



YCC Brian Jackson College

Curriculum Policy

New document version	Revision date	Revised by	Section(s) revised & why	Comments	Next revision date
1.0	Jan 2022	JG	New updated version to include new vocational subjects	Document Creation	Jan 2025

1.0 Introduction

Brian Jackson College is a DfE registered Independent School. We do not follow the National Curriculum but do utilise National Curriculum recommendations as a guideline. This allows Brian Jackson College to have in place a curriculum that provides its pupils with appropriate experiences in all areas of learning – linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical, and aesthetic and creative activities.

As Brian Jackson College supports young people who have struggled with both mainstream educational settings and the National Curriculum, the school follows its own Alternative Curriculum and uses this to support and educate all pupils who attend the school. Most of our pupils have fractured educational histories as a result of poor attendance and exclusions and as a result are performing at levels well below what would be expected of their mainstream peers. Some of our pupils also have additional learning needs such as dyslexia, ADHD and all are referred to us with a primary need of SEMH

We aim to provide a personalised curriculum which provides all pupils with the opportunity to maximise their potential, in a nurturing and supportive environment that tackles the impact of SEN and social disadvantage on a child's learning and progress. We aim to provide a curriculum that provides challenging, yet enjoyable learning experiences that help motivate pupils and promote a culture of success, which ultimately prepares them for the next stage of their educational journey.

1.1 Principles on which the curriculum is based:

We seek to deliver a curriculum that:



- Is challenging and promotes high aspirations
- Mirrors the National Curriculum wherever possible and is broad and balanced
- Maintains an appropriate focus on the acquisition of basic skills in communication, literacy, numeracy and ICT
- Provides opportunities for accreditation
- Supports post 16 progression into further education, employment or training
- Is personalised and individualised, recognises progress and celebrates achievement
- Provides opportunities for learners to “make good choices” and builds learners’ self-esteem
- Provides opportunities for learners to address their social, emotional and behavioural barriers to learning
- Prepares learners for life beyond school both in their personal and working lives
- Provides opportunities for pupils to learn more about how they learn as individuals and how to become more independent learners
- Promotes pupils spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and enables them to become active citizens
- Is accessible to all pupils
- Is consistent with the our ethos and values as expressed in
 - Our Prospectus
 - Our Equal Opportunities Policy
- Is supported by parents and carers

1.2 The Formal and Informal Curriculum

We believe that the informal curriculum plays a very important role in supporting our pupils’ personal and social development. We actively seek opportunities to interact with pupils informally, to model expected behaviours and courtesies and to improve motivation. Breakfast time, lunch and break times all provide valuable opportunities for informal contact and to develop the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) underpinning effective learning, positive behaviour, regular attendance, staff effectiveness and the emotional health and well-being of all who learn and work in schools.

In addition we aim to have a range of trips and visits which enrich the formal curriculum. We place particular importance on developing community links which will enable pupils to feel a part of and involved with the local community.

The formal curriculum focuses on the development of *linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical, and aesthetic and creative skills*. These skills are referenced in the Schemes of Work for all subjects, and are delivered as follows:

	Subject
Linguistic	English
Mathematical	Math
Scientific	Science
Technological	ICT Food Technology plus Vocational Options - Motorbike Maintenance (Bumpy) - Hair & Beauty - On-track -Construction -Motor Vehicle - Bicycle Maintenance
Human & Social	PSICHE History SEAL Project Work Employability Skills Financial studies Work experience
Physical	Sport sessions Gym sessions Boxing Allotment – outdoor activities Eden forest – outdoor activities
Aesthetic & Creative	Art Food Technology

	Allotment, Eden Forest Music – School of Rock Plus Vocational Option -Hair & Beauty
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1.4 Differentiation

Staff at Brian Jackson College acknowledge all pupils will have social, emotional and mental health difficulties as well as varying levels of academic achievement, and recognise the need to differentiate work for each pupil.

Differentiation strategies are outlined in the whole school case studies.

2.0 Curriculum Plan

Our curriculum consists of compulsory core subjects and a choice of vocational subjects.

2.1 Core Subjects

English

Functional Skills English and GCSE are taught to pupils in an engaging way that aims to develop their individual needs. Our staff encourage pupils to build on their own knowledge of English and make it relevant to everyday situations they will encounter – both now and in the future. To help our pupil's progress quickly and ensure they feel comfortable with the subject we use Pearson's as our Examining body which enables them to achieve Entry Level to Level 2 qualifications in Functional English. GCSE English is also available via AQA.

Maths

In Maths our pupils will learn and gain an important skill that they will use throughout their lives. Areas covered are number, measures, shape, and space and handling data.

