



RADLETT LODGE SCHOOL LOCAL PROCEDURE FOR:

CURRICULUM

INTRODUCTION

It may be an obvious statement but it is imperative to recognise that **our autistic pupils are all unique**; thus, we needed a curriculum which puts the individual young person at the centre and meets their strengths and needs.

The underlying characteristic is to provide our pupils with the opportunity to reach their full potential as skilful learners. We recognise they will be with us for a relatively brief period in the context of their whole lives and as such, **outcomes** and **future aspirations** should be highlighted, strived towards and become part of each pupil's curriculum pathway.

Intent	Our Aim... is to provide our pupils with the opportunity to reach their full potential as skilful learners.
	Our Values are... to be confident, embrace challenge and develop resilience; to be happy, healthy and safe; to be increasingly independent; to be accepting and respectful of others.
	Our Purpose is... to inspire, intrigue and motivate learners to engage with the curriculum in order to reach their full potential; to meet each pupils' current stage of development and communication by working within the most appropriate RLS pathway; to use our knowledge of the pupils' strengths and interests to create opportunities for engagement; to identify, highlight and strive towards achieving each pupils' outcomes and future aspirations.

Intent	We develop the whole person... by focussing on the skills and concepts learners require to progress; by celebrating success in a positive environment, thereby increasing confidence and self-efficacy; by being able to quickly identify and address any lack of progress and being flexible enough to adapt our approach to meet each pupil's needs and aspirations.	
	Our Curriculum is broad...	• as lessons are taught across six areas of learning to cover a wide range of subjects; • by using half termly topics to allow cross curricular learning and exciting medium-term planning; • as we utilise first-hand involvement inside and outside of lessons to create meaningful practical learning experiences.
	Our Curriculum is balanced...	• by using personalised learning outcomes (PLOs) across a range of key developmental aspects; • as pupils work at their own level to achieve success in the skills and concepts they are ready to develop; and • with flexibility to allow the most relevant areas to be worked on at a particular moment in time.
	Our Curriculum has clear progression...	• as pupils graduate through the Key stages each with unique age appropriate styles of learning; • year on year pupils build on prior knowledge allowing for repetition and mastery whilst adding new understanding; • where older pupils are motivated to generalise their skills and concepts towards their specific, purposeful and relevant future ambitions.

PATHWAYS AND CURRICULUMS

At Radlett Lodge School, all pupils and older students are vertically grouped according to their specific individual needs, including: communication, cognition, social, emotional and sensory profiles.

We use two distinct pathways to deliver the most appropriate curriculum for each pupil:

Pathway 1 is designed for our pupils who we classify as **Explorers (Primary pupils) and Adventurers (Secondary pupils)**. This includes those learners who learn better through sensory sessions and play. Once explorers reach secondary age they then become Adventurers. The Adventurers curriculum focuses on

acquiring functional skills to meet their individual needs and unique learning profiles. Their curriculum is delivered through mainly informal learning environments. In terms of the SCERTS® Model, these pupils would typically be at the **Social Partner** stage of communication.

