

The Bridge School is an All-through school for pupils with severe learning and complex needs. Many of our pupils have ASD and many are pre-verbal. Our specialism is communication as we believe this is the greatest skill we can help our pupils develop so that they go on to live enjoyable and fruitful lives. Our Creative Curriculum incorporates the key elements that we believe are most important for our students to learn and experience during their time with us: the skills that will be most important to them in adulthood.

We do strongly believe that all children should be exposed to all subjects, cultures, physical skills and art forms, irrespective of physical or cognitive ability, and we steadfastly refuse to make judgement on their behalf about what they may or may not enjoy or be stimulated by. Most of our students have sensory needs (of a wide variety) and all of our students need their learning delivered as a series of very small steps with a good deal of repetition to ensure embeddedness.

Thus, we have built a skills rich curriculum that is contained within a broad subject curriculum diet.

Our pupils are exposed to science, maths, geography, literature, all forms of music and competitive sports in the same way as they would be if we followed a traditional knowledge-based curriculum, but we use those fascinating topics to stimulate interest and develop life skills. Obviously, our pupils have unique ways of working and learning and their journey may be 'spikey' or intermittent as they tackle the skills based learning but we want to ensure that, no matter how long their journey, it is an interesting one and that repetition of skills does not mean repetition of subject material.

Hours per week per curriculum area	Communication: Speaking; Listening; Reading; Writing; Phonics; PECS; Makaton; Non-Verbal	PHSE, Citizenship, British Values: Includes sex and relationships	Numeracy	Science: Natural world; How things work; Food safety & technology	The Arts	Humanities / My World:	Physical Development	TOTAL Learning Hours per week
Primary	5	2	3	2	4	4	5	25
Secondary	5	2	4	3	3	4	4	25

Because our pupils are unique, personalisation is also a key ingredient of our programme as some skills are more important or less well developed in some pupils than in others. All classes incorporate differentiation be that in respect of mode of delivery, place of deliver or pace of delivery. Having said this, we also strongly believe that a key skill we should try to develop in our pupils is their ability to 'be' and adapt to different locations, routines and groups so that they are more able to successfully integrate in the communities around them. We strive for group activity whenever it is practical and comfortable for our pupils; we operate a school timetable and the subject knowledge curriculum diet is used as the 'vehicle' via which to deliver a blended solution of skills development alongside students' personal care and therapeutic needs, whatever they might be.

Above all else though, we endeavour to swath our creative curriculum in JOY and ENJOYMENT. Fun is a great motivator, a child cannot learn if they are not happy and content and we strongly believe all our pupils deserve to be Happy.