

Shire Oak Academy

Shire Oak Academy



Curriculum Policy Statement - Post 16

September, 2015

Policy revision date: 06/10/15

Revised by: CR

Mr K. Hubery

Chairman of Governors

Date:

Review

The next review date is September 2018

Main reviewer: Principal in liaison with Director of Sixth Form Studies

Version 1.0

SHIRE OAK ACADEMY CURRICULUM POLICY STATEMENT FOR POST-16 EDUCATION

As a successful academy, we seek to offer a full range of educational opportunities to students of all ages. The post-16 curriculum and organisation must be comprehensive in terms of both its scope and opportunity. It sets out to meet the needs of students continuing their education beyond 16 and those who may be returning to education for a variety of reasons.

A) AIMS:

The aims of post-16 provision at Shire Oak Academy are:

1. To provide and continue to develop a comprehensive curriculum which
 - provides a wide range of GCE AS & A level courses to students wishing to follow advanced courses as a stepping stone to further and higher education, training and employment. The range and structure of AS & A level courses will meet the needs of students wishing to follow through an academic interest which is already strong and those who wish to enter new fields of study.
 - provides a range of level 3 vocational courses to students who have established clear vocational interests and education needs.
2. To set as the principal entry requirement from students the commitment to further study, a willingness to work hard and to take advantage the opportunities, expertise and facilities which are available.
3. To promote effective guidance, course planning and induction which enables students to plan a course programme which is suitable to their needs.
4. To ensure that each student is encouraged to aim high and to achieve the best examination results and or programme/certification awards of which he/she is capable.
5. To provide guidance and support which will enable students to make the most of their opportunities, plan for the future and make an effective and successful transition into the next stage of education, training or employment.
6. To encourage students to take responsibility for their own learning.
7. To provide regular and detailed assessment of students' progress to enable them to recognise strengths, diagnose weaknesses and plan effectively for their future learning.
8. To provide both formal and informal learning opportunities which encourage students to prepare for life beyond our academy: as individual citizens, as members of a family and as members of the community. Students will be encouraged to develop self-confidence in situations which are intellectually and emotionally challenging, the ability and readiness to learn new skills to demonstrate mental flexibility and receptiveness to new ideas and to develop social competence in a range of group activities.
9. To encourage students to play an active part in the life of the academy and its community dimension and to provide opportunity for them to develop and demonstrate skills of personal effectiveness including leadership, team-work and responsibility.
10. To continue to maintain close contact and involvement with parents as partners in their child's learning.
11. To foster the involvement and support of local industry and companies in the delivery and extension of the curriculum in order that students may gain an appreciation of the value and application of their learning outside of the classroom.
12. To work in partnership with other academies, colleges, higher education institutions and advisory and support agencies such as the Business Education Partnership to enhance the scope, range and quality of curriculum content, organisation and delivery.
13. To review and evaluate the post-16 curriculum on a regular basis.
14. To provide opportunity for each student to gain experience of their chosen career either through work-experience or work shadowing.
15. To ensure that the academy's Equal Opportunities policy is implemented fully across the range of activities and experiences we provide.
16. To recognise and celebrate achievement across a wide range of activities.

As with every academy policy, responsibility for its implementation and the achievement of its aims is the collective responsibility of all staff, led by the Head of the Sixth Form reporting to the Senior Leadership Team.

(B) PRINCIPLES:

1. All post - 16 students have a right to :
 - receive encouragement to understand the value of undertaking further education and training which is relevant and attractive and which gives them the opportunities to develop their full potential.
 - receive an education which shows progression and continuity from the National Curriculum, which promotes breadth and balance, and which facilitates the transference of skills in one context to others.
 - be reported on in an informative manner and reflect students' experiences and achievements.
 - receive an education which facilitates transfer between courses leading to different post - 16 qualifications.
2. The achievements within post - 16 education must be monitored and strategies developed to ensure that standards continue to improve.
3. The provision offered to all post - 16 students should encompass the aspiration to achieve and succeed.
4. All students are entitled to educational provision which reflects equal esteem and offers equal opportunities in learning. These opportunities should develop the following common learning outcomes.-
 - to communicate effectively;
 - to compile and use numerical information;
 - to develop the skills required to use science and technology appropriately;
 - to encompass opportunities, effectively develop personal, interpersonal and independent learning skills;
 - to provide the experience of working independently and as a team member;
 - to have the skills to enable students to solve problems;
 - to cope positively with change.
5. Our post-16 curriculum, as with KS3 and KS4 curriculum, complies with The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 in that we will continuously strive to ensure that all are treated with respect and dignity and that each person will be given fair and equal opportunities to develop their full potential with positive regard to gender, ethnicity, cultural and religious background, sexuality or disability.

