



East Midlands
SEND Training Hub

Curriculum & Personal Development Policy

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Role	Deputy Headteacher
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Next review date	Reviewed Date	Reviewed By	Changes made to the policy	Date and Minute number	Chair of Governors signature
Jan 25	03/01/25	SE	RAP to Target progress Updated scales for assessments Updated B Healthy content	10/02/2025	<i>G Watts</i>
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Introduction

Brackenfield Special School caters for a wide range of pupils with varying levels of need, communication and cognition. We recognise the importance of personalised outcomes for each of our young people as each pupil has a unique starting and destination point. Each pupil has a personalised and bespoke curriculum offer which is informed by their Education Health and Care Plan.

Intent – What we Teach

The intent of Brackenfield's curriculum is to **prepare pupils for adulthood**. Succeeding in life for our pupils means living as an **independent life** as possible and having **agency** over their own lives; not just having a **voice** but having the skills to make their own **choices** and have **control** over their lives. Our curriculum equips pupils with the **essential life skills, knowledge** and **cultural capital** that they will need to become the most **independent** and **happy** versions of themselves that they can be.

Curriculum Content

All our pupils receive a broad and balanced educational offer whilst providing opportunities for progression by giving access to experiences that are **relevant, interesting** and **challenging**. Our curriculum content is drawn from the Early Years Foundation Stage, EQUALS In-formal and Semi-Formal approaches, The National Curriculum and the Preparation for Adulthood Framework. Curriculum delivery is centred around opportunities for safeguarding and online safety, British Values and SMSC. The curriculum content has been designed to facilitate progression at all levels. However, this with the understanding that some pupils may remain at a developmentally early stage throughout their life due to their SEND.

The commonality of approach across the school is preparing for adulthood from the very beginning of their journey with Brackenfield. However, as adulthood is going to look very different for each pupil – what we teach to an individual pupil is influenced by what their priority needs are at any moment in time; and this may look very different from their peers. This means that all pupils in Brackenfield are working towards individual outcomes as detailed in their EHCP. Brackenfield use Pupil Centred Planning to set Personalised Learning Intentions and detail the sequential learning and short-term, medium-term and long-term outcomes for each pupil.

A Broad, Balanced, Relevant and Engaging Offer

Our curriculum is designed to prepare pupils for adulthood which we do by teaching functional life skills. It is also designed to engage pupils in learning and experiences. Whilst we recognise that there is a finite amount of knowledge and understanding that our pupils will be able to retain or understand; we do not want to place limits on their opportunities, experiences of their immediate and wider world or their potential future interests and talents. For that reason, our curriculum is carefully structured to **fully embed** the skills and knowledge needed to be as independent as possible in adulthood as well as ensuring pupils enjoy and experience fascination. For example, pupils may not need to learn about magnetic fields and poles, but they may get great joy from exploring different materials and objects and seeing how they attract or repel each other. Whilst they may not be linguists, they may enjoy hearing friends, relatives or strangers speak different languages or love learning the names of the colours in different languages. We want our pupils to feel comfortable in and benefit from as many experiences as possible in the socially, culturally, technologically and ecologically diverse world in

which they are growing up and aim to expose them to as much of this as possible through our curriculum.

Our curriculum is separated into 4 broad subject areas: **Good Health; Friends Relationships and Community; Independent Living** and **Employment**. **Communication, Literacy and Mathematics** are the foundations for learning in all these areas.

Communication	I am learning to respond to and initiate interactions. I am learning to communicate my needs, wants, thoughts, preferences, opinions and experiences. I am learning to attend. I am learning to understand what people say to me and follow instructions. I am learning to participate in conversations.		
Literacy	I am learning to comprehend language. I am learning to understand that print carries meaning. I am learning to pronounce and recognise words. I am learning to compose and transcribe.		
Mathematics	I am learning to understand number; shape; patterns; size; and groups. I am learning to use my mathematical skills fluently to problem solve and reason.		
Good Health	Friends, Relationships & Community	Independent Living	Employment
I am learning to understand and manage my own body.	I am learning to develop and maintain relationships and friendships.	I am learning to live independently and manage my own household.	I am learning about the world of work, so I know what opportunities are available to me.
I am learning to manage my own mental physical and sexual health.	I am learning to access my community safely and confidently.	I am learning to meet my own basic needs such as hunger, thirst etc. by preparing sustenance and shopping for ingredients or items.	I am learning skills so I can enter the workforce.
I am learning to manage and meet my own hygiene needs including toileting.		I am learning to travel out in the community and ensure that I am dressed appropriately to do this.	
		I am learning to make choices and discover my preferences.	

For more information of the content of each subject please see Appendix Content of Subject Areas.

Our curriculum is also designed to give pupils an experience of a **broad** range of subjects at a level that they can access them. The rationale for this is for pupils to have the experiences in which they can **develop hobbies and interests** that they can take with them into adulthood. It is the hope that exposure to different types of activities will spark an enjoyment or an interest that can later develop into a hobby. The rationale being – “how would a pupil know they like painting if they never have the

opportunity to pick up a paintbrush?” or “how does a pupil know they like the cinema if they have never experienced this?”

The [Requirements for Timetable](#) detail the expectations.

Implementation – How we Teach

Children with severe/complex learning difficulties learn very differently from neuro-typical children (Imray 2018) and therefore require a different pedagogical approach. All of pupils have different needs and these can vary widely over the school. To support all pupils needs effectively Brackenfield School adopts a Pathway Approach.

Pathways

Our pathways have 2 broad levels that are based on previous work of Dr Penny Lacey and Peter Imray. The Equals curricula are adjacent rather than hierarchical; therefore, pupils who are at the edges of the curriculum, may also dip into elements of the adjacent curriculum design (Imray, 2021).

This diagram shows the relationship between curricula in Equals multi-tiered approach:

Equals Pre-Formal Curriculum	Equals Informal Curriculum	Equals Semi-Formal Curriculum	Equals Formal Curriculum	National Curriculum
PMLD	Complex SLD, SLD/ASC	SLD, SLD/ASC	GLD ¹ , GLD/ASC	
Working consistently and over time within P1 to P3	Working consistently and over time within P4-P5 ish	Working consistently and over time within P4 to the early reaches of the NC	Working consistently and over time significantly below age related expectations	Working within typical or near typical age related expectations

We do not solely use Equals as our curriculum model as our curriculum is developed and informed from several different sources which include EYFS, the National Curriculum and Preparation for Adulthood. We have further refined our approaches by continued work with other schools, Equals and by our work and understanding of our pupils. Brackenfield School has pupils that operate within the **informal** and the **semi-formal** curricula. We have further specialised our approach by subdividing the informal curricula into an informal and semi-informal approach. We also have some pupils that will undertake elements of a formal curriculum.

