

Potterspury Lodge School

Curriculum Policy

Policy version control

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Author/Reviewer	J Amps
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Potterspury Lodge School CURRICULUM POLICY

Legal Status:

Regulatory Requirements, Part 1, paragraph 2(2) (i) to (x) Quality of Education Provided (curriculum) (teaching) of The Education (Independent School Standards Compliance Record) (England) (Amendment) Regulations.

Applies to:

- the whole school inclusive of activities outside of the normal school hours;
- all staff (teaching and support staff), the proprietor and volunteers working in the school.

Availability:

This policy is made available to parents/guardian/carers, carers, staff and pupils from the school office and website

Monitoring and Review:

This policy will be subject to continuous monitoring, refinement and audit by the Head of Education

The Proprietor undertakes a formal review of this policy for the purpose of monitoring and of the efficiency with which the related duties have been discharged, by no later than three years from the date shown below, or earlier if significant changes to the systems and arrangements take place, or if legislation, regulatory requirements or best practice guidelines so require.

Date: April 2026

Signed:

Andrew Sutherland

Andrew Sutherland
Proprietor, Cambian Group



Mr. J Amps
Head Teacher
Potterspury Lodge School

“At Potterspurty Lodge School our vision is for each child to make progress from their starting points in academic and social terms, so that each individual develops the life skills and character to thrive on their pathway to adulthood (in order to live an independent life) and beyond.”

At Cambian Potterspurty Lodge School, we are proud to support students whose primary diagnosis is Autism Spectrum Disorder, alongside those with additional needs or diagnoses such as mental health needs, ADHD, ADD, and other associated difficulties. All of our students are referred and funded by their local authority and have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) to ensure their individual needs are fully understood and supported. The school is registered to admit students from Key Stage 2 through to Key Stage 5, welcoming young people aged 8 to 18. Our curriculum offer currently extends from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 4 and is carefully designed to meet students at their individual starting points.

Our Curriculum Aims

The aim of the curriculum at Potterspurty Lodge School is to provide a broad, balanced, and highly personalised learning experience that recognises and responds to each student's unique strengths and needs. We understand that our students will eventually leave school and enter a wider world that may not always fully understand their needs. With this in mind, our curriculum is designed to equip them with the knowledge, skills, and confidence required to navigate life beyond school successfully.

When designing and delivering the curriculum, subject teachers carefully consider three key areas:

- *Local, national, and global contexts* – ensuring learning is relevant and meaningful by linking subject content to students' immediate experiences, as well as wider national and global issues.
- *Accessibility* – adapting teaching and learning approaches so that all students can engage with an appropriate level of challenge, based on their individual needs and starting points.
- *Preparation for adulthood* – embedding opportunities across all subject areas to support the national *Preparing for Adulthood* outcomes, helping students to develop the skills needed to live as fulfilling and independent a life as possible.

Key Stage 2 Offer

All students are offered a broad and balanced curriculum, aligned with the National Curriculum for England, that provides both the skills and experiences needed to build strong foundations for learning, confidence, resilience independence and a lifelong love of learning.

Our curriculum at Key Stage 2 is designed to;

- Secure core skills such as reading, writing and mathematics
- Broaden knowledge and curiosity in order to understand and be inquisitive about the world around them.
- Develop behaviours for learning by focusing on resilience, problem solving, concentration- learning how to learn, not just what to learn.
- Preparation for Key Stage 3.

The table below outlines the number of lessons per week allocated to each subject.

Key Stage 2	
English (Including Spelling/SPAG/Handwriting/ Phonics)	6
Mathematics	5
Science	4
Computing	1
PE	2
RE/PSHCE/British Values	2
Topic (Geography/History)	2
Life Skills	2
Art	2
Personal Development	1
Food	1
Enrichment/ Outdoor Learning	2

Key Stage 2 lays the academic, social and emotional groundwork that enables students to progress confidently into the next stage of their education and beyond.

Key Stage 3 Offer

Key Stage 3 moves students from primary education and into a more specialised secondary education. Students move from learning core foundations to applying their skills in a wider, more challenging, yet safe, context. Key Stage 3 subjects will be delivered by subject specialists.

