

Policy to be reviewed every two years SLT (Website)	February 2026
Policy to be reviewed	February 2028

Bower Grove School Curriculum Policy

Intent – Implementation – Impact

Bower Grove School is a special school for pupils aged 4 years to 16 years who have social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs, Autism Spectrum Conditions (ASC), social communication difficulties and associated learning difficulties.

Curriculum Intent

At Bower Grove School, every pupil follows an engaging, meaningful, and individualised curriculum. Lessons are designed to motivate and inspire, with planning centred on each learner's needs. Research demonstrates that pupils learn best when learning is connected, practical, cross-curricular, and linked to reality. At each stage, our intent is to equip pupils with skills for their next phase of education and life beyond Bower Grove. Clear progression routes and carefully sequenced content allow pupils to build on prior knowledge and skills. We work closely with parents/carers to balance curriculum access with additional experiences that enhance core skills and talents, such as mainstream inclusion, catch-up programs, extra-curricular activities, pastoral or therapeutic support, or alternative offsite learning.

Our curriculum aims to:

- Ensure pupils have the necessary behaviours for learning to enable them to access the curriculum.
- Maximise pupil's engagement by providing motivating and relevant learning opportunities.
- Support outstanding progress across all areas of learning.
- Ensure that all pupils have access to a broad, balanced, challenging curriculum based on the National Curriculum.
- Adopt a personalised approach that allows staff to plan in response to a pupil's individual needs and interests and consider any barriers to learning.
- Promote pupils spiritual, moral, social, cultural and physical development in order to become responsible and respectful citizens.
- Equip our pupils with an understanding of respect for Fundamental British Values.
- Clearly identify progression pathways for children in Year 9 and above, including access to Further Education, vocational courses and work-related learning.
- Provide pupils with access to accredited courses at Key Stage 4.
- Develop independence and life skills through experience and activities such as cooking, travel training, residentials, work experience and the Aspire programme.
- Prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experience of adult life to ensure they are well-placed to make a positive contribution to life beyond school.
- Monitor and assess pupils progress for the purpose of ensuring outstanding outcomes for all.
- Engage pupils in understanding how they make improved progress through Assessment for Learning.

Curriculum Implementation

Pupils join Bower Grove School with their own individual learning needs. The school has taken account of the recommendations of the Rochford Review (October 2016) in developing 4 different pathway approaches across the school; Main pathway, IMPACTS pathway, Bower Grove Connected and the Satellite Provision at Westborough Primary School. This approach ensures that each pupil can access a curriculum pathway that enables them to make the very best progress that they can. Pupils can move between the curriculum pathways as they develop and move through the school. The emphasis is always to provide an accessible curriculum that enables pupils of all ages to develop behaviours for learning and skills for independence.

Bower Grove's curriculum offer enables all pupils to benefit from a vast variety of opportunities that all pupils are given throughout their time at Bower Grove School to develop key personal skills including confidence, resilience, independence and self-esteem. Outdoor learning, practical approaches and extra-curricular opportunities are an integral part of our provision. We recognise that many of our pupil's face challenges in accessing traditional classroom-based learning and may sometimes feel they are not achieving success. By offering experiences beyond the classroom, we provide alternative opportunities for pupils to develop key skills.

Main Pathway

The main curriculum pathway at Bower Grove School follows the Early Years and Foundation Stage Curriculum followed by the National Curriculum and accreditation specifications. Each pupil in the school has EHCP provision plans with outcomes and targets which are addressed and embedded into teacher planning.

Curriculum Implementation in the Primary Phase

The curriculum models in the primary phase are; main (core offer), IMPACTS and the ASC Satellite provision.

Primary aged pupils from year R – 6 are allocated a class according to their needs, considering their strengths, difficulties, chronological and developmental age. Pupils learn with a consistent staff team of Teacher and Learning Support Assistants (LSA's). Frogs and Honeybees class follow the EYFS framework, whilst all other primary classes focus on the National Curriculum programmes of study with overarching termly themes.

Lower Primary

Lower primary pupils are split into 3 classes with mixed age ranges dependent on individual pupils needs, from Year R – 3.

