



The Willow Centre Curriculum Policy

Review Date	Review body
October 2024	Full Governing Body
October 2025	Full Governing Body

Overview

At The Willow Centre, our primary goal is to enable children to develop the tools and strategies they will need to be successful in a mainstream setting. These ‘tools’ are varying and diverse and as such our curriculum must encompass the needs of our children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Needs.

The Importance of Enquiry

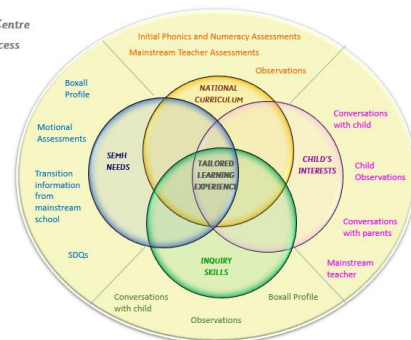
We want the children in our care to leave The Willow Centre being curious. We want them to wonder. We want them to question, investigate and above all else have developed a spark for learning. We achieve this by exposing the children to a broad range of experiences so as to allow them to find a passion or something to be curious about.

Adults cannot ‘teach’ curiosity. Instead they are the facilitators. By planning rich and engaging units of learning we will engage children and encourage them to develop key skills such as communication, collaboration, decision making and the ability to reflect.

The Planning Process

Each unit will be carefully built around the interests of the children. Each child will be assessed using The Boxall Profile and Strengths & Difficulties Questionnaires. These tools will give us rich information about the SEMH needs of the individual child. From here, we will identify gaps and use these gaps as a basis for planning.

The Willow Centre Planning Process



Accessing the National Curriculum

Many of the children at The Willow Centre do not have the skills necessary to be able to access the curriculum and have gaps in their prior knowledge. As the children begin to develop these skills for learning, we can begin delicately interweaving elements of the national curriculum into the units of enquiry. We use the White Rose Maths scheme of learning and Herts for Learning English curriculum when teaching fundamental English skills. We use the Foundation Subject Beacons created by Peartree Spring School when planning foundation subject learning.

The following are examples of programmes used to support children in their academic development:

- Times Tables Rockstars
- Monster Phonics

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- Bug Club
- Magic Spells intervention (a Hertfordshire Specific Learning Difficulties intervention)
- Literacy Gold

We hope that by providing fundamental English and maths teaching, we will build the children's confidence in these key areas which will lay the foundations for the rest of their academic future.

Pastoral Interventions

Each child is offered a bespoke package of SEMH pastoral intervention support. Please refer to our website for more information on each of the following interventions:

-Drawing and Talking Intervention

-Biscuit and Beanbag

-Penn Resilience

-Protective Behaviours

-Homunculi

-My Time

-My World and Me

-Brick Club

Support From Outside Agencies

Many children will require additional support from external services including NESSie therapists and Educational Psychologists. This involvement will be agreed through the DSPL2 Behaviour Service and in conjunction with the child's mainstream school.

Establishing local community links

We aim for children at The Willow Centre to become kind and considerate members of their local community. It is therefore vital that we establish links in and around the community. Children will have the opportunity to access and explore their local environment by, for example, purchasing cooking ingredients from a shop nearby.



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Assessment

As per the SEN Code of Practice, an Assess-Plan-Do-Review process will be used. Children will be assessed in this cyclical nature using various SEMH assessment tools including Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaires (SDQs) and The Boxall Profile.

The review section of the cycle will include conversations with all members of staff, parents/carers, colleagues from the child's mainstream school and most importantly, the child.

Individual targets will be re-assessed every four to six weeks to allow time for and any progress to be shown and next steps to be considered.