Lodge curriculum there is a focus on the development of literacy, numeracy and communication skills.

The development of Literacy plays a fundamental role in the delivery of and progression through the curriculum.

The whole-school drive on raising levels of literacy underpins all curriculum-based work through:

- the use of key words, terms, instructions and technical vocabulary.
- three times weekly reading sessions to encourage a love of reading, improve literacy and target students who need extra support with reading

Numeracy is embedded throughout the curriculum, supporting the development of essential number, problem solving and decision-making skills across the curriculum.

Teachers use relevant topics to develop students' mathematical skills and this is detailed in their planning

Creativity within the curriculum

Students are provided with opportunities to be creative. They learn to express and understand themselves in a range of creative ways. As part of their timetable students have discrete lessons in:

Art	Textiles	Design Technology – Vocational curriculum
Creative Music & Drama (Key Stage 3) Dance to be developed.		Craft – Skills curriculum

Well-being, happiness and health

Students are provided with ongoing opportunities for spiritual, moral, cultural and social development. This is embedded across the curriculum but is particularly evident in the following subjects:

Physical education	PSHE and Citizenship	Pastoral time & Assembly
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Curriculum enrichment

Students benefit from a range of cross-curricular opportunities and out of hours learning which further develop cultural capital and complement in-class learning to form a full curriculum offer. These include residential experiences, theatre visits, performing arts productions, and a range of sporting activities.

In addition, we plan regular collapsed timetable days, which provide an opportunity for students to develop specific skills that will help with their learning and future employment in mixed age groups.

Pastoral sessions

Pastoral sessions include support in developing emotional literacy and resilience, as well as developing an awareness of the world about them through looking at current affairs and news from around the world. These sessions generate discussions and develop knowledge and understanding of British Values, the law and democracy. These sessions support the work of the schools council in shaping the school future development and pupil voice.

Pupil Premium students

In order for our pupil premium students to perform in line with other students they receive financial support so that they can have full access to resources and the additional extra-curricular opportunities that are available.

Vulnerable students benefit from wrap around care. They are monitored and supported by the wellbeing team in liaison with local authority teams and supporting organisations. Families may receive support for short or extended periods so that students can take full advantage of educational provision.

Enterprise

Many of the jobs students will do when they leave school do not yet exist. Students are likely to have several jobs in their lifetime. Students are encouraged and supported to develop skills to employ themselves.

The aim behind the enterprise initiative is to enable students to gain the skills to contribute to and hold a meaningful place in society.

The enterprise curriculum also offers staff the opportunity to be creative and to offer a wider curriculum, based on student / staff interests and skills. Staff work in teams of 3 or 4 to develop a half termly or termly programme for a targeted group of students.

Enterprise projects aim to develop the following skills.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creativity.• Digital literacy.• Critical thinking.• Problem-solving.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resilience• Financial awareness.• Building effective relationships.• Entrepreneurial skills
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Careers

Oak Lodge provides a planned programme of Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) for students in Years 7 – 14 that is impartial and engaging. This is support through RAD (Royal Association for the Deaf). The programme is designed to develop high aspirations and encourage students to consider a broad and ambitious range of career options. The curriculum meets the differing needs and requirements of our pupils. This is developed throughout a students' time at the school and is always supportive of their abilities, strengths and skills.

The Aims and Purpose of the Programme are:

- Prepare students for the transition to life after Oak Lodge
- Support students in making informed decisions which are appropriate for them
- Provide students with well-rounded experiences
- Develop personal characteristics such as social skills, communication, independence and resilience
- Inspire and motivate students to develop themselves as individuals and live as independently as is possible.

Work Experience

Where appropriate completion of off-site work experience is offered for Year 11 and above students who complete a 1-week placement during the academic year.

Completion of work experience is also a very important part of the Post 16 provision whether this is through one day a week extended placement throughout the year, block placements or internal placements. This is an excellent way of developing practical work skills, confidence and knowledge. The type and duration of work experience depends on ability and the stage of learning.