As with English, we use Pearson's as our Examining body which enables pupils to achieve Entry Level to Level 2 qualifications in Functional Maths. GCSE Maths is also available via AQA.

ICT



Being able to use ICT is a skill no pupil can be without in the 21st Century. Pupils need the opportunity to apply and develop their understanding of ICT and acquire a range of skills and knowledge that will be relevant and transferable so they are equipped for the technological demands they will meet at home, in their communities, in education and in their future careers. Pupils are supported to develop a broad and balanced view of a range of ICT systems, their applications and an understanding of their capabilities and limitations. This course does not come with accreditation but is embedded across all subject areas.

Science

In Science we aim to encourage pupils natural inquisitive nature by basing lessons around everyday experiences and the modern technological world that encourages them to ask the important 'how' and 'why' questions about the world around them and develop an understanding of 'how science works' We aim to encourage pupils to understand the importance of Science in the wide world and inspire them to continue to build their skills and knowledge in this area.

We use a wide range of AQA unit awards that are mapped to GCSE science and entry level specification.

Employability

Financial and employability education enables our pupils to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes towards money so that they can make informed financial and employability decisions and thrive in todays society. This subject concentrates on budgets, debt, taxes, employability skills such as interviews and CV's. without the skills built through our financial and employability education, young people are at risk of financial difficulties, exclusion and debt teaching skills that are transferable and can be adapted to whichever job they find themselves in.

Sports

We recognise the importance of sport and physical activity for all our pupils. Our sessions aim to provide pupils with the opportunity to:

- Acquire knowledge and understanding of exercise and healthy living
- Develop learning skills
- Develop a healthy lifestyle incorporating exercise
- Introduce a variety of different forms of exercise/activity e.g. Football, basketball, volleyball, table tennis, climbing, bowls, badminton, squash, boxing which can all be accessed at the Sports Centre, local gym and boxing club.

PSHE – Personal, Social, Health Education

In PSHE we aim to provide opportunities for pupils to:

- Acquire knowledge and understanding of Personal Sexual and Health Education (PSHE)
- Investigate, assess and understand the role PSHE plays in their lives and in society in general



- Encourage pupils to apply their own knowledge and understanding in making decisions
- Promote self-development through encouraging pupils to be aware of their own strengths and areas for improvement, and the choices and opportunities available to them
- Enhance pupils' awareness of spiritual, moral, ethical, social, cultural and environmental issues
- Actively promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

AQA awards are available on completion of subjects to ensure consolidation of all learning.

Art

Pupils' artistic development helps them develop an understanding of different artistic genres and the ability to appreciate and respond to a variety of aesthetic experiences. At Brian Jackson College the pupils have the opportunity to engage in art workshops that focus on global cultural artefacts; making masks, looking at global influences, geography and history of their origins. They have the opportunity to make banners and posters, textile based craft, painting, basket, gift cards and bead work.

The pupils have an opportunity to use different media; pastel, pencil, charcoal, acrylic, junk modelling, clay, textiles, wood and develop understanding of artists and genres and develop an enjoyment in the aesthetic and creative skills.

These all contribute towards the achievement of a Bronze, Silver or Gold Arts Award.

Work Experience

Based on pupil interests we are able to arrange work experience in a variety of settings including administration, warehousing, retail, customer service, and catering

- We will attempt to find a local work placement for you
- We will prepare your skills for the placement
- You may be offered an opportunity at the end of the placement.

Brian Jackson College has been designed with your future employment and quality of life as an adult in mind.

C&K careers

We work closely with C&K careers in order to ensure all our pupils have a positive destination at the end of their time at Brian Jackson College – education, training or employment.

Enrichment/Project Work

Our enrichment/Project work allows our pupils to explore a wide range of topics that are based on Local, National and Global issues and topics of a personal interest to the pupils. This programme helps to enhance the pupils individual comprehension of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, as well as incorporating geography, languages, religion and history.



Enrichment/project incorporates knowledge and understanding that explores beliefs, respecting other faiths, investigating moral and ethical issues, British values and law.

AQA awards are available on completion of projects.

Food Technology

This programme is designed to introduce pupils to food handling, preparation and storage.

It is delivered practically in the college's food technology room and will prepare the pupil for additional units which look at cooking food for consumption. Each pupil will prepare food for a specified function and they will assess the suitability of various foodstuffs. This programme develops pupils knowledge of preparing quality dishes on a budget. All pupils have timetabled food technology lessons with a number of them choosing food technology as their vocational option.

AQA unit awards are also available in several areas from food hygiene to making simple dishes.

