**Belvue KS4**

**Curriculum Policy 2019/20**

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**Rationale**

The purpose of this Curriculum Policy, in accordance with the whole school curriculum policy and the school’s ethos and philosophy of education, is:

* To ensure the planning and management of the curriculum area in Key Stage 4 is explored and examined efficiently and effectively by subject leaders and key managers including astutely selecting appropriate accreditation where possible.
* To outline a context for the appropriate selection of accreditation ensuring that the curriculum is as broad and balanced and as viably possible to suit the complex needs and interests of students in our school.
* To detail the process of developing an efficient curriculum system.
* To ensure we deliver the highest standards of education to our students
* To ensure the seamless transition between KS3, KS4 and KS5 and prepares students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

It is the responsibility of everyone involved in the school’s KS4 curriculum processes to read, understand and implement this policy.

This curriculum policy will be reviewed regularly by Subject Leaders, KS4 staff and annually by the Assistant Head of Key Stage 4 and Senior Leadership Team (SLT).

**Curriculum Overview**

In order to provide all learners with experiences that are relevant, interesting and challenging and to identify opportunities for progression our school has adopted a curriculum structure which encompasses three broad levels of need: SLD complex, SLD and MLD. The levels are not defined by age, but by need and achievement; learners are therefore able to move flexibly from one level to the next at any point during their school career.

While the KS4 curriculum is planned, designed and developed for secondary aged students we recognise that each group will follow a curriculum that meets the complexity of their needs and core learning goals, but also on their interests, aspirations and abilities.

Our new curriculum Key Performance Indicator (KPI) standards and individual external accreditation assessment criteria are used as the main assessment tools for KS4 students. Each of the KPI level descriptors have been differentiated into a four stepping stone taxonomy to assess students’ progress and educational attainment and covers skills, knowledge and understanding across a range of subjects.

The KS4 curriculum is partly made up of the core subjects: English, Maths, Science, PSHE, RE, PE and Working Memory. We also run 4 Options each year for students to part in. These Options include: Music, Textiles, Conservation, Horticulture, Art, Sports Team Leaders, Choir, Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, Food Technology, Computing, Drama, Social Skills and Yoga. At KS4 our school ensures that all students are provided with a broad learning experience based on life skills, independence and vocational education, based on their interests and aptitudes. Our SLD complex group remain as a class group to access their Option activities.

Our curriculum offers a vehicle to ensure that there is a mix of the core skills needed for them to be able to move onto KS5 and further, and also opportunities for rich and varied experiences in a range of areas.

**Accreditation**

At Belvue School we deliver nationally accredited courses through a range of examination boards and organisations. These include Entry Level accreditation for most of our students. We do offer GCSE and Level 1 courses when these are suitable. Last year we had students entering Level 1 and GCSE examinations in Maths. This year we will also be entering students for GCSE Art. We also use accreditation such as BTEC and Prince’s Trust Achieve Programme. Our external accredited subjects are reviewed regularly to ensure they meet the students’ needs and aspirations as staff are regularly researching and exploring new subjects for our students to access and enjoy.

Over recent years Government changes has meant that the number of available external accreditations for our less able students (working within SLD complex) has been greatly reduced. As a result we have selected to provide a small, but significant number of external qualifications where appropriate, but more essentially to introduce meaningful practical life skill based internal Belvue Skills Certification.

The performance measure point score system for our school, like other Special Needs Schools, over the past years, has shown a dramatic drop. This is due to the changes in the secondary performance tables point system being based on a much narrower range of qualifications and the majority of points being awarded for results in exam which the main body of our student cohort cannot access e.g. GCSEs and above, as opposed to Entry Level qualifications.

**Enriched Curriculum**

All students at Belvue School benefit from additional meaningful enriched activities that are offered throughout the school year; some of which have become a tradition e.g. seasonal themed events such as the Night School, Summer show, Arts week and Science week.

Head Teacher KS4 Assistant Head

Ms O’Shea *S. O’Shea*  Mr Futtit *M Futtit*

Date Date

July 2019 July 2019

**The policy is next due for review: July 2020**

Appendix 1: KS4 Curriculum Subjects and Qualifications 2019/20

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SUBJECTS – ON AND OFF SITE** | | | | |
| **Subject - Alphabetical Order (\* = Core)** | **Exam Board / Qualification** | **Level** | **SLD** | **MLD** |
| Art | WJEC | GCSE |  |  |
| Art | WJEC | E2 – E3 |  |  |
| Art | Edexcel / Belvue Skills Certificate | E1 < |  |  |
| Design Technology | Belvue Skills Certificate | E1 < |  |  |
| Design Technology | WJEC | E2 – E3 |  |  |
| Drama / Performing Arts | WJEC | E2 – E3 |  |  |
| English Pathways | WJEC | E1 – E3 |  |  |
| English / Communication Skills | Edexcel / Belvue Skills Certificate | E1 < |  |  |
| Environment | Belvue Skills Certificate | E1 – E3 |  |  |
| Food Technology | BTEC Edexcel | E2 – L1 |  |  |
| Food Technology | Edexcel / Belvue Skills Certificate | E1 < |  |  |
| Horticulture | AQA / Belvue Skills Certificate | E1 – E3 |  |  |
| Information Technology / Computing | Belvue Skills Certificate | E1 – E3 |  |  |
| Maths | Edexcel | E1 – E3 |  |  |
| Maths / Number Skills | Edexcel / Belvue Skills Certificate | E1 < |  |  |
| Maths (GCSE STUDENTS ONLY) | Edexcel | GCSE 1-9 |  |  |
| Maths Award: Number and measure | Edexcel | L1 |  |  |
| Maths Award: Statistical Methods | Edexcel | L1 |  |  |
| Music | Edexcel / Belvue Skills Certificate | E1 |  |  |
| Physical Education | Belvue Skills Certificate | E1 < |  |  |
| Science | AQA | E1 – E3 |  |  |
| Science | Belvue Skills Certificate | E1 < |  |  |
| Sports Leadership | AQA / Belvue Skills Certificate | E1 – E3 |  |  |