



## **The Beacon Centre Secondary Curriculum Overview**

### **A Personalised, Supportive Pathway to Success**

#### **1. Rationale**

The Beacon Centre Secondary is an alternative education setting which offers short term placements (approx. 1 term). It is a setting that aims to support all young people in securing a successful transition onto an appropriate permanent placement that best suits the individual, be that mainstream or more specialist educational settings.

Education is at the heart of everything that we do at Beacon Secondary, as we believe that a good education gives children and young people the best possible chance of success. The curriculum offer has been carefully planned and curated to ensure its breadth and depth of delivery. Whilst offering a learning experience that is rich, filled with awe and wonder and offering positive life experiences to young people.

The Beacon Centre seeks to help young people develop all aspects of the individual, including:

- Perseverance
- Motivation
- Sociability
- Attention skills
- Self-regulation
- Anger management
- Self-esteem
- The ability to defer gratification
- Self-Determination

We believe that progression is best achieved when our young people are given access to inspirational learning environments and high quality teaching, delivered through an atmosphere of mutual respect and tolerance. Through our broad and balanced curriculum, we aim to develop our children's emotional and intellectual intelligence, whilst broadening their academic and experiential horizons. In this way, young people leave prepared for the next stages of their education, or ready to enter the world of work.



## **2. Introduction**

The curriculum at The Beacon Centre goes beyond the classroom, combining academic learning with informal experiences and enrichment activities to support the personal and social development of each student. It meets the requirements of the National Curriculum while also focusing on how students are treated, expected to behave, and supported to grow into respectful, responsible individuals.

We place a strong emphasis on emotional regulation, social development and positive behaviour. Social, Emotional and Mental Health support is woven into the daily curriculum through structured interventions, mentoring and therapeutic approaches. Lessons are delivered in small groups, with a high staff-to-student ratio to support individualised learning.

Education within The Beacon Centre is underpinned by Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural development of our young people. The education that provides each student with the opportunity to explore and develop their own moral values and beliefs, spiritual awareness, high standards of personal behaviour, a positive caring attitude towards other people, an understanding of their social and cultural traditions and an appreciation of the diversity and richness of other cultures and British Values. At The Beacon Centre, we understand the key role this plays in allowing students to achieve and develop both academically and socially. These key concepts are promoted throughout the curriculum and in all aspects of school life at The Beacon Centre.

## **3. Our Approach**

- ★ Individual Learning Plans: Personalised to each student's needs, abilities, and future goals.
- ★ High-Quality SEMH Support: Staff are trained in trauma-informed practice, de-escalation and therapeutic approaches.
- ★ Small Class Sizes: To enable close support and relationship-building.
- ★ Positive Behaviour Focus: Reinforcing success through restorative practice, praise and rewards.
- ★ Reintegration Opportunities: For students ready to return to mainstream or move on to college or training.



#### **4. Intent**

Our goal is to re-engage students who have struggled in mainstream education by offering a broad, flexible curriculum tailored to individual needs. We aim to equip them with the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to reach their full potential and successfully transition into a long-term educational placement that suits them best.

At Beacon Secondary, our curriculum is designed to develop a culture of high expectations, allowing all of the young people in our care to achieve. We educate the whole individual with a focus on Social, Emotional and Mental Health, and developing real world employability skills.

Our secondary curriculum:

- Allows all of our young people to achieve nationally recognised qualifications.
- Helps to narrow the gaps in knowledge and understanding.
- Encourages all of our young people to engage in the world of employment through curriculum learning as well as wider opportunities and enrichment.

We aspire to deliver an education that meets the needs of all, taking a personalised approach, in order to deliver the best possible outcomes for our young people. These include:

- GCSE
- ASDAN
- Unit Award Scheme Certificates
- Functional Skills
- Entry Level
- BTEC

Our aim is to restore the self-confidence / self-determination that all young people inherently have at a young age. Encouraging our young people to make positive life choices and strive to be the best they can be.

#### **5. Teaching for Learning**

At The Beacon Centre, we encourage student's enthusiasm for learning through high quality teaching in an environment where their achievements and excellence are valued and celebrated. Rigorous, reliable and accurate assessment is central to the creative



teaching practice of the provision. We aim to enhance learning by supporting teachers in their use of a whole range of strategies and key techniques – it is about how teachers teach effectively and how children learn best, with a clear focus on individual learning styles and problem-solving.

## **6. Implementation**

The curriculum at The Beacon Centre is broad and balanced, providing a wide range of knowledge, skills and experiences, giving each subject sufficient time to contribute to the student's learning. Effective planning and preparation is central to the effective delivery of the curriculum. The teachers at The Beacon Centre start by base lining students. This is initiated through an induction process, to find out previous knowledge and experiences. Teachers use this information, together with the key skills required in each subject by the National Curriculum, to inform their planning, delivery and evaluation of their subjects. The main emphasis of planning in the school is to make the curriculum relevant to the individual's learning by making explicit cross-curricular links.

Subjects offered at the Beacon Centre Secondary include:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- Citizenship
- PE
- PSHRE
- Food Technology
- Careers, Education, Information and Guidance (CEIAG)
- Preparation for Adulthood
- Emotion Regulation / Personal Development e.g. Commando Joes', Sensory Circuits, etc.
- Functional Skills Preparation

We also work closely with alternative providers, colleges, and employers to offer bespoke placements that support career interests and real-world readiness.

## **7. Work Related Learning Placements**

At The Beacon Centre, all Key Stage 4 students are offered the opportunity to take part in work-related learning placements as part of their personalised curriculum. These



valuable experiences take place across a range of sectors, including motor vehicle maintenance, plumbing, construction, hair and beauty, hospitality, and primary and nursery settings. Students enjoy being out of the classroom and engaging in real-world environments, where they can develop practical skills, confidence, and a stronger sense of purpose. Many of our young people have gone on to secure apprenticeships with their placement providers after leaving school in Year 11, reflecting the long-term benefits of our work-related learning programme.