

## **Rationale Form 1**

### **The Unique Learner**

In Form 1 there are 11 Pupils in either Year 10 or 11. All of the children have a diagnosis of severe learning difficulties, and some have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder.

The staff in Form 1 provide a Total Communication Environment that encourages and values the voice of the individual, their choices and contributions.

### **Positive Relationships**

Form 1 staff consists of a teacher, 3 Teaching Assistants. 3 SEN Support Workers provide additional support throughout the day and with intimate care. Each student is allocated a member of the class team as a Key Worker, and their role is to communicate with parents/carers and other professionals who may be working with the pupils. These professionals may include speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, school nurses, school family support worker, and any other external agencies and professionals that provide support to the children, including those relating to education and career prospects after school.

The role of the adults working in our class includes implementing and delivering the curriculum to our pupils with individualised support.

We look to provide a calm and organised environment that will help the students feel welcome and safe. As the students are young adults, they will be treated as such, and are beginning to be encouraged to be as independent as possible and responsible for their own items, learning and work.

### **Engaging Environments**

Our Form Room is in the 14-19 Phase Corridor, and is set up with comfortable seating around the interactive whiteboard where pupils engage during whole class learning. There are also tables set up for small group learning, and a seating plan is provided for pupils to maximise their focus and inclusion during sessions.

We have a large book box full of age appropriate material which children engage with throughout the day, and 2 computers for children to access online learning. We have several bright and engaging display boards around the room to support the pupils learning and showcase their good work and achievements.

Our classroom is a tidy and organised environment, and pupils are encouraged to help maintain this. Resource cupboards and draws are clearly labelled and pupils are responsible for locating and returning their equipment to the correct places.

Throughout the year pupils will access offsite learning, and some regularly attend offsite swimming sessions. We also utilise our outside learning area, as well as the playground and Multi Use Games Area where appropriate for our learning outcomes. Pupils also regularly access several specialist rooms around school including the library, ICT suite, cookery room and sports gym.

## **Learning and Development**

Pupils in Form 1 are working at Pathways 2, 3 and 4 and therefore access Pre-subject and subject-specific learning.

Our main focus is to promote the development of functional skills that are transferable to real life situations, and prepare our young adults for life after school. This includes developing appropriate communication systems, improving reading and picture or symbol recognition and focusing on numerical skills such as time telling and money handling.

Students also take part in weekly work-related learning sessions, to provide opportunities to develop employability skills as well as allowing pupils to take part in professional activities linked to their individual skill sets. Additionally, independent living skills sessions provide opportunities for pupils to develop awareness of what it means to take care of our bodies, environments and safely access the community, alongside cooking sessions.

To promote interaction and engagement with a range of students and staff, students in Form 1 experience some of their taught sessions in options groups. During this creative arts session one afternoon per week, students join members of other classes in phase to take part in a termly 'option' - drama, art, sensory stories, dance and animation, supported by different suitable staff. This develops a wider range of skills for life, alongside promoting socialisation and integration between the Form groups in the phase.

Weekly sports and leisure sessions focus on promoting pupils to develop healthy bodies and minds, and offer a range of physical activity opportunities for pupils to develop preferences for healthy activities or clubs they may wish to pursue further. We also use these sessions to allow pupils to read for pleasure, and encourage them to choose material that is meaningful to them. Social interaction is also focused on during these sessions, and use a range of sports and ICT based games allows team and individual interaction with peers with staff supporting.

Each student has termly targets linked to their Education, Health Care Plan Outcomes. The students work towards these regularly and are embedded into our curriculum.