Pupils are placed in a pathway dependant on their cognitive, communicative, social/emotional and sensory needs; ability and motivation to follow instructions and their ability to engage in adult led activities. The 5 Pathways contain classes which are further refined in their groupings and consider chronological age when appropriate. Pupils may remain in a pathway during their time at Brackenfield or may move between pathways dependant on their needs and development.

How we approach teaching is influenced by our pupils’ complex needs and will be determined by the individual’s level of learning difficulty; their preferences and motivations and their ability to and willingness to follow instructions or engage in adult led learning.

Informal Approach

Informal pupils **are learning to be**.

The informal approach enables informal pupils to **engage** and make **choices**. It supports pupils to develop their ability to communicate their **needs**. Staff use the **engagement model** to assess and recognise what pupils enjoy and structure the environment to **extend engagement** and **widen preferences**.

Engagement opportunities are provided to **explore** which supports pupils to notice and engage with the world around them, building upon their **realisation**. Routine and a total communication approach support pupils to develop their ability to **anticipate** familiar activities or events. Staff model and play alongside pupils enabling them to build upon their **persistence** and sustain attention. The approach used provides a structure for pupils to learn to **initiate** play, communication, and interaction.

Semi-Informal Approach

Semi-Informal pupils are **learning to engage** in adult led activities.

The semi-informal approach enables pupils to develop their ability to effectively communicate their wants and needs. It supports pupils to engage in adult led learning and to further develop their ability to follow instructions. This may need to be highly structured in terms of now and next and the use of motivators and preferred activities to promote engagement in non-preferred activities.

Semi-Formal Approach

Semi-formal pupils **are doing to learn**.

The semi-formal approach enables pupils to develop **independence** and **functional** life skills. Pupils who are in the semi-formal pathways can engage in **adult led learning** and have the **attention** skills to attend to an activity.

The semi-formal approach uses real life experiences to develop life skills. Staff will **model** and **repeat** activities gradually withdrawing support until a pupil can do the skill independently. Once the skill has been mastered the teaching shifts to being able to **generalise** the skill – i.e. apply it in lots of different **contexts**. Pupils are taught to **problem solve** by adults “**sabotaging**” the activity once the initial skill is embedded. This might look like running out of bread to make toast for breakfast – pupils would be supported to solve this problem. In shopping this might look like not having enough money to get everything on the list.

Through our semi-formal approach, pupils learn skills and strategies to **self-regulate**, access the **community** and interact, play and socialise with other people without high levels of anxiety. Pupils learn to make their own **choices** and develop **preferences** which can be fostered into lifelong hobbies and enriching activities.

Subject Specific Learning

Due to the significant learning needs of our population; we have no pupils that are suited to a completely formal approach. However, if pupils are at the developmental level that formal input would be effective to develop skills, then this is part of their curriculum offer. This is across all subject areas. For example: before pupils can write, they need to learn to use spoken language to communicate. Later they learn to write down the words they can say. Early mark-making is not the same as writing. It is a sensory and physical experience for young children, which they do not yet connect to forming symbols which can communicate meaning. Therefore, until a child can ascribe meaning to the marks that they make they will not be able to access formal approaches to teaching writing. See the Literacy and Mathematics Policy for more information.

Baseline Assessments

All pupils are baselined on the B-Levels for communication, reading, writing and mathematics. These baseline judgements are used to inform embedded literacy and mathematics through personalised learning intentions. B-levels judgements are used to categorise pupils into groups as below:

B-Level Assessment of Literacy Skills	B-Level Assessment of Maths Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Below B8 – Pre Reader • B8 – B15 – Emergent Reader • B15 and above - Functional Reader 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Below B8 – Pre Maths • B8 – B15 – Emergent Maths • B15 and above - Functional Maths

From here, pupils identified as emerging or functional readers or mathematicians are then selected for standardised testing. We use the Salford Sentence Reading Comprehension Test for Reading and the Sandwell Early Numeracy Test for Maths.

Data is triangulated; age, B-level, standardised test result (including language comprehension age for maths) which informs the curriculum offer and classroom approaches.

Evidence of learning is tracked through functional application of the literacy and mathematics skills in order to see holistic, generalised and maintained progress. This is done through BOOP, where targets and different skills are tagged in posts.

Accreditation Opportunities

Within the key stage 4 curriculum, pupils work towards a variety of qualifications aimed to prepare young people for adult life and the world of work. Accredited outcomes are decided on a case by case basis, as the focus of qualifications and accredited learning is to prepare for employment, therefore qualifications are focused on employment related skills and learning.

The qualification range we offer has been chosen in consultation with employers to ensure we prepare young people for employment as much as possible. Qualification suites include:

- Functional skills in English
- Functional skills in maths
- Science
- Specific employability/ vocation specific units within Skills for Further Learning and Employment, Travel Training, Independent Living in the Community
- Duke of Edinburgh

These qualifications are available from Entry 1 to Level 2 and in a range of sizes from Awards to Diplomas, they are suitable for learners of all abilities. Pupils can achieve the qualifications from the essential vocational group which are skills and knowledge content.

Specific vocation areas will be chosen based on pupil voice, current labour market information and their preferred or requested vocational area. These areas include hospitality, childcare, retail, business admin, catering, cleaning, beauty. Qualifications are accredited through Open Awards.

Pupils also work towards non-accredited learning via the Badge of Excellence in personalised learning. This certificate is bespoke to each pupil and reflects the personal achievements made through personalised learning intentions. The Badge of Excellence is also awarded through Open Awards.

For more information on Open Awards and information towards policies and procedures please see the following links: [Policies and Procedures | Open Awards](#)

For more information about employment opportunities, please read the employment and careers policy.

Planning; Lesson Allocation and Timetables

Planning takes into consideration all relevant information about the pupil. This includes Section A, B, and F of the EHCP as well as B Levels, B Skills, B Healthy assessment data; J2L and Sensory Profiles and for informal pupils their engagement profile.

Long Term Plans and Schemes of Work are available for each subject area. In Year 11 pupils work towards Open Awards accredited outcomes which are bespoke to the pupil's interests, aspirations (informed labour market information) and transition plans. Each class has an overview plan for the year of when each unit will be taught for each pupil.

Medium Term Plans are written on a MERLY basis and are specific to each class. They are completed on a template which must have:

- Rationale for the session (bespoke to each class)
- Relevant PLIs that will be worked towards in these sessions
- Outline of the activity (this can be a link to another document such as a powerpoint)
- Appropriate groupings for pupils and different activities for pupils where needed
- If needed additional specific learning outcomes not covered in the PLI
- Clear plans for progression and sequencing learning
- Planned at least 5 weeks in advance (the exception would be towards the end of the MER when the next MER's planning cannot be done until the PLIs have been ratified in the RAP meeting)

There is no separate document for short term planning. Although teachers can create their own way if they wish. Many teachers add more detail to the Medium Term Plans as the session gets closer and this document then also works as their short term plan.