Frogs and Honeybee's class follow the EYFS Framework and make use of guidance from the Development Matters document. In line with the three characteristics of effective teaching and learning in early years, the timetable is structured around learning through play and exploration, active learning, direct teaching, individually or in groups, and opportunities for pupils to develop their own ideas and make links between their learning. The curriculum planning addresses the seven

Prime and Specific areas of learning and as stated in the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage the key intent is to '[ignite] children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, forming relationships and thriving'.

In Honeybees class opportunities for timetabled guided learning increases in line with the development and engagement of the pupils, whilst still ensuring there are opportunities for high quality play and pupil led learning. The EYFS Curriculum is taught through a thematic, cross curricular approach, giving multiple opportunities for pupils to develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop their own strategies for completing tasks.

Hedgehogs class continues to focus on a thematic approach to learning; however, pupils experience more adult guided learning and direct teaching based on the National Curriculum. Teaching and learning includes opportunities for practical activities, group and independent working. The EHCP outcomes form an integral part of the timetable to support behaviour for learning, emotional regulation, and social communication skills.

There is a weekly Explorer Club outing for Lower Primary Pupils that consolidates curriculum learning objectives as well as developing pupils physical, social, emotional and regulation skills. This activity offers experiences outside of the school environment where pupils can build confidence, skills and strategies to safely and successfully access their local community.

Upper Primary

The National Curriculum programmes of study are covered in English, Maths, Science and Personal Development (PD), with aspects of Humanities, Art and Design Technology being taught experientially through other areas of learning. RE is delivered through 'The Big Question'. PE and Computing are taught by specialist teachers in all year groups. The study of Modern Foreign Languages focuses on French, however, there is a holistic approach to discovering the language, culture and heritage of other countries during an annual 'focus day'.

Whole class sessions are timetabled weekly to focus on key EHCP areas to achieve pupil outcomes as well as embedding communication, interaction, and social opportunities throughout each day to support the development of behaviours for learning and social skills.

The Little Wandle phonics scheme is used throughout the primary phase to support progress in reading and spelling.

Satellite Provision at West Borough Primary School

The Satellite Provision is located at West Borough Primary School, which is a short walk from Bower Grove School. Pupils are based in 2 classrooms where their learning, pastoral and social communication needs are well supported by a team of Satellite staff. With appropriate support pupils integrate into mainstream lessons with access and exposure to the mainstream curriculum increasing over time, personalised to the abilities of each child. Although on roll at Bower Grove School, pupils wear West Borough School uniform and follow the established systems of this mainstream school.

Curriculum Implementation in the Secondary Phase

The secondary curriculum is organised on a subject based model with pupils moving to specialist rooms and teachers. Interventions are implemented with identified groups and individuals. Setting,

according to ability occurs in some subjects enabling pupils to be extended further. Accredited courses are offered to all pupils in English, Maths, Science, Computing, PE.

Key Stage 3 and 4 pupils have timetabled lessons based on the four areas of need which target the outcomes of pupils EHCP's. All pupils participate in The Big Question, which encapsulates elements of the RE and SMSC National Curriculum.

Pupils from Year 7 to Year 11 are given a variety of experiences and opportunities that support the development of life and vocational skills including residential trips, off site PE activities, ASPIRE programme, work experience and weekly visits to college, and travel training.

All Key Stage 4 pupils take mock exams as a way of preparing pupils for their GCSE exams. Should a situation arise where pupils are unable to take exams onsite, school will use Government guidance, teacher assessment and mock exam results to assess pupils.

IMPACTS Pathway

The IMPACTS pathway is designed to meet the needs of selected pupils from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 4 who are significantly less cognitively able than their peers. Pupils are provided with a purposeful and engaging learning environment and are encouraged to develop their independence and collaborative skills. This bespoke curriculum pathway prepares pupils for adulthood through the teaching of key knowledge, skills and understanding as well as a focus on communication, social, emotional and mental health needs.

Pupils in all Key Stages are based in a dedicated classroom, taught by a consistent class teacher and support staff team. Pupils are taught core subjects and key life skills through a topic based approach, as well as accessing some subject specialist lessons such as PE and Computing. Through a focus on differentiated outcomes linked to pupils EHCP's pupils are working towards an ability to contribute to and become active members of their community.