Work related learning

Work-related learning incorporates a range of employer encounters from careers fairs and mock interviews to employer talks and work experience programmes. A well-structured work-related learning programme aims to enable students to develop both hard and soft skills employability skills. Examples of previous work-related learning activities at Oak Lodge include:

Years 7/8/9	Year 10 and 11	SIXTH FORM
Enterprise projects Kidzania	Enterprise projects RAD Workshops/CVs/Independent Careers Advice Careers Week Visit Skills London and Wandsworth Get Set Go! One week's work experience	RAD Workshops/CVs/Independent Careers Advice Careers Week At least 3 work placements per academic year Individualised work placements

PSHE and RSE

At Oak Lodge School, we promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education programme. PSHE education is the curriculum subject that gives young people the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live safe, healthy, productive lives.

The RSE curriculum focuses on was introduced by the government in 2020. This provides students with the information they need to make safe, informed and healthy decisions as they progress through adult life. This includes respectful relationships including friendships, online safety and intimate and sexual relationships.

Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Development (SMSC)

The Oak Lodge School curriculum promotes students' Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Development. All departments identify SMSC opportunities in their planning.

Ethos and Character education – we have linked the themes of our ethos with the core themes for character education, and created themes for each term to focus on. These core values are embedded across the school in all aspects of our community.

Respect	Responsibility	Friendship
Ambition	Excellence	Happiness

British Values

These form an important part of our SMSC provision. They develop students' understanding of:

- Democracy
- The rule of law

- Individual freedom
- Respect for others
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

Students are taught these as part of the SMSC provision. This is identified in all subject based planning.

Character Education

The development of students' character is crucial to helping students reach their full potential at Oak Lodge School.

Students are supported to become aware of their own strengths and areas for growth. They take up new challenges, work in teams with others, plan and deliver activities. They learn to show perseverance, develop an understanding of the world they are living in and how they can affect it in positive and negative ways.

The [Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtue](#) defines character education as "all the explicit and implicit educational activities that help young people to develop positive personal character strengths."

Character education is being developed at Oak Lodge School using the *Commando Joe* programme. This programme aims to enable students to develop a set of values, attitudes, skills and behaviours that will support their personal development and contribute to their success in school and in adult life.

Student Voice

Student voice activities are a key part of students' social development and this is further enhanced by the enrichment opportunities and off-site visits. Students are encouraged to share their ideas, initiate and take part in school projects and play an active role in ensuring their safety and well-being.

Students have opportunities to:

- Develop their independence skills
- Work with others.
- Contribute to the school community and help improve it

They can do this by:

- Becoming School Leaders

- Becoming Wellbeing Leaders
- Becoming Sports leaders
- Taking part in discussions and debates
- Becoming Interview panel members
- Becoming School visit guides

Lower School

Oak Lodge can accept students from the age of ten years. Currently these students join the lower school cohort.

In the lower school, pupils follow adapted National Curriculum subjects and British Sign Language is taken as the language of study. We follow two pathways – Vocational and Skills.

All students experience a range of subjects, giving them the maximum access to a broad and balanced curriculum suitable to their needs. See below

BSL	English	Maths	Science	History Geography	PSHE, RE	PE	Art	ICT	Reading	Technology Food & Design	Creative Arts
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Year 7 & 8 – Skills

When students arrive the focus is on completing the transition programme settling them in to Oak Lodge and ensuring that they feel safe, happy and confident. The pupils are taught as a group for the majority of their lessons with one key teacher and two TA's. This provides a strong foundation for their secondary education.

Year 7 & 8 - Vocational

Follow the “traditional” broad and balanced secondary curriculum moving to specialist teacher class bases for the majority of their lessons.

Upper school

In the upper school our key aim is to offer a balanced curriculum which will support students in their future career aspirations and allow them to be successful.

Year 9 to 11 – Skills

Students focus is on developing skills through following the Equals Curriculum which we have adapted to meet the needs of our pupils. The pupils are taught as a group for the majority of their lessons with one key teacher and two TA's. This provides a strong continuity for their secondary education.