For a visual representation of the planning model please see [here](#).

Specific planning collaboration time is set aside half way through each MER for teachers to work together.

Pupil Centred Planning describes the overall process of incorporating the Long Term Generic Plans into the Pupil Centred Planning which details what happens in the classroom.

All pupils at Brackenfield School are in receipt of an EHCP which states their individual needs in the areas of: Communication and Interaction; Cognition and Learning; Social Emotional and Mental Health and Sensory. All classes work towards Preparation for Adulthood (PfA) and increasing communication, regardless of the age of the child. Pupil Centred Planning is designed to support the process of planning effectively by:

- Considering all relevant information about the pupil (Section A, B, and F of the EHCP as well as B Levels, J2L, Sensory Profile) and for informal pupils creating of an engagement profile
- Assessing where the pupil is at the current time against the 7 subject area intentions
- Consideration of what adulthood may look like
- Creating PLIs that will "bridge the gap" between now and adulthood – long term plan for the pupil
- Grouping PLIs into subject areas to inform medium term planning for the class

- Creation of timetable and short-term planning based on the needs of the class
- Ability to reflect on the progress towards PLIs and alter planning if needed through Review of Attainment and Progress meetings

For more information, please see the Pupil Centered Planning Guide.

The class timetables are colour coded to show the predominant focus of the session. The 7 areas are shown below with their corresponding colour. Not every class will have discrete mathematics and literacy sessions on their timetables. In the informal classes and lower cognitively able semi-formal classes it is much more likely that literacy and mathematics will be embedded across the timetable.

Communication	Literacy	Mathematics	Independent Living	Good Health	Friends, Relationships & Community	Employment
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Class teams tailor their curriculum and therefore timetable to effectively meet the needs of their class and are able to provide a rationale for their timetable design. Each timetabled session must have a hyperlink to the MTP. There are not specified subjects across the school but there are minimum requirements that each timetable must contain – click [here](#) for more information.

It is the expectation that every session on the timetable has a descriptive name. Staff can provide a rationale for how each session is meeting the needs of pupils in the class.

The school day is split into a morning and afternoon session which are separated by a lunch period. There is no specification on the length of lessons or sessions – again the expectation is that staff design this timetable around the needs of the pupils in the class.

Themes and Topics

The use of themes and topics across the school is bespoke to each class and dependent on the needs of the pupils. Themes and topics are also used to discover **likes, motivators, and preferences** and to expand their experience and knowledge of the world around them. Through themes and topics we aim to engage children and provide examples of awe and wonder. We also aim to expand their horizons and celebrate existing interests and preferences in different contexts. A theme may provide opportunities for pupils to explore and find new sensory materials and resources which can be added to the motivators they already have; they may provide ways to explore comparison through themes such as light/dark, hard/soft, wet/dry, hot/cold. Topics or themes may also provide a way for pupil to develop a broader experience of the world around them e.g. passing of seasons- exploring nature/weather at different times of year. They may also build on particular fascinations or interests e.g. dinosaurs, space or be linked to celebrations such as Christmas, Fireworks, Diwali. Each theme or topic is reflected in the resources and equipment added to the classroom and may where appropriate, with some pupils be linked through different sessions such as art, sensory stories, Attention Autism. The topics and themes selected for each class form part of our SMSC and British Values offer.

Supporting Communication across the Curriculum

All our pupils have significant communications needs due to their learning difficulties. Being able to communicate is one of the most important functional life skills. Brackenfield adopts a total communication approach policy to effectively support all our pupils – please see this policy for more information.

Supporting the Teaching of Emotions

Emotions are a highly complex and abstract concept. Before a person can communicate how they are feeling they have to be able to understand the concepts of emotions and then identify which one (or ones) they are currently feeling. Due to the cognitive and communication needs of our pupils this is very difficult for them. We teach about emotions in the moment; when the pupil or someone else is displaying or experiencing that emotion. Emotions are taught by first supporting the regulation of; then identifying of and then managing of. We support the understanding and regulation of emotions through real life situations appropriate to their development level.

For someone with a very low cognition and communication level who is actively displaying upset or anger in their behaviours we would support this by co-regulation. We wouldn't necessarily name or ask them to identify the emotion as this might be too abstract a concept for them to understand.

Several of our pupils have difficulties with their interoception meaning that they are not able to know what they are feeling internally. This includes not knowing if they are hungry, tired, needing the toilet or the emotion they are experiencing. This can make it difficult to self-regulate as they cannot respond to their own emotions appropriately, for example they may not realise that they are feeling stressed until it is overwhelming which may lead to unsettled behaviour or inappropriate responses. This is also why we sometimes see such a rapid escalation in behaviours.

For more able pupils, we support the teaching of this by helping them to identify what they might be feeling. For example, "xxx you are crying, do you think you might be sad?" or "xxx has a big smile on their face and is laughing – what do you think they are feeling?" other examples might include – "how do you think xxx felt when you took the lego they were playing with?"

For the most able pupils teaching of emotions would include proactive teaching of strategies for them to use to self-regulate; to bring joy to their lives; to feel calm and to manage difficult situations. Some pupils might use symbols to help communicate their emotions, but this is individual to the pupil as it will depend on whether this is an appropriate strategy for them. If pupils can access emotional literacy teaching, we use Peli-can (Promoting Emotional Literacy In Children with Additional Needs).

Play within the Curriculum


For our pupils many early developmental stages have been delayed or restricted by the nature of their needs in those early months and years. Therefore "we have to help these children learn to play, for without our interventions they do not develop those communication, social and emotional skills typically developing children acquire through play" (Hirstwood). We must create the opportunities through our learning environments, interactions and activities for pupils to play; they will not learn to play passively. Therefore, play is an essential part of our curriculum. For more information about the use of play please see the implementation guides on the Teaching and Learning Team.

Personal Development

Personal Development is embedded throughout the school curriculum. The Brackenfield Characters are embedded within the curriculum offer and promoted with all pupils.

