

Introduction

Our Key Stage 4 English programme of study has its origins in the National Curriculum. It reflects our commitment to providing students within our Alternative Provision opportunities to access their entitlement to a full and challenging curriculum in line with that experienced by their peers in mainstream education. The ultimate purpose and aim of our curriculum is to prepare students for post-16 education, training and employment. Progression in Reading, Writing and Speaking & Listening at Key Stage 4 will be assessed in line with the Assessment Objectives of the various awarding bodies we use within our centres. We expect that our students will gain at least one qualification in English: at Functional Skills Level 1 or Level 2 or at GCSE, depending on the needs and abilities of each student. Each centre will choose the qualification and awarding body that best suits the needs of its cohort. Where we are providing specific students with supplementary interventions in collaboration with their mainstream or other full-time educational placement (Outreach Team) we will focus on those aspects of the National Curriculum identified for us by the schools as being of the most benefit to the student. Learning for students admitted to the Hospital School is tailored to the individual and similarly uses planning from each Home School to facilitate learning in English so that students may reintegrate as successfully as possible following their time in hospital. For students who are admitted unexpectedly or for whom there is not any provision from their mainstream school, the Hospital School runs a topic-based plan every term within which the key curriculum areas of reading, writing and speaking and listening feature, according to the needs of the student.

English at Key Stage 4 is delivered in the way that best suits the cohort of an individual centre. Our Alternative Provision settings mean that teachers can adapt this to provide students with the paths through the assessment objectives that will allow them to progress in the way that is right for them. A thematic and concentric approach is recommended: through the use of modern texts and texts from the Literary Heritage we can help students meet Reading assessment objectives, and these can be used to inspire writing tasks and speaking and listening work that meet assessment objectives and prepare students for examinations. Some students may use their study of texts to pursue English Literature GCSE.

Through our Key Stage 4 English Curriculum, we intend to promote a love of the English language and literary heritage from across the world. By encouraging a passion for reading, writing and speaking, we aim to broaden students' minds; to enable them to fulfil their right to become culturally, emotionally, socially and spiritually intelligent members of society.

Content and sequencing

Each centre determines its Key Stage 4 content and sequencing according to the needs of its students and this is largely led by the specification(s) of the relevant awarding body/bodies. In the case of the Outreach Team or Hospital School, this could mean teachers are led by a student's mainstream provider to focus on those aspects of the National Curriculum identified by them as being of the most benefit to the student.

Assessment and outcomes

English at Key Stage 4 aims to provide all students with a varied, yet flexible programme of learning opportunities to enable them to attain their highest possible level of literacy and oracy. English will be assessed at Key Stage 4 once per term, with an examination-based task to reflect the assessment objectives that have been covered that term. This will be used by teachers to identify areas for development in each student's skills in that area. We expect that our students will gain at least one qualification in English: at Functional Skills Level 1, Level 2 or GCSE, depending on the needs and abilities of each student. This is not the sole aim of our curriculum, however; we are committed to extending students beyond the classroom in English to enhance and develop creativity, exploration of the imaginary world, develop their oracy skills and, most importantly, increase self-awareness and confidence.

English and the wider curriculum

In English, students are supported, encouraged and shown that they can - and are expected to - succeed. Ideas about fairness and equality will be discussed through the majority of the literature texts, inspiring students to think about their own rights, responsibilities and values as members of society.

The overarching vision for English across the trust at Key Stage 4 is to promote high standards of language and literacy by equipping pupils with effective reading skills to assist in all aspects of their lives, including further education, training and employment. We also intend students to finish Key Stage 4 with a strong command of the spoken and written language, so they become effective communicators in the wider world.