**ACT Schools Curriculum Policy**

**Commitment**

ACT Schools are committed to providing a curriculum that enables pupils to learn, grow and develop the skills needed for employment, lifelong learning, and active citizenship.

**Purpose**

From September 2023 we will be offering a brand new curriculum, which aligns with the Curriculum for Wales, and will focus on the development of each individual at a speed appropriate to their personal goals. The exact pathway a pupil will follow will be determined during their enrolment but all will be built around supporting our pupils to become healthy, confident, ambitious, creative and well informed individuals.

**Scope**

Information detailed within this policy applies to all staff at ACT Schools, directly and/or indirectly involved with the teaching, learning, and support for pupils. This includes Senior Managers, Advisory Board, paid staff, sessional staff, volunteers, and students.

**Responsibilities**

The Delivery Director and Head of 11-16 Education will be accountable for the implementation and day-to-day management of the policy and procedures.

All delivery and support staff (HLTA’s) will be responsible for and committed to the planning and delivery of an engaging, well-balanced curriculum that adheres to the terms outlined in this policy.

**Curriculum aims**

Our curriculum is underpinned by our vision, ‘Together we belong, grow, learn and achieve which aims to

* Develop interpersonal skills and confidence to promote effective and respectful relationships, harnessing a sense of belonging, value and worth, enabling them to become more ethically informed citizens, contributing positively in society.
* Create an environment where pupils feel safe, supported, and nurtured to equip them with the skills they need for their journey.
* Enrich the lives of pupils within an alternative and creative learning environment that fosters critical thinking and provides learning experiences that may shape their lives for the future.
* To enable pupils to recognise their individual strengths and talents, become resilient to setbacks and to prepare pupils for future progressions, widening their opportunities and potential.

**Organisation and planning**

ACT Schools has a thematic approach to curriculum design, guided by the Curriculum for Wales. The curriculum is broad, balanced and allows pupils of differing ages, ability, and aptitude to progress appropriately and develop in the ways, as described within the four purposes. The curriculum

Statements of What Matter and Progress Steps are used appropriately to ensure each AOLE is designed delivered and sequenced appropriately to allow meaningful progress. In addition to the academic offer ACT Schools also offers vocational subjects which aim to provide a platform for educational attainment whilst also relating practice to real life situations with industry recognised standards, equipping pupils with the skills they need for further education and employment.

***Wellbeing Curriculum***

For many of our pupils, we recognise the importance in providing a nurturing and supportive environment in order to foster their personal development. As such, our well-being curriculum is central to our daily delivery.

During these sessions, pupils are placed in a form group with their peers and are supported by an assigned tutor and Youth Learning Mentor who will remain with them for their time at ACT Schools. These sessions will focus on the Health and Wellbeing area of learning whilst also covering the key Relationship and Sexual Education mandatory curriculum and working towards a Level 1 qualification in Personal Growth and Wellbeing.

Pupils will have the opportunity within these sessions to develop a wider range of skills including literacy and numeracy alongside the other key curriculum areas of Creative Arts, Science and Technology.

***Core Curriculum***

We appreciate that all of our learners come to us at different starting points and all have different end targets. As such, for our core curriculum which focuses on English and Maths development, pupils are grouped with peers of a similar ability. This allows us to provide more bespoke support for the group, assisting learners in making the best progress possible. For those who require additional guidance, our intervention worker is on hand to provide targeted one to one support.

Our core curriculum delivers Maths and English in its standard form as well as taking the skills that have been developed and applying them to our termly topic. Within these sessions we will allow pupils to work towards English and Maths qualifications appropriate to their needs e.g GCSE English or Essential skills literacy.

 **Enrichment**

At ACT Schools we believe learning should not be restricted to the classroom therefore we are incredibly proud of our enrichment offer which provides our pupils the opportunity to engage in a range of activities, giving them memorable and meaningful experiences to further their development.

Our enrichment opportunities allow for pupils to explore their own pathway in education, giving them the choice of what they want to engage in. Options will include; long term full academic year courses which will focus on qualification attainment for those with specific areas of interest; medium term short courses giving pupils an introduction in to certain areas; and short-term day options which will focus on engagement and positive exploration of new experiences. All pupils will need to select at least one medium- and long-term option to complement their curriculum.

 **Inclusion**

ACT Schools adopts a whole school approach to meeting the needs of pupils. All staff are responsible for meeting the needs of ALN and MAT pupils through high quality differentiated teaching and support. ACT Schools will ensure an inclusive and person-centred approach to learning, recognising the diversity of pupils. This approach to practice will enable all pupils to access the curriculum, participate fully in learning activities and demonstrate their knowledge and strengths during assessment.

 **Progress tracking and monitoring**

ACT Schools will track and monitor our pupils through daily and half termly tracking sheets. Delivery and support staff have the responsibility of ensuring that the tracking sheets are regularly updated. Delivery staff will track the progression of their pupils within their Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Well-being classes. Delivery staff will track progression by colour coding whether that each pupil is meeting, working towards or not achieving the Statements of What Matters and the Progressions Steps within each statement.

Support staff (HLTAs/YLMs) have the responsibility of tracking the engagement of the pupils within these sessions. Support staff will track this by completing a tracking sheet daily, highlighting whether that each learner was engaged within their morning learning sessions. This allows us as a school to ensure that each pupil is being supported and that they able to meet their personal goals and targets.

 **Communication and Storage**

This policy will be stored and communicated via the ACT Schools HR System, IRIS HR.

**Document / Policy Change Request**

The policy will be reviewed at least on an annual basis by the Head of 11-16 Education and the Head of Continuous Improvement.

**Document / Policy Reviewing and Approving**

The policy will be reviewed at least on an annual basis by the Head of 11-16 Education and the Head of Continuous Improvement

**Links with other policies**

ALN Policy

Quality Policy

Teaching, Learning & Assessment Policy

Professional Teaching Standards

Marking Guide

Offsite Activity Policy