Brackenfield Characters

Kindness		Resilience		Cooperation		Determination		Honesty		Curiosity		Courage	
	To look after others		To not give up		Work well with others		Set a goal and stick to it		To tell the truth		Take interest in your world around you		To be brave when something is hard



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT LONG TERM PLAN


KS3

I WILL CONTINUE KS1/2 EXPERIENCES AND LEARN ABOUT:

- Regulating myself and meeting my own needs
- Adults who help me and their jobs in the community
- How to be safe in the community, with supervision, including asking for help
- My changing body and emotions and how to manage these
- How to be part of and access the community safely
- How to improve my mental and physical health
- Looking after my wellbeing at home and in the community
- Establishing and maintaining healthy relationships
- Using technology in the community

I WILL EXPERIENCE:

- Working out my wants and needs and getting them met
- Working out what makes me happy
- Tolerating being with peers
- Visiting other classrooms and spaces in school
- Enrichment events incl. Forest schools
- Immersive experiences and seasonal celebrations
- Enrichment and life skill community visits
- Using technology to help me access the wider world
- Sharing my preferences and making choices




KS4

I WILL CONTINUE THE KS1/2/3 EXPERIENCES AND HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO:

- Establish a routine including places I enjoy like swimming, local parks, cafes and enrichment events
- Visit lots of post 16 and further education provisions to help me have agency in my choices
- Plan my transition to adulthood with my carers
- Establish links with social care and health services to ensure I have these services available to me as an adult
- Meet employers, complete work experience and other work related experiences to support me securing employment opportunities
- Ask questions and make informed choices about my future
- Share my ideas and interests to establish life long hobbies to support wellbeing

KS1



KS2

I WILL CONTINUE TO EXPERIENCE KS1 AND ALSO TAKE PART IN:

- Working out what I like and do not like, to widen preferences and interests
- Recognising familiar people and people in the community
- Communicating my needs, wants, interests and preferences, incl. personal care
- Knowing what I am good at
- Class roles, including leading projects with peers
- Community visits for spiritual, moral, social and cultural learning
- Sharing my preferences and making choices for myself and to influence my school
- Digital resilience, keeping me safe online community

At Brackenfield, we value the individual and their right to experience the richness of society and to develop their cultural capital.

Through community visits, immersive experience and meeting new people we provide learning opportunities for pupils to explore British Values, worldwide awe and wonder and deepen understanding of the world around us.

RSHE

The relationship, sex and health needs of the pupils differ dramatically across the school due to developmental, sensory, social, communication and intimacy needs. RSHE is taught via a semi-formal carousel, streamlined into year groups. This is to ensure pupils receive their legal entitlement to the RSHE statutory guidance. Informal pupils are taught via their PLIs and families receive support to manage pupil needs at home too.

See the RSHE policy for more information.

Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural (SMSC)

SMSC is embedded throughout the curriculum, our school values, vision ethos and school characters.

At Brackenfield,

Spiritual development includes:

- Feelings, experiences, emotion;
- A sense of awe, wonder and mystery;
- Insights into personal beliefs and events we look forward to;
- Being able to say what we believe in;

Moral development includes:

- Being able to share our attitudes, views and values without judgment;
- Seeing other people's point of view;
- Developing an understanding of social conventions;
- Recognising that our beliefs can change;

Social development includes:

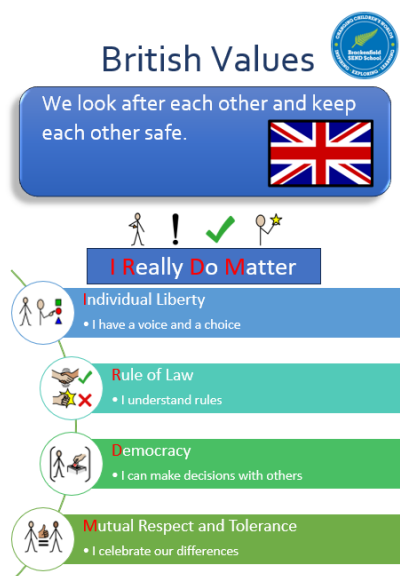
- Understanding of how different people we know relate to us;
- Being able to make a personal contribution to the well-being of the group;
- The ability to exercise responsibility and initiative;
- Being able to participate cooperatively and productively in society;

Cultural development includes:

- Understanding of beliefs, customs, values, knowledge and skills which form the basis for identity and cohesion in society;
- Exposing pupils to artistic and musical experiences to maximize their cultural capital and find new talents and interests

British Values

British Values are embedded throughout our curriculum, including our cultural capital/ SMSC offer.



SMSC and BV provision is personalised to the needs of pupils. An overview of ways it is supported for our different pathways can be found in [SMSC folder](#) in the Teaching and Learning Team.

Homework

Due to the cognitive abilities of our population, homework can be stressful for our pupils. Therefore, if homework is given it is completely bespoke to the needs of the pupil. All PLIs are discussed and shared with parents and where appropriate resources and approaches are shared between home and school to encourage PLI development.

Impact

Pupils leave Brackenfield as prepared as possible for their next stage in education, employment or training. If it has been appropriate and relevant for them pupils gain entry level 2 and above qualifications. All pupils achieve a Badge of Excellence which details their progress through their bespoke curriculum.

Use of Assessment to Inform Teaching and Track Progress

Progress is tracked and measured in several ways at Brackenfield in order to provide a holistic view of the child and to be able to focus on the needs and strengths of each individual. Our assessment method reflects the statutory reporting for children with SEND.

Engagement Model

For all pupils operating in the informal approach, we use the engagement model to assess progress. At the beginning of the academic year statements are written against the engagement descriptors and information is recorded about how a pupil best engages. For example, which resources; activities; environments, time and people best support a pupils engagement. This information is also used to support planning; resource and classroom set up. At the end of the year progress is reviewed against the statements written at the start.

Personalised Learning Intentions

Personalised Learning Intentions (PLIs) are used to assess progress through each child's personalised curriculum. PLIs start in the present and look forward; they state what is we want the child to learn next considering what they **want** to learn and what we believe a pupil **needs** to learn next. Parents and associated professionals are consulted so that an accurate and effective PLIs can be set. To identify priorities staff, complete a Strengths and Needs analysis against each subject area. A sequence of learning is then set out for the coming MER, year and key stage. The key stage outcomes are the Long-Term Outcomes from their EHCPs which are both aspirational and realistic. See the Pupil Centred Planning Guide for more information.

In order to make an informed assessment about a child's progress towards their PLI we review each PLI and make comments based on progress to date, during week 5 and week 9 of each MER. These progress comments are quality assured by class SLT links and shared with parents via MERly reports.

B Levels

We created **Brackenfield Levels** to assess stages of development and progress using neuro-typical age-equivalency development milestones as a basis. This is to be able to have a common language that all stakeholders can understand. B levels give information about a pupil that supports the design of their curriculum approach.

Learning objectives have been created from EYFS Outcomes and End of Year National Curriculum Expectations. These are arranged in Assessment Grids that enable effective assessment of stage of development and then tracking of pupil progress. Each pupil has an individual Assessment Grid which baselines and then tracks progress in Reading, Writing, Numeracy, Communication, Physical Development and PE, Personal and Emotional Development and Expressive Art and Design.