Year 9 to 11 – Vocational

Follow the more “traditional” secondary curriculum offer. Students receive effective support for their individual learning needs so that they can access a range of certificated subjects. Accreditations include Pegasus Award, Entry Level, ASDAN, GCSE, Functional Skills and AQA Unit and Ascentis Awards. These are matched to students’ ability thus providing academic rigour for students for whom this is appropriate as well as access to a range of other qualifications suitable to their ability and needs.

We also deliver a range of vocational and life skills subjects, including work experience, to prepare pupils for life beyond school.

Upper school students continue to benefit from opportunities to build cultural capital and receive excellent education and advice related to careers.

Compulsory core subjects	Additional compulsory subjects	Additional curriculum
English Maths British Sign Language Science PHSE	Information Technology / Computing PE Religious Studies/ Citizenship	Art Textiles Construction Catering & Hospitality Sports Leaders Awards Duke of Edinburgh - Bronze

KEY STAGE 5 PATHWAYS

Oak Lodge Sixth Form provide the highest quality education and support to ensure they become confident individuals who are socially and emotionally healthy and ready for their next steps into adulthood.

Skills for Life Pathway

The term Skills for Life Curriculum' recognises that many young people have a range of complex learning difficulties. This curriculum is designed to meet learning needs using a personalised learning approach.

Students with more complex needs complete units in the *ASDAN Personal Progress Award Scheme* in addition to intensive interaction, sensory therapy and a range of additional enrichment activities. Students work on Personal Progress units that cover all core subjects. All work incorporates adult based learning where skills can be applied to work and life situations.

Learning focuses on all areas of need identified in student Education, Health and Care Plans.

There are overlaps between our Skills for Life areas and subjects on the UK National Curriculum. However, the Skills for Life curriculum areas are designed to offer something totally distinct, to directly address students' learning needs, rather than adapting the national curriculum in any form.

Pre-vocational Pathway

The Prevocational curriculum at Key Stage 4 and 5 aims to provide our pupils with the opportunities to access certifications with great flexibility in terms of the time they are given to complete a course. Students are given the opportunity to extend their course length or retake exams in order to achieve a higher or preferable grade. The number of courses on a student's timetable will vary depend on the needs of the student.

The Pre-Vocational Curriculum is suitable for students who need to improve their English and Maths in order to meet the entry requirements for future vocational courses. It is also suitable for those students who may not be ready socially or emotionally to transition onto a full-time college placement.

As well as Functional Skills English and Maths (Entry Level 1 – Level 2) and pastoral support, students have the opportunity to study the following :

ICT Functional Skills Level 1 / 2	The Duke of Edinburgh, Bronze & Silver Award	PSHE
Sports Leadership at Level 1 / 2	BSL	Employability skills / Careers Guidance

One day a week, students have the opportunity to study off-site, with one of our partner providers. Courses vary from year to year but have included the following in past years

Animal Care	Construction	Hair and Beauty
Horticulture	Motor cycle maintenance	Careers Guidance

While studying off-site the students who require aided access to communication, work with qualified Communication Support Workers to access the curriculum and to help them to prepare for college life and their transition into mainstream vocational college.

The programme runs as both a one year and two-year course, dependent on the students' progress within English and Maths and their readiness for the next step. At the end of the course, students can move on to the Vocational Pathway or explore local provisions.

In preparation for their transition from Sixth Form to college or work, students are encouraged to be as independent as possible in the Sixth Form. This may include travelling independently, managing their own money and bank account, preparing their own packed lunch or going off-site at lunch time to buy their lunch.

The Vocational Pathway

The Vocational pathway consists of a considerable offsite component delivered by partnership colleges. Onsite, students continue courses in English and Maths Functional Skills at a level in line with their cognitive ability.

The Vocational curriculum prepares our students for transition both within school and into adult life. Students can from a wide range of courses offsite. See below for examples from recent years.

Health and Social Care	Motor cycle maintenance
Catering and Hospitality	Plumbing
Animal Care	Construction

Through these courses, students also acquire knowledge about various jobs and the work skills needed in each area. Offering such a diverse range of options enables students to find something that they would be interested in studying or working in when they leave Oak Lodge.

Vocational offers change annually and are based on student choice and offsite course availability.