Bower Grove Connected Pathway

Bower Grove Connected is a pathway implemented to support pupils who have found the demands of a school setting challenging. Bower Grove Connected aims to create a learning offer that recognises individual differences and provides a supportive atmosphere that encourages personal, social and emotional growth alongside learning. It provides a bespoke learning and well-being programme that has an emphasis on growing self-esteem and self-confidence.

The onsite Hub is used to transition pupils from offsite provision back onsite via the main pathway. Pupils have a bespoke package combining, online and in person tutoring, home visits from our Engagement Officer as well as a range of interventions to support engagement for life.

CURRICULUM IMPACT

At Bower Grove School there are a range of measures used to evaluate the impact of the curriculum across all of our learning pathways.

These include:

- Progress measures using formative and summative assessment, these are recorded formally using Arbor and discussed with senior leaders at pupil progress meetings.
- Monitoring of pupil well-being and engagement through staff and pupil self-assessment.
- Deep Dives triangulating curriculum intent, implementation and impact.
- Reviewing Sleuth responses data.
- Monitoring of EHCP provision plan targets across all four areas of need.
- Reviewing Individual Safety plans to assess the impact of strategies and interventions.
- Reviewing attendance data.
- Pupil surveys.
- Parent surveys.
- Observation of pupil engagement and learning during formal and informal lesson observations and learning walks.
- Transition arrangements for Year 6 pupils attending ASC Satellite at West Borough Primary School.
- Destination data and follow up calls to pupils, parents/carers to ensure transition to college, apprenticeship or employment has been successful.
- Feedback from other agencies such as social services, Early Help, College, Employers.
- Reviewing the impact of Safeguarding referrals and parents support and engagement.

School Governors monitor the effectiveness of our school curriculum. The Governors Learning and Development team are responsible for curriculum monitoring and take responsibility for different subjects and areas of the curriculum holding subject leaders and school leadership team to account.

Related Documents

Bower Grove School Curriculum Plan
Individual Subject Policies
Marking, Assessment and Feedback Policy
Educational Visits Policy
Exams Policy

Appendix 1.Curriculum Pathways for Learning**IMPACTS Pathway**

IMPACTS stands for: Individual, Meaningful, Profile, Assessment, Curriculum, Target Setting.

Key Stage 2 Impact class: Squirrels

Key Stage 3 Impact class: Hazel

Key Stage 4 Impact class: Oaks

A pathway of learning focused on communication, cognition, technology, physical and personal, social, emotional and well-being skills.

The core subjects, as well as pupil outcomes and provision plans, are central to curriculum delivery to ensure that pupils have the necessary skills and

Main Pathway**Primary Classes**

Primary aged pupils from year R – 6 are allocated a class according to their age and learn with a consistent staff team of teacher and Learning Support Assistants (LSA's).

Falcons & Eagles – Year 6
Penguins – Year 5
Foxes – Year 4
Hedgehogs – Year 3
Honeybees – Year 2
Frogs – Year R & 1

Secondary Classes

Secondary aged pupils from Year 7 – 11 follow a differentiated mainstream curriculum. Pupils are assigned to a form group based on their chronological age. Each form has two teachers and LSA'S. LSA'S support pupils learning, behavioural and emotional needs in lessons taught by specialist subject teachers. In Key Stage 4 pupils will study accredited courses matched to their ability.

Enrichment SEMH Pathway

A provision for pupils whose SEMH needs are a significant barrier to their learning.

The provision offers four waves:

Wave 4 – Access to the Main pathway with Enrichment support.
Wave 3 – Pupils attend both the Main pathway and Enrichment pathway provisions for parts of the day.
Wave 2 – Pupils attend the Enrichment provision exclusively.
Wave 1 – Pupils receive home tutoring provided by the Enrichment team.

Satellite Provision based at West Borough Primary School

A Satellite provision for pupils in Key Stage 2 who have a primary need of Autism Spectrum conditions and are cognitively able to follow a mainstream curriculum with specialist support. Pupils who attend the Satellite will transition to a mainstream secondary school or a mainstream secondary school with a specialist resource provision.

Bower Grove Connected Pathway

The Bower Grove Connected (BGC) pathway supports pupils who have found the demand of our school setting challenging. It provides a bespoke learning and well-being programme that has an emphasis on growing self-esteem, self-confidence, and emotional growth.

Pupils will receive a bespoke tutoring package at the home of the pupil, local centres such as cafés or libraries, online or by attending a specialist intervention.