		School Year	EYFS Development Matters 2012	EYFS Development Matters 2020	Pre and Key Stage Standards	National Qualifications Framework
Pre-formal / Informal	B1		0 – 11 months	Birth to 3 Years		
	B2		0 – 11 months			
	B3		8 – 20 months			
	B4		8 – 20 months			
	B5		16 – 26 months			
	B6		16 – 26 months			
	B7		22- 36 months			
Semi-Formal / Informal	B8		22 – 36 months	3 – 4 Years	Standard 1 Writing Standard 1 Maths	Vocational Pathway Qualifications (Entry 1 Continuum)
	B9		30 – 50 months			
	B10		30 – 50 months		Standard 1 Reading Standard 2 Maths	
	B11		30 – 50 months			
	B12		40 – 60 months	Standard 2 Reading Standard 2 Writing		
	B13	Reception	40 – 60 months	Reception	Standard 3 Writing Standard 3 Maths	
	B14	Reception	40 – 60 months			
B15	Reception	Early Learning Goal	Standard 3 Reading Standard 4 Writing			
Formal	B16	1			Standard 4 Reading Standard 4 Maths	Entry Level 1
	B17	1				
	B18	1			Standard 5 Writing Standard 5 Maths Standard 5 Reading	
	B19	2				
	B20	2				
	B21	2			End of Key Stage 1 Standard 6	
	B22	3				Entry Level 2
	B23	3				
	B24	3				
	B25	4				
	B26	4				
	B27	4				Entry Level 3
	B28	5				
	B29	5				
	B30	5				
	B31	6				
B32	6					
B33	6			End of Key Stage 2		

This is kept electronically and is a live document in that is updated continuously through the marking and feedback process. This allows live data to feed effectively into the planning process. For example, until a pupil "can distinguish between different marks that they make" (Writing B8) there would no

point into formally teaching writing skills as they do not have the underpinning knowledge or understanding to access this skill. Pupils would still be encouraged to experiment with mark making and closely observed to see development in this area. This is one example of how the assessment system directly feeds into what is taught in the classroom.

At each data drop point (see the Monitoring, Evaluation and Review & Quality Assurance policy for more information) the information from the Assessment Grid is used to decide which Brackenfield Level a pupil is working at in each subject.

Staff use their professional judgement to decide when an objective is securely met. This judgement is based on pupils' work, annotations, observations and any other relevant information.

B Skills

B Levels tell us where a pupil is at in relation to their neurotypical peers or age-related expectations. B Skills allow us to track pupil progress through their functional PfA curriculum.

B skills are not necessarily hierarchal, and they may also not be sequential. They are taught when a pupil can access the teaching and shows an interest in the area. For example, a pupil that who can travel to a shop and choose an item to buy will be supported to do this even if they do not have the understanding of money exchange. They may never acquire skills or knowledge to do with money, but this does not mean we should not support them to access the elements of shopping that they can. Our curriculum is centred around an supporting **an independent life as possible**.

It may take several years to fully embed and teach a skill which is why a live tracking system that stays with the pupil throughout the school is required. The assessment is similar to B Levels with the addition of the ability to track whether the teaching of the skill has been attempted or not.

B Healthy

B Healthy allow us to track pupil progress through their PSHE and RSE curriculum. Content is taken from the [statutory DFE guidance](#). The B Healthy Assessment is broken down into year group content, which is assessed for each pupil by chronological age.

At each data drop point (see the Monitoring, Evaluation and Review & Quality Assurance policy for more information) the information from the Assessment Grid is used to decide which Brackenfield Level a pupil is working at in each subject.

Curriculum Construction, Intent and Assessment Model

To see how the curriculum is constructed and how these correlates to assessment please click [here](#).

Evidencing Learning and Progress

To demonstrate learning and track progress of pupils, evidence is logged through BOOP- an app with access for pupils, teachers and parents.

Evidence can be tracked against PLI, the engagement scale, functional literacy and numeracy life skill, preparation for adulthood , EYFS and Brackenfield Characters.

Pupils will have a timeline of achievements , showing a chronology of development, with evidence in picture, video or narrative format.

Reports are used to summarise progress for individual pupils through to whole school.

BOOP also has a home school diary, including personal care log, whole school messages to parents, a class newsfeed and the opportunity to write a daily schedule for pupils, supporting parental understanding of the school day and to support parents in preparing pupils for any changes to the school day.

For more information, please read how to guide for BOOP.