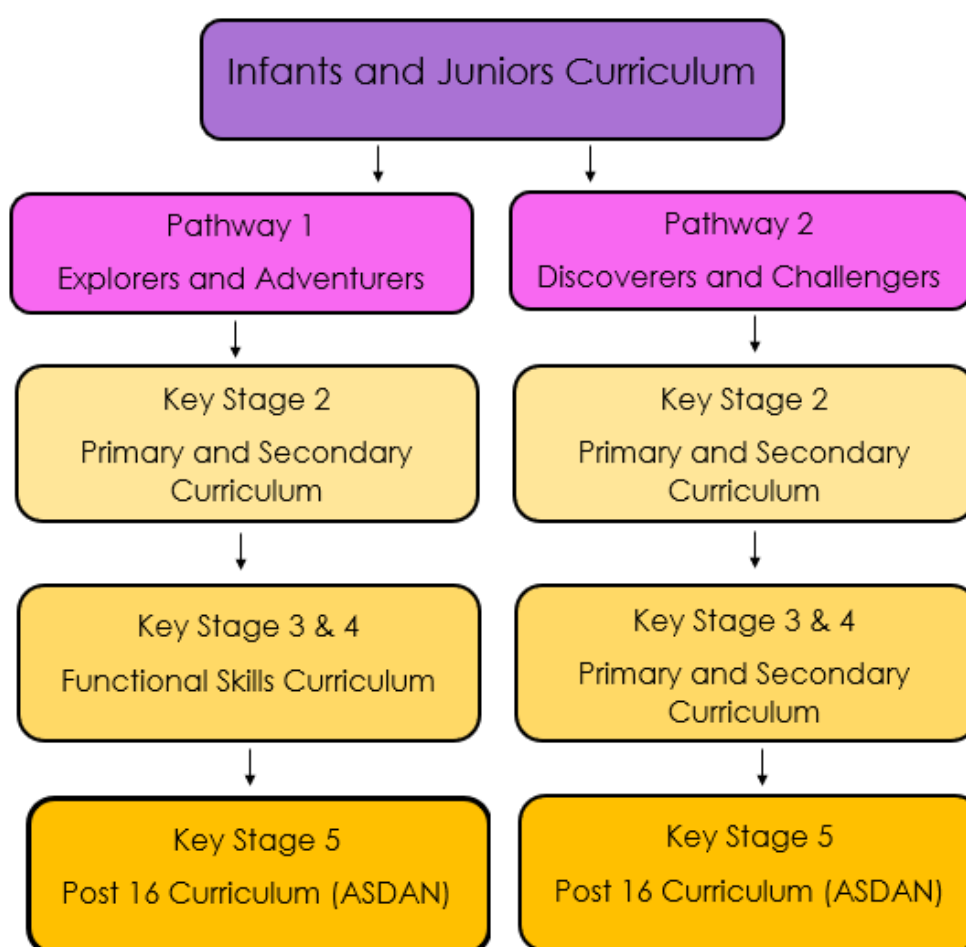
Pathway 2 is for our pupils who are **Discoverers and Challengers**. The Discoverers have moved through this informal stage and are beginning to access a semi-formal learning environment. The Challengers are beginning to access a formal learning environment. In terms of the SCERTS® Model, Pathway 2 pupils would typically be at the **Language Partner** and **Conversational Partner** stage of communication.

EHCP Link	Pathway 1		Pathway 2	
	Explorers	Adventurers	Discoverers	Challengers
	 (Primary) Play-based curriculum	 (Secondary) Functional skills curriculum	 Semi-formal curriculum	 Semi-formal Curriculum
Communication and Interaction	As an Explorer I can: Communicate through my actions, gestures, facial expressions, vocalisations, and / or single words (spoken or using AAC). Engage and respond when familiar adults join in with my activity, actions or sounds. Exploring communication systems.	As an Adventurer I can: Communicate through my actions, gestures, facial expressions, vocalisations, and / or single words (spoken or using AAC). Engage and respond when familiar adults join in with my activity, actions or sounds. Embedding chosen communication system.	As a Discoverer I can: Communicate using word combinations (spoken or using AAC) and/or a symbolic means of communication. Participate in two-way interactions with a familiar adult.	As a Challenger I can: Communicate using sentences and link ideas using basic conjunctions, for example: <i>and / or / because</i> (spoken or using AAC). Participate in structured rule-based games and group discussions with peers (either verbally or using AAC).
Cognition and Learning	Attend to activities of my	Attend to activities of my	Focus my attention on an	Engage in learning

	own choosing and, with support, engage in short (up to 2 minutes) highly motivating adult-led activities.	own choosing and, with support, engage in short (up to 5 minutes) highly motivating adult-led activities. Developing enjoyment and love of high quality texts. Developing functional skills through money, time and cooking activity.	adult led learning activity, 1:1 or in a small group situation, with support. Will engage in adult-led activities for up to 5 minutes.	activities for an extended period in a small group setting, with increasing independence. Will engage in adult-led activities for up to 10 minutes. Write words, captions and sentences using handwriting, AAC or ICT.
Social, Emotional and Behavioural	Express my emotions through actions, gestures, facial expressions, and vocalisations, and may accept when adults provide regulating activities or input. Begin to show an understanding of class routines. Need adult supervision to stay safe.	Express my emotions through actions, gestures, facial expressions, and vocalisations, and will accept when adults provide a choice of regulating activities or input. Begin to show an understanding of class and school routines. Need adult supervision to stay safe.	Use early emotion words/pictures/symbols (e.g. happy, tired, sad, and angry) to express my emotions, and actively participate when adults give me choices or regulating input or activities. Begin to show an understanding of class and school rules, routines and how to stay safe. Need adult support to make safe decisions.	Use a range of emotional vocabulary to describe my own and other people's feelings, and I can reflect on situations with minimal support. Show an understanding of class and school rules, routines and how to stay safe. Can stay safe in familiar situation when regulated. Need support with new situations to identify and manage dangers.
Physical and Sensory	Engage in exploratory mark making activities.	Engage in function fine motor skills activities (e.g. Opening jars,	Using my fine motor skills to develop pencil control.	Secure pencil grip. Engaging in hand writing activities by forming letters