Our curriculum at Key Stage 3 is designed to;

- Build on Key Stage 2 foundations; students will deepen their skills while applying them more independently and across a range of subjects
- Broaden and balance the curriculum; students will be helped to discover strengths, interests and passions for a wider and deeper range of subjects
- Develop higher level thinking skills; students will learn to analyse, evaluate, problem solve and think critically
- Support personal and social development; strong emphasis is placed on self awareness, communication, emotional regulation and supporting students through their early adolescence
- Increased independence and responsibility; students will be encouraged to take ownership of their learning, manage transitions and be supported with increased expectations
- Preparation for Key Stage 4

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
English	4	4	4
Maths	4	4	4
Science	4	4	4
Computing	2	2	2
PE	2	2	2
Geography	2	2	2
History	2	2	2
Food and cookery skills	2	2	2
Creative and Performing Arts (Art, Music)	2	2	2
Futures	1	2	2
Religious Education	1	1	1
Life Skills	1	1	1
PSHE	1	1	1
Outdoor Learning	2	2	2

Key Stage 4 Offer

Our Key Stage 4 offer encompasses a core element and a selection of options choices. In most subjects, opportunities exist for students to access qualifications across a variety of levels depending on prior attainment. Students are supported through the selection process ensuring appropriate options choices. Key Stage 4 is focused on preparing our young people for life beyond Potterspury Lodge.

Our curriculum at Key Stage 4 is designed to support our students to;

- Achieve recognised qualifications
- Develop independence and responsibility
- Prepare for adulthood
- Build confidence and resilience
- Support informed next steps; post 16 education, training or employment

Our curriculum is designed to ensure students leave Potterspury Lodge school with all of the skills, confidence, understanding and knowledge needed to move successfully into further education, training, independence and adulthood.

Accreditation: the school is currently registered with AQA, Edexcel and OCR to provide qualifications.

Safeguarding:

The Life Skills curriculum provides students with the opportunity to understand safeguarding issues which may affect them and to ensure they feel safe and supported at school. The wider curriculum serves to promote students' mental and physical health to aid in them overcoming barriers to them achieving the best possible outcomes for them as individuals. Staff undertake weekly whole school clinical supervision that supports them in adapting their teaching to help foster positive relationships, mental health, wellbeing and resilience. The school's PSHE lead is also a member of the Pastoral team and regularly liaises with the Designated Safeguarding

Lead to monitor emerging needs that require addressing.

Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) is provided at an appropriate level for students' ages and stages of development in line with statutory guidance.

Pupil progress and assessment:

On entry all students undertake GL Assessment CAT-4 testing, along with NGRT/NGST testing to ascertain reading and spelling ages. The CAT-4 testing provides teachers with an end of Key Stage 4 target for each subject. Depending on each student's individual needs and previous experiences in school this may serve as an aspirational target or a baseline.

NGRT and NGST testing is repeated annually at the beginning of a school year to provide up to date information for

staff on students' literacy skills, ensuring work can be provided at an accessible level.

Teachers undertake regular formative assessment and engage in regular discussion with students so that they are aware of their learning and progress. The small class sizes and high staff to student ratios mean that there are regular opportunities for staff to provide real-time, high-quality verbal feedback that addresses misconceptions and ensures students understand what is required to improve their work. Progress against a range of skills related to CAT-4 targets is tracked by staff centrally.

Reporting:

Staff are encouraged to maintain regular contact with parents, with form tutors either phoning or emailing on at least a weekly basis. Alongside regular home-school contact, formal reporting on progress occurs three times a year – as part of the EHCP review process, via a parent's evening and via a formal report sent home to families.

Careers provision:

At Cambian Potterspurpy Lodge School we believe the impact of our work is felt in the years after children leave our school. As a result, we feel it is important to ensure our students have the information required to aspire to as fulfilling and as independent a life as their starting points allow. To support with this, within the curriculum the school seeks to:

- Embed relevant careers information into individual subject curricula
- Provide additional careers teaching within tutor times and Personal Development lessons
- Facilitate visits to local further and higher education settings as well as local businesses
- Share information with parents regarding open days for local further education providers