Curriculum Construction, Intent and Assessment Model

What- we teach	Why- we teach		How- we Implement/teach/facilitate learning				How- we measure impact	
Communication, Subject Areas (PFA and NC)	Intent Preparing all our young people for adulthood	Formative assessment of pupil strengths and needs Identification of <i>type</i> of learner by need and presentation: Complex learning difficulties (CLD)- Informal Severe learning difficulties (SLD)- Semi Formal	Adding breadth/depth and richness to the curriculum for individuals (delivery methods)	Specific Strategies used Pedagogical approach- Informal- Learning to be (developing engagement and communication) Semi Formal- Doing to learn (developing independence and functionality)	General Strategies Used	How we plan for learning	How this is tracked and assessed Summative	Content of assessment tool Summative
Communication	Learning to communicate needs, wants, thoughts, preferences, opinions and experiences. Learning to understand what people say are saying and follow instructions. Learning to participate in conversations	SALT Assessments B-Level Grids Blank Level Questioning Preverbal communication schedule Intensive Interaction Levels Derbyshire Language Scheme for Information Carrying Words Engagement Model	Total Communication Approaches. Forest Schools. Horticulture. Expressive Arts (music, drama, dance). PE. Outdoor Learning. World About Me/ SMSC calendar	Sign- Makaton. PECS. Augmentative Communication. Objects of reference. Signs and symbols. Intensive Interaction. Attention Autism. Narrative. Call and Response. Weekly Immersive Themes.	Play Team Teach Behaviour Approach	PCP (Pupil Centred Planning) with the following also hyper linked to the plan: EHCP (Educational Health and Care Plan) Communication Passports Sensory Profile and Sensory Diets Journey to Learn Profile and Journey to learn Narrative/strategies Arousal Curves and Behaviour Support Plans	Target Progress report	Personalised Learning Intentions
Friends, Relationships and Community (RSHE) PFA	Learning to develop and maintain relationships and friendships. Learning to access the community safely and confidently.	B-Level Grids Journey to Learn Pupil Voice Parent Voice Behaviour Data inc Functional behaviour analysis Engagement Model	PE. Swimming. Forest Schools. Horticulture. Expressive Arts (art, drama). Outdoor Learning. Community visits. SMSC calendar	Intensive Interaction. Narrative. Therapeutic approaches and interventions. Weekly Immersive Themes.	Total Communication Approach Sensory Aware Approaches		Target Progress report Iris	Personalised Learning Intentions Journey to Learn
Good Health (RSHE) (PE) PFA	Learning to manage own bodies. Learning to manage own mental health. Learning to manage physical and sexual health. Learning to manage and meet own hygiene needs inc toileting.	B Healthy Assessment Grids B Level PE and PD Assessment Grid Journey to Learn Derbyshire NHS Sensory Tool Kit Pupil Voice Parent Voice Engagement Model	PE. Swimming. Forest Schools. Expressive Arts (music, art, dance). Outdoor Learning. Community visits. SMSC calendar	Pelican. Toileting and personal care plans.	Attachment Aware Approaches Learning through experiences (Experiential Learning)		B-Healthy	B-Healthy (Personalised Learning Intentions) PSHE education for pupils with SEND (PSHE association) Sensory Toolkit
Independent Living PFA	Learning to live independently (cook; travel train; shop and dress etc) and manage households. Learning to meet own basic needs such as hunger, thirst etc. Learning to make choices and discover preferences.	B- Skills Assessment Grids Pupil Voice Parent Voice Engagement Model	Educational Visits. Forest Schools. Expressive arts (music, art, dance, drama). Outdoor Learning. Community visits. SMSC calendar	Communication approaches, Travel training, shopping and cooking.	Community Visits		B-Skills	Equals materials for Independent Living (Personalised Learning Intentions)
Employment PFA	Learning about the world of work to identify and understand what opportunities are available. Learning skills to enter the world of work	B-Skills Assessment Grids Pupil Voice Parent Voice Engagement Model	Work Experience. Educational Visits. Forest Schools. Employer visits. Expressive Arts (art and music). Horticulture. Outdoor Learning. SMSC calendar	Attention autism. Communication approaches.	Role Play Teacher led tasks		B-Skills	Talentino's framework (Personalised Learning Intentions) Digital Skills Functional skills Vocational Units
Literacy Reading/ Writing Pre NC and NC	I am learning to comprehend language. I am learning to understand that print carries meaning. I am learning to pronounce and recognise words. I am learning to compose and transcribe.	B-Levels Assessment Grids Phonics screening- Phonics for SEND Standardised testing- Salford Sentence Reading and Comprehension Test	Phonics sessions. Reading for pleasure. Expressive arts- dance. Outdoor Learning. Community Visits. SMSC calendar	Phonics for SEND. Squiggle while you Wriggle. Call and response. Pre-reading strategies. Applied Reading strategies (reading for meaning+ reading for pleasure) Phonics for SEND. Dough disco. Pre- writing strategies. Narrative. Applied literacy.	Pupil led tasks Discussion Question and answer Written tasks		B-Levels	EYFS National Curriculum Expectations Functional Skills
Mathematics Pre NC and NC	I am learning to understand number; shape; patterns; size; and groups. I am learning to use my mathematical skills fluently to problem solve and reason.	B-Levels Assessment Grids Standardised testing- Sandwell Early Numeracy Test KS2-3 Maths baseline screening- Maths for Life	Maths sessions. Outdoor Learning. Community visits. SMSC calendar	Maths for Life. Pre- maths strategies. Applied Maths.	Exploring and investigating		B-Levels	EYFS National Curriculum Expectations Functional Skills

	Communication	Good Health	Friends, Relationships & Community	Independent Living	Employment
Intent	I am learning to respond to and initiate interactions. I am learning to communicate my needs, wants, thoughts, preferences, opinions and experiences. I am learning to attend. I am learning to understand what people say to me and follow instructions. I am learning to participate in conversations.	I am learning to understand and manage my own body. I am learning to manage my own mental physical and sexual health. I am learning to manage and meet my own hygiene needs including toileting.	I am learning to develop and maintain relationships and friendships. I am learning to access my community safely and confidently.	I am learning to live independently and manage my own household. I am learning to meet my own basic needs such as hunger, thirst etc. etc. by preparing sustenance and shopping for ingredients or items. I am learning to make choices and discover my preferences.	I am learning about the world of work so I know what opportunities are available to me. I am learning skills so I can enter the workforce.
Further Detail on what each area contains	<p>Early Communication Skills Brief Attention to another person Share attention Eye Contact Facial expressions</p> <p>Expressive Language Pointing PECS Communication Boards Signing Spoken communication Written communication</p> <p>Receptive Language Ability to understand instructions Understand Symbols Respond to blank level questions Reading</p> <p>Skills Attention & Concentration</p> <p>Both Having a conversation Using a phone</p>	<p>Physical health Gross Motor Skills (are movement skills that use large body parts) Fine Motor Skills (movements skills that use small body parts) Coordination, Balance and Agility Knowledge of Body Parts</p> <p>Mental Health Identify normal range of emotions Recognise when emotions are not appropriate and proportionate Common types of mental illness (anxiety and depression) How actions can impact on mental health</p> <p>Health & Medicine Where to seek help Roles of professionals Making and attending appointments Prescriptions Immunisations Where to access information Managing health needs Basic First Aid</p> <p>Sensory Processing Regulation of Sensory Needs Understanding Sensory Impairments</p> <p>Hygiene and Personal Care Showering / Bathing Toileting Dental care Hair care</p> <p>Recognition of Body Needs Needing the toilet Recognising hunger, thirst, tiredness Knowledge of Body Parts</p> <p>Healthy Living Participation in Exercise Healthy Eating Sleep Regulation Drug, Smoking and Alcohol Awareness Life cycles (including plants and animals)</p> <p>Sexual Health Puberty, Growing and Changing</p>	<p>Play Social Dimensions of Play Levels of Play</p> <p>Emotional Literacy Regulation of Emotion Recognition of Emotions</p> <p>Relationships People we know People who are important to us Build and maintain relationships Positive / appropriate relationships Shared interests Qualities of a good friend Making Plans Boundaries Consent Types of relationships LGBTQ+ Marriage Divorce Domestic Safety</p> <p>Community Expectations in different places / activities in the community Hobbies / Interests Diversity within communities – awareness, tolerance and acceptance of Special People, Special Places, Special Objects Change, History and Passing of Time Different Places, Different Languages</p> <p>Safety in the Community Online Safety Media including Social Media Keeping belongings safe Peer pressure People who help us</p> <p>Government, Legal and Criminal Justice System Difference between right and wrong</p>	<p>Household Cleaning Laundry Tidying Gardening Budgeting Paying bills Making and changing a bed Security (alarms; locks) Rent / Mortgage Being safe in the home Recycling Pets</p> <p>Food Storing of food Preparing food Food and kitchen safety</p> <p>Travel Training Accessing different environments Navigation of environments Walking Road safety Public Transport Public Transport Timetables Driving</p> <p>Dressing Ability to dress and undress Suitable clothes for the weather Suitable clothes for the occasion</p> <p>Shopping Money Receipts Change Returning Items Making a shopping list Value for Money</p> <p>Agency (having a voice and being listened to) Being able to make a choice Being able to have preferences / hobbies</p>	<p>Work Expectations of workplaces Uniforms / Dress Codes Suitable employment for me</p> <p>Career & Self Development Know personal skills and qualities Know areas for development Know what qualifications / experience is needed Applying for jobs Interviews</p> <p>Qualifications Suitable qualifications at entry level 2 and above</p>