(C) ACCESS

1. All post - 16 students are entitled to a range of provision which reflects the maximum effort to provide for all potential learners.
 - They deserve the opportunity to continue their studies in their own local community, should they wish.
 - The provision within the post -16 curriculum should offer students a variety in the choice of programme and cater for varying levels of achievement.
2. The selection procedure for post - 16 students should be impartial recognising the importance of previous achievement as well as the acquisition of more formal qualifications.
3. Post - 16 students should be entitled to the continuing support of a well developed and familiar pastoral system, which actively enhances the academic provision, and which recognises and rewards achievements.

(D) LEARNING PROGRAMMES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Each student is entitled to a curriculum which meets individual goals within the overall requirements of a learning programme.

The learning programme should encompass the development of skills, attitudes, concepts and knowledge in an integrated and coherent manner.

Post - 16 learning programmes should offer a wide range of opportunities which combine the different elements of academic, vocational and pre-vocational programmes.

The post - 16 entitlement should offer students a curriculum which provides them with the appropriate preparation for adult life and citizenship.

(E) MODES OF LEARNING

Post - 16 students are entitled to experience a wide range of appropriate learning methods with the related teaching styles which actively encourage pupil participation and which have an appreciation of, and concentration on, the different ways that individuals learn.

Post - 16 students are entitled to have the provision of learning activities, both in individual and group situations, which develop skills, concepts, attitudes and knowledge.

The learning activities for post - 16 students should be relevant and meaningful to adult life and employment.

There should be the provision of the human and physical environments which are appropriate to the achievements of learning objectives.

(F) ASSESSMENT

Every post - 16 student is entitled to an assessment procedure which recognises previous achievements of whatever nature, and builds on these to set clear targets which reflect a range of possible goals.

All post - 16 students are entitled to continuous feedback on their performance which will thereby encourage improvement throughout a learning programme, and which at the same time develops an individual's capacity for self awareness.

(G) THE OUTCOMES

Each post - 16 student is entitled to have the opportunity of embarking on a range of learning outcomes which offers all learners the opportunity to experience achievement and personal satisfaction.

The post - 16 entitlement should encompass a range of learning outcomes which are duly recognised, by a variety of agencies, recorded, and related to clear progression routes.

All post - 16 students have the right to educational provision which offers modes of accreditation which are relevant and valued and which allow for further progression.

(H) TRANSLATING POLICY INTO PRACTICE

The academy should continue to provide:

- appropriate learning opportunities for all;
- opportunities for all learners to establish and develop a recognised competent base of knowledge, skills and experience sufficient to facilitate progression into employment;
- an understanding of the local, national, economic and social environment to promote an appreciation of the variety of available roles in society;
- a basis for learners to increase their self-awareness, to appraise realistically their potential and prospects, and to become progressively responsible for negotiating their personal development;
- the strong, sound and trusted pastoral support;
- a full range of AS and A- level subjects, together with a range of vocational courses to meet the needs of the post -16 students;
- a work placement or work shadowing experience, where needed, to meet the assessment needs of vocational courses and/or the aspirations of post - 16 students;

All post - 16 students deserve to have the widest possible choice of educational provision. The experience gained at Shire Oak Academy has given continuous and unrefutable evidence that in many cases, it is the availability of a secure environment that encourages students to take the decision to continue in education. It is within this environment that they have been shown a belief in their abilities which provides them with the confidence to continue.