**BLACKWATER ACADEMY**

**Curriculum Policy**

# September 2019-20

Context

Our pupils are referred by local authorities and schools because they are excluded or at risk of exclusion. A significant number have identified special needs and may be Looked After. It is vital that our students have a positive experience of education with us as they often feel ‘failures’ in the education system. We therefore structure their curriculum, learning experiences and assessment on an individual basis. In order to meet their very individual needs, the provision is set up in very flexible, practical and creative ways.

**Aims and Principles**

**At Blackwater Academy we aim to provide a curriculum to develop inquisitive, independent thinkers with a love of learning. We understand that the curriculum, both within taught lessons and beyond them, should create an environment where questioning, academic risk-taking, divergent thinking and the freedom to learn from mistakes are all encouraged.**

**We intend that our curriculum should instil in our students these qualities: responsibility, independence and a sense that learning can excite and invigorate throughout life.**

The curriculum should be seen in its widest sense as the entire planned learning experience. This includes formal lessons as well as events, routines, and learning that take place outside the classroom. The Curriculum Policy should be seen within the overall aims and ethos of the School, which are at the core of its objectives.

Our curriculum is designed to allow each student to:

* achieve the best possible academic qualifications and standards, whatever the ability;
* ensure high levels of engagement, enjoyment and personal development.

Within the framework of a broad and balanced education for each student, we intend for our curriculum to allow a high level of personalisation so that each child can play to their strengths and develop specialism’s, develop existing and new interests and achieve personal best in all that they do.

Our curriculum provides a broad and balanced education which allows students to become:

* **Successful learners** who enjoy learning, make progress and achieve their academic potential;
* **Confident individuals** who are able to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives;
* **Responsible citizens** who can make a positive contribution to society.

**a) We aim for our curriculum to develop successful learners who:**

* are inducted into the essential knowledge, skills and discourse of subject disciplines and are able to develop specialism’s appropriate to aptitude;
* can appreciate human achievement in the fields of languages, mathematics, science, P.E, physical and aesthetic pursuits and creative and expressive arts, and to experience a sense of personal achievement in these fields during their time at school;
* are able to link areas of knowledge in a spirit of enquiry;
* are able to pursue courses appropriate for their stage of learning and particular abilities in order to achieve their personal best, in lessons which differentiate for student need;
* are able to learn independently and with others;
* can acquire the study skills and self-knowledge necessary to realise their learning potential, and are motivated to achieve the best they can, now and in the future;
* are creative, resourceful and able to solve problems.

**b) We aim for our curriculum to develop confident individuals who:**

* show courage and compassion in their dealings with others;
* can respond positively and with resilience to the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life;
* can develop for themselves an active and healthy lifestyle;
* can evaluate risk, take managed risks and stay safe
* can relate well to others;
* have secure values and principles to distinguish right from wrong;
* are increasingly independent, able to show initiative and organise themselves;
* are willing to try new things, are ambitious and able to make the most of opportunities;
* are open to the excitement and inspiration offered by the natural world and human achievements.

**c) We aim for our curriculum to develop responsible citizens who:**

* can participate as effective, respectful citizens within a global society;
* acquire an understanding of the social, economic and political issues of the world and the interdependence of individuals, groups and nations;
* can challenge injustice, are committed to human rights, and can strive to live peaceably with others;
* understand the complex human interaction with, and dependence upon, the local and global environment, and develop a caring and responsible attitude towards the environment;

**Forskills**

SkillsBuilder is an amazing and unique, industry-leading, suite of initial and diagnostic assessments and learning materials for English, Maths, and ICT & Learning Styles ranging from Entry Level to Level 2.

 Unlike anything you have used before, SkillsBuilder is designed specifically for the effective delivery of functional skills.

The Benefits for the learner: A personalised learning programme; bright, colourful interactive assessments with a minimum of multi-choice questions which are adaptive to individual abilities and hence provide a positive learning experience; personalised learning materials which match the learning gaps identified by the diagnostic assessment and are accessible from anywhere the Internet is available; additional learning materials to help understand the application of the underlying skills to functional scenarios.

In summary the forskills program will monitor screening, initial assessments and a diagnostic for literacy and numeracy. When a young person starts at Blackwater Academy, they will be required to complete all initial assessments, screenings and diagnostics to determine the level they are working at or working towards, at the end of each term a distance travelled assessment are completed by the students and that will clearly evidence the progress made by the pupils.

**Subjects Offered**

* GCSE English/ Functional Skills E1- L2 English
* GCSE Mathematics/ Functional Skills E1 – L2
* GCSE Science/ Entry Level Science
* GCSE Sociology
* GCSE Religious Education
* Physical Education- Football, cricket, basketball, weight training, tennis, swim­ming. Further opportunities for Physical Education
* IFS School of Finance: L1 Life Qualification/ L2 Certificate in Financial Education
* Self Development Program
* Careers guidance – Independent Careers Advisor; one on one sessions to determine the path each young person will take after leaving Blackwater Academy
* PSHE: delivered by traded services once a month