		<p>Safe masturbation Safe sex Reproduction and Pregnancy</p>	<p>Understanding of rules Actions and consequences Voting and democracy Police</p>	<p>Access services to support (999, DLA, social services etc)</p> <p>Exploring / Understanding The World Routine Holiday / Going Away Weather / Seasons</p> <p>Use of Technology Using a computer iPad Telephone Radio – walkie talkie</p>	
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Pathway	Curricula & Stage of Development	Level of Communication	Level of Play	Level of Engagement in Adult Led Activities
	<p>In-formal Learning to Be</p> <p>(Operating developmentally within the very stages of the Early Years Framework consistently and over time)</p>	<p>May seem to not be aware at attempts to communicate or engage in interactions. Fleeting attention to communication or interaction at times and in limited situations. May use some gesture or take an adult by the hand to lead them to something they want. Is not able to understand spoken instructions but may engage in very simple routine instructions that are heavily supported by visual aids. Is not yet aware of the purpose of TOBIs or symbols to make choices. May use objects of reference or is able to make a choice between two items offered to them. May babble or make some vocalisations to express themselves. Usually not able to respond to blank level 1 questions.</p>	<p>Predominantly Solitary; may be beginning to engage in onlooker play</p>	<p>None: Does not notice the adult or attend to the activity.</p> <p>Fleeting: Fleeting attention given but no attempt to join in. This may be a momentary look at the activity or turning their head to listen to a sound.</p>
	<p>Informal Learning to Be</p> <p>(Operating developmentally within the Early Years Framework consistently and over time)</p>	<p>Beginning to show some awareness that someone is communicating with them. Has some ability to follow some instructions but may struggle to do so due to their overriding need to engage in other activities – these may be sensory regulation activities. May follow everyday familiar instructions with one keyword such as “shoes on” or “time for lunch”. Will respond for short periods to interactions from staff but may not be able to initiate interactions. Beginning to use TOBIs or single symbols to communicate their wants. May be starting to make choices using pointing boards or PECs books. May use some single words to communicate. Starting to initiate some simple interactions. May be able to respond to some blank level 1 questions.</p>	<p>May be some solitary play; onlooker; parallel and with high levels of support can take part in shared play.</p>	<p>Engages for short amount of time with adult support and prompts. E.g. may have had to take activity to child. May watch the activity with interest when modelled by staff. Touches, picks up or otherwise explores the items for a short time with some interest.</p>
	<p>Semi-Informal Learning to Engage in Adult Led Activities</p> <p>(Operating developmentally within Early Years Framework into early stages of National Curriculum)</p>	<p>Becoming more aware of attempts to communicate with them. May respond by saying “no” or pushing something away to express themselves. Able to use single symbols, PECs or pointing boards to express a small range of wants and needs. May be using a small range of spoken words or short phrases to express themselves. May show an interest in numbers, texts or words as they learn that these have meaning. Able to engage for longer in interactions with staff and may begin to interact with staff or peers independently. Able to follow spoken instructions for different activities or events but may struggle to do so due to their overriding want to engage in something else. Starting to respond to familiar blank level 1 or 2 questions.</p>	<p>Secure in Parallel Play, Supported shared and highly scaffolded turn taking.</p>	<p>Will engage with activity but requires adult prompts to remain engaged for a period of time. May copy an action while staff are still modelling it. May stay for the first part of an activity but move away when there is a transition to a new part of the activity e.g. from Stage 1 to Stage 2 of Attention Autism. Responds to staff interacting with them during the activity for example smiling, clapping when staff are clapping, throwing a ball back to staff but moves away from the activity when staff are not directly interacting with them. May need to promote engagement by using approaches such as now and next or first and then.</p>
	<p>Semi-formal Doing to Learn</p> <p>(Operating developmentally within Early Years Framework into early stages of National Curriculum)</p>	<p>Able to follow a range of instructions with one or two information carrying words “coat and shoes on for outside” or “lunch then choosing a book”. Has the motivation and ability to understand and follow instructions. However, may lack ability to execute instructions that require high level decision making or executive functioning. Able to respond to and initiate a range of interactions with adults and peers with some support. Able to communicate a wider range of wants and needs using symbols, pointing boards or speech. May be using a variety of spoken or symbolised sentences. Able to recognise some written text or write some words to communicate. Able to respond to blank level 1 or 2 questions.</p>	<p>Shared and Turn Taking</p>	<p>Full engagement with adult and engagement persists until the adult finishes the activity. Initiates exploration with the activity without prompts or anticipates a favourite activity. If verbal may talk about what they see. May communicate through gesture or signing such as pointing or requesting “more”. May request a favourite activity during a session, for example asking for a favourite song or pointing to the parachute. Joins in the activity by copying an action and repeats this independently several times. Maintains interest in the activity even when staff are interacting with other pupils.</p>
	<p>Semi-Formal (Formal)</p> <p>(Operating developmentally within Early Years Framework into early stages of National Curriculum consistently over time, working below age related expectations)</p>	<p>Able to follow more complex instructions with some abstract concepts. Able to answer blank level 3 or 4 questions.</p>	<p>Shared, Turn-Taking and Cooperative play.</p>	<p>Full engagement with adult and engagement persists until the adult finishes the activity. Initiates exploration with the activity without prompts or anticipates a favourite activity. If verbal may talk about what they see. May communicate through gesture or signing such as pointing or requesting “more”. May request a favourite activity during a session, for example asking for a favourite song or pointing to the parachute. Joins in the activity by copying an action and repeats this independently several times. Maintains interest in the activity even when staff are interacting with other pupils.</p>