2.2 Vocational Subjects

All pupils can engage in a variety of vocational subjects during their time at Brian Jackson College. These are:

Hairdressing
On-Track

Motorbike Maintenance

Boxing

Food Technology

Motor Vehicle

Construction

Hair and Beauty

This course is designed to teach pupils the skills, techniques and knowledge required for further development within the industry of hairdressing. Throughout the course pupils are shown how to carry out basic hair treatments, such as colour applications, washing and blow drying and customer service skills. There is an element of theory based work looking at the benefits of hair treatments and what tools and products are needed to carry out the treatment. Pupils can also experiment with Beauty treatments including facials, nails and makeup.

Pupils are able to work towards a number of AQA unit award qualifications in hairdressing.

Motorbike Maintenance

This vocational qualification is a basic introduction to Engineering and Mechanics and is delivered in partnership with 'Bumpy'. Pupils are taught in a practical environment where they will dismantle and rebuild motorcycles. This will include changing tyres and repairing punctures.



Health and Safety is also an integral part of the programme and pupils are taught how to work safely in a workshop environment, identifying tools and equipment.

The programme also includes basic servicing and more complex mechanical skills where major components of the machines are dismantled.

Some modules also involve the actual riding of the machines to demonstrate control and overall riding ability.

Pupils can work towards a motor vehicle studies certificate at entry level 3 progressing onto the level 1 course.

On-Track Karting

This programme is a good opportunity for pupils to construct, receive training on the rules of karting and learn about the maintenance of the karts whilst having some fun. This is a practical program, where pupils gain an understanding of how things work. Pupils have access to a classroom environment where they are able to put the theory onto paper with lots of photos to back up and evidence. The programme usually starts with maintenance on bicycles, then they progress onto restoration and construction of Go Karts, where pupils are then given the opportunity to drive the Karts at various Karting tracks. In some cases pupils are then able to step up to working on cars.

Boxing

Pupils have the opportunity to participate in boxing sessions at a local, amateur boxing club. Not only is boxing a great form of exercise but it is also a good tool for self-discipline, self-control and mental health. Pupils who attend these sessions are able to get in the ring and spar with fully qualified, trained professionals, learning the skills of the sport along the way. All pupils who attend these sessions are required to wear full PPE (personal protection equipment) for example gum shields and head guards. Pupils are given full briefings at each weekly session about the health and safety risks and must take these into consideration when sparing with one another.

Motor Vehicle

This course allows pupils to learn the basics of repairing or refinishing vehicles. These are the skills they need to be able to enrol in more advanced qualifications, and then get a job in a garage or body shop. Pupils will learn skills in vehicle maintenance, body repair and refinishing. This introductory automotive qualification is for anyone interested in a career repairing or refinishing a wide range of vehicles: cars, vans, trucks, motorcycles, scooters, quads, land-based tractors, cycles, etc.

This is an accredited qualification through city and guilds and levels start at Entry Level 3 to Level 2.

Construction



This qualification provides the ideal introduction to the construction industry and covers essential skills in the following construction trades: bricklaying, carpentry and joinery, plastering, painting and decorating, construction operations, wall and floor tiling, electrical and plumbing.

This is an accredited qualification through city and guilds and levels start at Entry Level 3 to Level 2.

Bicycle Maintenance

This is a course for the year 9 pupils who think that they would possibly like to continue onto either the construction or motor vehicle courses in year 10. The qualification is an E3 Functional skills, and they will be given an introduction to cycle maintenance. On the course they will learn how to repair punctures, replace brake blocks and chains. They will also learn how to clean and maintain their bike .

The bikes that they work on they get to take home on successful completion of the course.

Music studio

this programme is a unique approach to music delivery using bespoke music workshops. Music encourages our pupils to express themselves, writing lyrics and performing. This programme helps to motivate and challenge our pupils to see music as a positive tool to break down barriers and tackle prejudice.

Eden Forest

This programme provides fun opportunities to learn and connect with other and the outdoor environment. Pupils enjoy woodland walks, den making and cooking. Pupils also learn bushcraft skills such as fire building, shelter building, wood whittling and a host of arts and craft. This programme offers an opportunity to enjoy being outside and improving mental health and wellbeing.

Allotment

This outdoor activity teaches our pupils about where food comes from, reducing waste emphasising sustainability, making habitats for wild life and improving mental health and well being. Pupils are encouraged to be hands on digging and turning the soil and ensuring that the soil is ready for a new harvest.

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years unless changes to the curriculum have been made at the discretion of the school or DfE/government regulations.



Signed by Chair of Governors

Name: _____

Date: _____

Signature (electronic is accepted) _____