	Use PE equipment and apparatus with adult support. Explore the world mainly through my senses, with adult supervision. Need support with sensory regulation – adults to control the stimuli to meet my needs and preferences.	fastening buttons and putting on shoes). Use PE equipment and apparatus with adult support. Explore the world mainly through my senses, with adult supervision. Need support with sensory regulation – adults to control the stimuli to meet my needs and preferences.	Actively engage in PE sessions and use apparatus and equipment confidently. Beginning to explore the world, safely, with minimal support. Starting to recognise strategies to self-regulate. May use sensory equipment and regulatory strategies consistently.	and numbers using the correct formations and line placement. Actively engage in PE sessions and use apparatus and equipment independently. Explore the world safely, recognising risk in familiar and unfamiliar settings. Can distinguish between safe and unsafe. Understand what sensory strategies and equipment I need to self-regulate. Can use sensory equipment and regulatory strategies.
Community and Independence	Cooperate with adults during activities of daily living (e.g. dressing, toileting, washing hands), with visual / gesture / touch support. Access the community with adult support and supervision. Will be able to self-occupy.	Cooperate with adults during activities of daily living (e.g. dressing, shopping, cooking, self-care, travel, independent living skills), with support. Access the community with adult support and supervision Will be able to self-occupy with	Carry out some basic activities of daily living independently e.g. following a visual jig, imitating a model or responding to a gesture cue. Access the community with adult support and able to follow rules and routines in order to stay safe.	Complete most key activities of daily living independently (e.g. dressing, eating and drinking, basic food preparation, toileting, washing), and can organise my own belongings for routine activities with minimal prompts. Access the community

		a motivational activity.	Will be able to self-occupy with a self-chosen activity and a given motivational activity.	with minimal support and understand rules to stay safe. Will be able to self-occupy for extended periods of time at a variety of activities.
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OUR CURRICULUMS

Based on the age of each pupil, the curriculum offer and teachers planning allows for a unique focus which is considered to facilitate year on year progression of skills, knowledge and understanding.

In key stage 1, pupils at RLS follow a play-based model to ensure they are motivated and engaged in their learning. This then allows us to teach using autism specific approaches to implant planned, purposeful play through a mix of *child-initiated* and *adult-led* learning.

Pupils working in Key Stages 2 build upon the foundation from previous cycles and years, consolidating earlier learnt skills, whilst the emphasis switches to establish greater life skills, independence and challenge.

When entering the Secondary phase at Key Stage 3, pupils will either follow pathway 1 and embark on a functional skills-based curriculum (Adventurers) which continues to offer a sensory and experiential based programme of learning or follow pathway 2 with a semi-formal curriculum. For some of our Discoverers and Challengers, the move is away from themes and toward many of the traditional *National Curriculum* subjects that are taught through our cross-curricular models.

For Post 16 pupils (Key Stage 5), their curriculum phase is based around 'Preparation for Adulthood'. Here, each young persons' interests and abilities are the focus with a greater emphasis on outcomes and future opportunities. It begins with a 'person-centred planning' (PCP) meeting which informs future planning and offers a chance to accomplish accredited awards (such as 'ASDAN') for each student's level of achievement.

Our Adventurers and Post 16 students spend more time accessing the community and this allows students the opportunity to generalise skills whilst experiencing different environments and interacting with the wider society (see the RLS Local Procedure for 'Post 16 Education' for further details).

THEMES explained

To ensure Radlett Lodge School's curriculum offer is broad and balanced, stimulating, challenging and relevant to our pupil's interests we offer a thematic approach for the younger pupils. At Key Stages 1- 4, whichever pathway pupils are in, they all follow a themed approach which repeats in cycle every four years.

