

## **The Downs View Curriculum**

Our curriculum focuses on lifelong learning of key skills, that are initially established in the early years and carried through until adulthood.

We aim to have a broad curriculum which can be personalised for each individual learner which encompasses their entitlement to learning within the framework of the New National Curriculum introduced in September 2014.

We recognise the importance of delivering this according to each learner's individual needs ie: an education that offers learning that is;

- within their understanding
- useful to them individually
- giving them the best opportunity of adapting to the society in which they live.

This fulfilled our aim to enable our population to be as independent and communicative as possible, moving towards being happy and fulfilled adults.

In order to achieve this, we focus on the following key areas

- Communication
- Physical development
- Problem solving within everyday environment.
- Creative development
- Personal awareness
- Social awareness
- Adult life and personal choices
- Health awareness
- ICT

In addition, National Curriculum areas are appropriately addressed according to the pupils' ability, and the majority of pupils at Downs View are working within P levels and towards National Curriculum levels 1 and 2.

Clearly we acknowledge that current statutory guidance has allowed individual schools to create their own levelled systems. At Downs View however, given the need to retain outstanding assessment evidence of progress over time, we are maintaining the use of the existing P Level descriptors and the use of 'Connecting Steps' (B Squared) assessment software. Though we are currently trialling our own assessment tool with a view to implementation in September 2015.

The areas above are the essential attributes we believe our students need in order to be able to best access a fulfilled and happy life, in which we enable them to be as independent as possible.

Our new curriculum consists of a three year cycle for each key stage group: Foundation/KS1; KS2; KS3/4. At KS5, each year group will follow a plan specific to that year group.

Each term, all students at the school and the Link College will follow an area of study based around the following themes:

- Autumn: Myself
- Spring: My environment
- Summer: The wider world

In terms of our key aim of supporting our learners to function and contribute effectively as possible in their community we are focusing on some key skill areas:

- Collaboration
- Curiosity, creativity and exploration
- Making connections and generalisations
- Independence
- Choice making
- Communication
- Developing special interest
- Problem solving
- Self-regulation

We will also encourage, at a level appropriate to each individual pupil, such skills as decision making, responsibility for self and others, social awareness, social competence, etc. Effective communication, literacy, numeracy and scientific skills will be developed alongside appropriate patterns of behaviour. ICT and PSHE will be taught both discretely but also across the curriculum as such work supports understanding and access across the curriculum.