How we Plan and Sequence our Curriculum

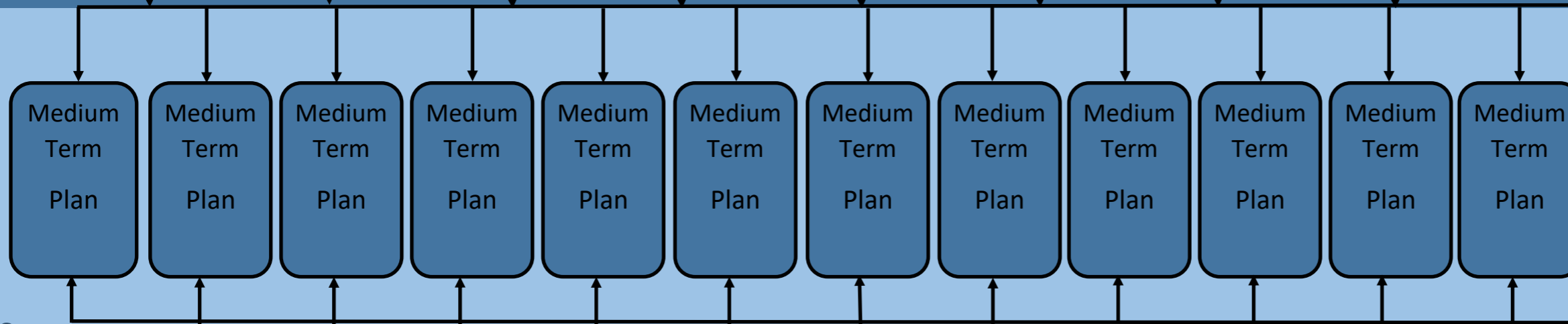
WHOLE SCHOOL



[Long term plans](#) have the sequence and content of learning across time for all years and Key Stages.

[Schemes of Work](#) are adapted from various sources including Equals and Maths for Life. For learners undertaking accreditation long term plans are created mapping out the content and coverage of the course for the year against course syllabus. **Progress is tracked and assessed on the B Grids (B Levels, B Skills and B Healthy).**

CLASS



There is a [medium-term plan](#) for each (different) timetable session. If there is more than one maths lesson per week these will be planned in the same medium-term plan.

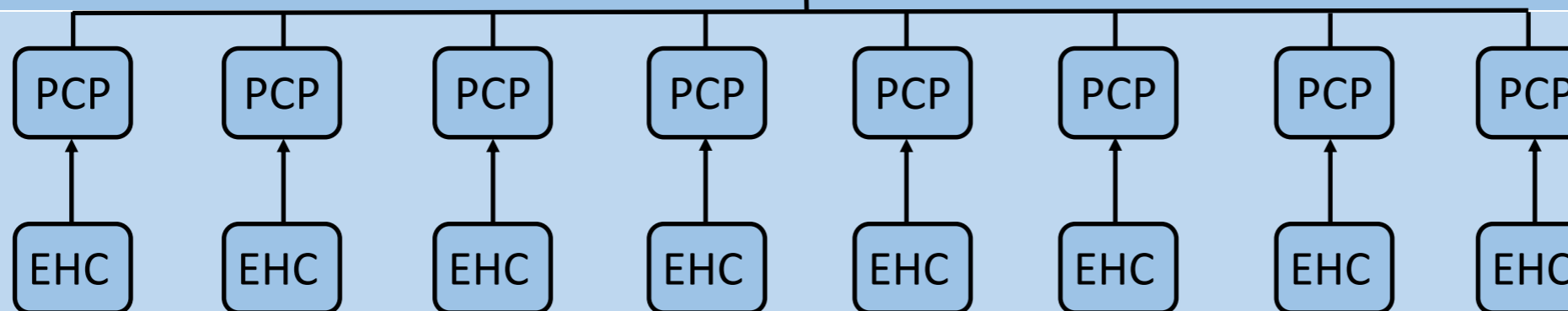
The [timetable](#) is built to cover the grouped PLIs. The timetable structure is also informed by the T&L policy which provides guidance on how many of each session the pupils should be accessing to ensure appropriate coverage.

The pupils personal learning intentions are grouped into smaller groups within a class to give structure to how these will be practically delivered.

The PLIs are collated together from BOOP into an [excel file](#) that supports



PUPIL



Each child has a Pupil Centred Plan. This mirrors the child's strengths, needs, wants and, long- and short-term outcomes of the EHCPs, broken down into MERly targets called PLIs (Personal Learning Intentions). **PLIs are assessed through MAPP.** Information from [Journey to Learn](#) and the [Sensory Needs Toolkit](#) is also included in the PCPs.

Requirements for Timetables

This details what must be on each timetable to ensure a broad, balanced, and relevant curriculum offer for all pupils. The remainder of the timetable should be informed by the PCP (Pupil Centred Plans), the needs of the class. No timetable should contain unstructured time. Outdoor learning must be built into the timetables and can take the form of Forest Schools, PE, Travel training etc. For more information about sessions which will support implementation of the curriculum please see the Implementation Guides on the Teaching and Learning Team.

Area	Information & Rationale
Morning Routine	Purpose: To welcome and settle pupils into school and ease the transition from long journeys. <i>The morning routine should not continue past 9.30am</i>
PE	<p>Purpose: To understand our bodies and be able to use them effectively and to achieve a goal. To develop healthy lifelong habits of exercise and activity.</p> <p><i>All pupils must have at least 2 hours of physical activity within their timetables in a week</i></p> <p><i>This can be in the form of travel training if the mode of transportation is walking or cycling. Can also include dance & swimming.</i></p>
Swimming	<p>Purpose: To be able to access water safely and confidently.</p> <p>All pupils should be supported to be to swim 25m unaided</p> <p><i>Vehicle for PLI and Character development – particularly at the informal level.</i></p>

Each of the following areas of learning have individual purposes but all have the common purpose of:

- Personal Development, including experiencing and extending joy in living and developing preferences and interests that can turn into lifelong hobbies
- PLI development
- Character development

Not all these areas need to be offered on timetables at all times; however, all pupils should have exposure to theme throughout their time at Brackenfield and the opportunity to develop their interests and preferences. [Click here](#) to see where these areas of learning fit into our subjects.

Forest Schools & Horticulture	<p>Purpose: To allow pupils the time and space to develop skills, interest and understanding through a range of activities which provide practical, hands-on experiences in a natural environment. To support pupils to assess and take managed risks.</p> <p><i>Vehicle for PLI and Character development</i></p>
Dance	<p>Purpose: To develop awareness and control over our bodies; to be able to express ourselves; to develop our sequential memory.</p>
Art	<p>Purpose: To develop our ability to explore, be creative and imagine; to be able to express ourselves; developing our ability to set up and clear away and clean away; develop fine motor skills</p>
Music	<p>Purpose: To develop our sequential memory; to develop ability to explore and understand; develop motor skills.</p>
Drama	<p>Purpose: To develop our problem-solving skills; to promote our understanding of people and the world; to practise life skills.</p>