

Limpsfield Grange curriculum aims and organisation

Curriculum aims

Limpsfield Grange is a school for autistic girls; the only school for autistic girls in the UK. Many of our students have additional needs including ADHD, speech language and communication needs, and emotional difficulties associated with their autism. All of our students have an EHCP that outlines their needs; the provision required to meet those needs and expected outcomes for each Key Stage.

Many of our students have had an incomplete experience of primary school, often with very poor attendance due to their persistent levels of anxiety that affected their wellbeing. The curriculum at Limpsfield Grange addresses the gaps in students' prior learning to build success in their secondary education.

Our Curriculum Design

The Limpsfield Grange curriculum is designed to meet the needs of our students as follows:

Area of additional need	How the additional need is addressed through the curriculum
Difficulties with: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working memory• Information retrieval• Recall• Processing information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More time for core subjects• Lots of practice• A slower pace of learning• Frequent opportunities for re-learning
Difficulties with: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Generalising skills• Linking ideas• Linking concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explicit links between subjects• Skills practiced in different situations• Regular opportunities to correct any mistakes
Difficulties with: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expressive language• Receptive language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ample opportunities to learn subject vocabulary• Opportunities to practice everyday language in context• Time to teach tier two vocabulary
Difficulties with: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anxiety• Perfectionism• Managing pressure• Making decisions• Prioritizing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opportunities to learn how to manage anxiety• Help to manage perfectionism• Support to manage feelings which stem from feeling pressured• Supported decision making• Practicing prioritizing

We offer a curriculum that is meaningful, engaging and meets our students' needs. There is a high level of challenge and support, enabling students to make very good progress. We plan clear routes of progression and development. The streamlined curriculum allows extra time to be dedicated to English and Maths. If students need more time, teachers will vary the pace of learning. Our curriculum offers a high level of challenge and support for students, enabling them to make very good progress from their start points over time.

The Limpsfield Grange curriculum aims to:

- Ensure all students have access to a broad and balanced, challenging and relevant curriculum rooted in the National Curriculum
- Provide students with access to externally accredited courses in KS4
- Promote an enjoyment of learning
- Develop students' confidence
- Enable students to make very good progress from their start points
- Develop students' ability to enjoy good physical, emotional and mental health
- Develop students' communication skills, addressing social communication and language deficits to enable them to interact effectively with their families, friends and peers, and with people in wider society
- Develop students' independence skills so they make positive choices and flourish in neurotypical society in whatever way they choose
- Develop students' understanding of the world around them
- Prepare students for the opportunities and responsibilities of adult life

Our curriculum allows students to explore, deepen their understanding, develop and embed skills to use in later life. We help students to make connections between what they are learning in school and the wider world.

We are a unique school

Limpsfield Grange is the only school for autistic girls in the UK, and we contribute to many forms of research and literature into the female autism. Recent autism research has shown that autistic girls and women can experience difficulties with their emotional and mental health across their lifetimes.

At Limpsfield Grange, we believe that our students should be just as successful in their wellbeing, communication and independence, as they are academically. This gives them the greatest possible chance of success as learners and in the wider world.

Our unique school teaches a unique subject area.

We call it WACI.

WACI underpins our curriculum and is the reason our students are successful.



WACI aims:

- Wellbeing – promoting good physical, emotional and mental wellbeing so that each student is healthy and self-aware leading to them participating in wider society fulfilling their potential. Our wellbeing strand includes Relationships and Sex Education.
- Achievement – developing skills and knowledge, validated through externally recognised qualifications such as GCSEs, BTECS and Functional Skills that enables each student to successfully transition to their next education placement.
- Communication – developing social communication and interaction skills so that each individual can engage confidently and meaningfully with others.

- Independence – developing independence skills to enable our learners to manage their own lives and make their own decisions. Our independence strand includes Careers Education Information Advice & Guidance and Financial Literacy.

We deliver WACI as a weekly lesson, and as threads that weave through other subjects. We believe that by focusing on the areas of wellbeing, achievement, communication and independence, our students will be well prepared for their lives beyond Limpsfield Grange.

Limpsfield Grange Curriculum organisation

We believe that each student, irrespective of their needs, has a right to experience a broad and rich curriculum. Our carefully sequenced curriculum enables students to develop and embed skills and knowledge incrementally, fully preparing them to make a successful transition to a new placement when they leave us in Year 11.

The Limpsfield Grange curriculum is organised as a subject-based model with students moving between classrooms and teachers. Students are taught in mixed ability groups in their chronological year.

Externally accredited courses are offered in a range of subjects. Students at Limpsfield Grange also enjoy a structured programme that includes: sports and fitness activities, outdoor learning, curriculum experience days, and work-based learning opportunities, Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, visits to local colleges, visits into the local and wider community and residential trips. We make provision for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development through our WACI curriculum and lessons, ensuring that our students develop an understanding of the world around them and of the role they will play in the future.

Key Stage 3

We provide each student with an effective transition into the school where gaps in prior learning are identified and rapidly addressed. We put in place solid foundations for learning.

We regularly review our curriculum to provide learning experiences that meet our students' needs. In Key Stage 3 we offer English, Maths, Science, Functional ICT, Art, Catering, Physical Education, Religious Education, History, Geography and WACI lessons. Students are dis-applied from studying a Modern Foreign Language.

Across Key Stage 3, students access wider curriculum experience days where they will have opportunities to engage with film making, music, drama, architecture and aspects of the Design and Technology curriculum.

We have a strong ethos of learning outside the classroom, starting in Year 8, which enables our learners to:



We meet each students' individual needs by working on the targets and objectives outlined in their EHCP and Annual Review.

By the end of Key Stage 3 students will be fully prepared to begin their KS4 pathways, including courses accredited through GCSEs, BTECs, Functional Skills or Entry Level at the beginning of Year 10.

Key Stage 4

The curriculum in Key Stage 4 provides students with a learning pathway that meets their needs, challenges, inspires, and prepares them for a successful transition beyond Limpsfield Grange at the end of Year 11.

Success in our Key Stage 4 curriculum is externally accredited through GCSEs, BTECs, and Functional Skills. We regularly review our offer so that it meets needs and responds to changes.

Currently we offer a KS4 core offer of qualifications in English Language and English Literature, Maths, Biology and Art, alongside a Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. We also offer opportunities for work-based learning and other learning outside of the classroom. Additional qualifications in RE and Health and Social Care can also be available. Students in KS4 access weekly PE and WACI lessons. Limpsfield Grange does not enter candidates for examinations which have not been taught by Limpsfield Grange staff as part of our curriculum offer.

As in Key Stage 3, we continue to meet each students' individual needs working on the targets and objectives outlined in their EHCP and Annual Review, alongside preparing them for Year 12 transition. We aim for students to develop the confidence and resilience to tackle the challenges of working life.

Throughout students' time at Limpsfield Grange, we focus on preparing them to take the next step in their lives with success. Our curriculum builds skills and knowledge. Moreover, it enables students to develop the characteristics and attributes that will enable them to thrive in the wider world.

Sarah Wild
Headteacher