



The Belsteads School Curriculum Policy

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Name of Responsible Person	Peter Adams – Chair of Governors Signed:
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The curriculum at The Belsteads School is skill and context based and encourages active engagement in learning. The curriculum focuses on developing the key skills of communication, cognition, independence, physical development and self-care, that equip children and young people for life beyond the school.

Our curriculum strives to be responsive to each learner, and build on individual strengths and interests. A rolling plan is in place, which supports a balance of stimulating contexts for learning through different learning experiences, themes and subjects.

The curriculum will be developed and implemented in line with three main considerations as guidance. These are:

- Independent School Standards
- Every Child Matters
- Removing Barriers to Achievement.

The curriculum will give all pupils “experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative education” as required by The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2003.

As an Independent School, we are not obliged to follow the National Curriculum. However, we use the requirements as a base, all the while considering our pupils’ difficulties in accessing education and making progress.

Many of our pupils have significant gaps in their learning or have fallen further behind due to periods of time out of school or because of individual barriers to learning. We aim to improve attainment in Literacy and Numeracy, with other subjects (Humanities, Science, Art, DT, PSHE ...) supporting those improvements.

Class-based, formal learning is embedded through practical activities, which improve relationships with peers and adults, encourage collaborative and team working, enhance confidence, motivation and pupils' self-esteem. We focus on personalised learning and addressing the requirements of each child’s EHCP or Statement.

Additional learning opportunities will be provided through use of our extensive grounds where all pupils will have access to Forest School learning. Forest School learning is interwoven with more formal sessions to provide a holistic, learner centred educational process. Pupils may also enjoy gardening and the satisfaction of producing vegetables as well as the calming effects of working with animals.

We have two horses on site and will be registered as a Centre for the Riding for the Disabled Association. We also have access to sessions at the nearby Golf Course, with professional instructors developing pupil skills.