



Curriculum Statement

We are proud to be a Specialist School.

Sunnydown is a **Specialist School**, educating students who have an **Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP)** which identifies **Communication and Interaction (CoIN)**, often associated with autism, as an area of **Special Educational Need (SEN)**.

Our unrelenting focus is on providing exceptional **safeguarding**, which in turn secures emotional stability. As a result, the academic and social potential of our students is unlocked.

The aspirational vision of Sunnydown School is to **transform lives**, achieved through offering a **well designed, broad, enriched, enhanced and exciting curriculum, bespoke** to our cohort of **SEN** students.

A journey through the educational opportunities afforded at Sunnydown develops student **resilience, independence** and **cooperation** through **encouragement, enablement** and ultimately **empowerment**; this is **RICE³**, our Mission.

RICE³ is underpinned by the principles of **Maslow's Hierarchy** of needs, enhanced through the embedded **House System**.

[Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs](#)

Sunnydown School believes that **curriculum** is best understood in its broadest sense, comprising the full range of **learning experiences**, carefully designed to empower students to **realise their potential**.

Our innovative **Friday Curriculum** balances the demands of formal academic learning delivered from Monday to Thursday, encompassing the **National Curriculum**.

Pastorally we actively teach **Mindfulness**, employ a **Restorative Justice** approach to conflict resolution, and employ **THRIVE** principles during focussed support sessions.

Academically we provide targeted support through early and ongoing identification of needs, and provide **Elklan** inspired tools to develop communication skills, insisting upon a **Growth Mindset** and **Active Learning**.



Our staff facilitate high-quality structured teaching (**Sunnydown Four**) which is integral to responding to the often masked, yet specific **SEN** of our students.

The result of our holistic approach to education is young men with **CoIN** who are **successfully prepared for life beyond Sunnydown** as active members of our society: a modern and changing world. Measures of success include **GCSE outcomes** and **destination data**.

Our policy is organised by considering the **intent** of our curriculum, its **implementation** (including teaching and learning) and how its **impact** (including assessment and reporting) is assessed.

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