Cycle	Autumn Term		Spring Term		Summer Term	
	ME	ME and OTHERS	Something MOTIVATING	LIVING THINGS	MY SURROUNDINGS	BEING ACTIVE
2	2023-2024 My story	2023-2024 Religious stories	2023-2024 Investigating Water	2023-2024 Habitats	2023-2024 Environment	2023-2024 Time to play sport
3	2024-2025 My Family and Friends	2024-2025 Spiritual places + people	2024-2025 Food and drink	2024-2025 Animals	2024-2025 The Great Outdoors	2024-2025 Summer holiday
4	2025 – 2026 My School	2025 – 2026 Festivals and Lights	2025 – 2026 Fun and Games	2025 – 2026 Life cycles	2025 – 2026 Out in the community	2025 – 2026 Keep on moving
1	2026-2027 All about me	2026-2027 Celebrations	2026-2027 Sensory Exploration	2026-2027 Field to fork	2026-2027 Going places	2026-2027 Keeping healthy, keeping fit
2	2027-2028 My story	2027-2028 Religious stories	2027-2028 Investigating Water	2027-2028 Habitats	2027-2028 Environment	2027-2028 Time to play sport

Rationale for the order of our topic cycles

Each year the pupils go through a similar range of topics following a structured pattern, starting with:

Themselves; then **Others** (other people, other things); then **Something Motivating**; then **Living Things and Wider World**; moving towards **Their Surroundings**; and finally, **Being Healthy**.

Implementation

Our Curriculum is filled with rich first-hand purposeful experiences...

by using a variety of exciting teaching strategies; through the use of a total communication approach; with a combination of tried and tested and innovative TDT (Trans-Disciplinary Team) initiatives; using autism specific strategies (e.g. SCERTS, Intensive Interaction and Attention Autism); with weekly education visits (EV) trips; and the use of sensory circuits and diets as part of creating optimal learning environments.

Our curriculum is flexible and responsive to individual needs and interests...

by using a person-centred planning approach in every pupils' unique areas of interest and strengths; PLO (Personalised Learning Outcomes) incorporated into their curriculum using individual EHCP and annual targets; from our understanding of each pupils' sensory needs and unique strengths and interests; and regularly updated individual support plans (ISP).

Our curriculum embeds the principle of sustainability...

through the continuous self-appraisal of our local offer; by evaluating the success of the curriculum we deliver; and through regular and meticulous analysis of all pupils' progress.

Our curriculum has an eye on the future and the needs of future citizens...

through PSHE and SMSC; life skills and independence; student council; work experience; careers; transition programmes; community links and enterprise projects.

We encourage the use of environments and expertise beyond the classroom...

in areas including: lessons; learning outside the classroom; specialist visitors (such as sports coaches, musicians, dancers and drama teachers; our school garden; our off-site allotment and annual pop up market stall; and the use of offsite activity centres (golf, sailing, swimming and skiing).

Our curriculum links between areas of knowledge and the major issues of our time...

at Key Stages 1, 2 & 3 / 4: through our thematic approach giving broad topic areas which incorporate current affairs;
at Key Stage 4: through our functional skills curriculum, building on that previously taught with an increased focus on community links and on practical, purposeful lessons; and
at Key Stage 5: as pupils are preparing for adulthood and have curriculum plans designed around a pupil centred planning approach.

Our curriculum has a local, national and international dimension...

with a diverse range of cultural days; whole school and class events; charity events; visitors and guest speakers; community links; inter school sporting competitions; work experience opportunities and CBE (Community Based Education) visits.

FRAMEWORK

The framework which underpins our curriculum is based on the DfE's *Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)*: 7 areas of learning, but we have adapted it to meet the needs of our pupils by combining 'literacy' with 'communication and language'. Therefore, the 6 learning areas at RLS are:



Often, autistic people experience differences in the way they 'sense' the world around them as compared to non-autistic people. This affects the way autistic children and young people use, develop and understand social communication and interaction. Our pupils achieve success when this curriculum is supported by sensitive, empathic educators who utilise a whole range of tried and tested interventions whilst under the principles of SPELL (NAS).

<u>Intended Impact</u>	Measured by:
	• All progress: PLO, SCERTS, subject specific targets, assessment, etc.
	• Parental views and Pupil voices.
	• Behaviour and incident data – CPOMS.
	• Lesson observations and learning walk feedback.
	• Curriculum feedback from teachers.
	• Staff feedback and well-being.
	• Annual pupil review meetings.
	• Outcomes/next steps/pupil destinations.
	• Work books / Folders.

The review date for this policy will be January 2026.

The Radlett Lodge School Local Procedure for Curriculum should be read in conjunction with:

NAS POLICIES:

- Special Educational Needs and Inclusion Policy.
- Supported Home Learning Policy.
- Remote Learning Policy.
- SEND and Inclusion Policy.
- Educational Visits and Trips Policy.

RADLETT LODGE SCHOOL LOCAL PROCEDURES:

- Teaching and Learning.
- Assessment, Recording and Reporting.