WHITE HOUSE SCHOOL

Our Curriculum Intent

We do not expect pupils to fit our curriculum.
We design our curriculum to fit our pupils.

At The White House School, we believe that every child deserves the opportunity to feel safe, belong, achieve and thrive.

At The White House School, our ambitious, nurturing and highly personalised curriculum is designed to make learning possible again. By removing barriers through adaptive teaching, integrated therapeutic support and meaningful life experiences, we enable every pupil to feel safe, belong, achieve and thrive. Together, we develop the knowledge, confidence, independence and life skills needed for pupils to be **Ready to Learn** and **Prepared for Life**.

Many of our pupils arrive having experienced disrupted education, anxiety, barriers to learning or previous educational trauma. Our curriculum has therefore been intentionally designed to make learning possible again. It is ambitious, highly personalised and underpinned by therapeutic, trauma-informed and mindful practice, enabling every pupil to rediscover confidence, rebuild trust and realise their potential.

Guided by our whole-school ethos of **Healthy Minds. Happy Hearts**, we create the conditions for pupils to become **Ready to Learn and Prepared for Life.**

We know our pupils as individuals. We understand both their strengths and the barriers they face. Rather than expecting pupils to adapt to our curriculum, we adapt our teaching, environments and support so that every pupil can successfully access ambitious learning whilst maintaining high expectations.

Our curriculum intentionally develops:

- Emotional Readiness
- Communication and Social Skills
- Academic Preparedness
- Independent Living Skills
- Community Inclusion
- Sustainable Leisure Skills
- Preparation for Adulthood

Through our bespoke **Learn & Thrive** curriculum, pupils experience a broad, balanced and coherently sequenced curriculum which develops knowledge, understanding, creativity and independence. Academic learning sits alongside communication, life skills, wellbeing and

personal development because we recognise that these are equally important foundations for lifelong success.

Our curriculum is built around four curriculum departments:

• Key Skills
• Personal and Physical Development
• Knowledge and Understanding of Our World
• Creative Enrichment

Together these provide meaningful opportunities for pupils to acquire knowledge, revisit and consolidate learning and apply their understanding in increasingly independent and purposeful ways.

Relationships are at the heart of everything we do. Through outstanding specialist teaching, integrated therapeutic support, adaptive teaching and Total Communication, we remove barriers without lowering expectations. Emotional readiness is the foundation of learning and we know pupils learn best when they feel safe, regulated and connected.

We offer two personalised curriculum pathways which enable every pupil to access learning appropriate to their strengths and needs whilst remaining ambitious for their future.

Across both pathways we promote:

- High expectations for every pupil
- Communication in all its forms
- Preparation for adulthood from the earliest stages
- Reading for pleasure
- Life skills and independence
- Outdoor learning
- Cultural capital and community participation
- British Values and SMSC
- Personal development and wellbeing

Our curriculum reflects our three core values of **Ambition, Resilience and Community**. Through every lesson, relationship and experience, we seek to develop curious learners, confident communicators and resilient young people who are equipped with the knowledge, skills and character to flourish beyond The White House School.

Our ambition is simple:

To remove barriers, restore confidence and empower every pupil to realise their potential — ensuring they leave us Ready to Learn and Prepared for Life.

Prepared by: Elle Vinall. Date: September 2026