

MERSTONE SCHOOL



ACCREDITATION POLICY

March 2017
Review date:

Accreditation at Merstone School

At Merstone School staff are committed to ensuring that each student achieves to the highest level and acknowledge their achievements.

Students achieve nationally recognised accreditation through a range of ASDAN course. Modules are selected so that each individual student can develop skills in preparation for their life after school.

In Key Stage 3 all students work towards Asdan New Horizon Award over 3 years. New Horizons is an activity-based curriculum resource which supports the delivery of PHSE, Citizenship and Careers Education. The activities also offer an opportunity to develop communication and numeracy skills in a life skills setting and can be undertaken with as much support as needed.

At Key Stage 4 all students work towards Asdan Transitional Challenge which offers a learner-centred, activity-based curriculum that can be undertaken with as much support as necessary.

There are two levels available:

Sensory: this programme offers a developmental perspective for learners with PMLD and rewards very small steps of learning and achievement.

Introduction and Progression: the activities in this programme cover the statutory programmes of study for the Key Stage 4 National Curriculum, along with activities to develop the skills required for adult living.

In addition students in Key Stage 4 work towards Asdan Entry 1

Qualifications in Personal Progress. They are made up of units which can be broadly divided into the following areas: Literacy/Numeracy/IT; Independent Living Skills; Personal Development; Community Participation; Preparation for Work; Units Particularly Accessible for Learners with PMLD.

The qualifications have been developed for learners working between P Levels 1-8 and Entry 1 to have their achievements recognised within a qualification framework.

Students receive credits for achieving different modules, and an accumulation of credits leads to an award (8 credits), a certificate (14 credits) or a diploma (37 credits). Activities and progress are recorded in the student's portfolio of evidence.

Both Transitional Challenge and Personal Progress have been embedded into the Key Stage 4 curriculum.

At Key Stage 5 students work towards modules from Asdan Towards Independence Award which are chosen to enhance their individual skills and further develop their independence.

Towards Independence provides a framework of activities through which personal, social and independence skills can be developed and accredited.

Towards Independence offers formal recognition for small steps of achievement towards a larger goal. Modules can be used separately and accumulated to build a record of personal achievement.

A further award is offered to some students through the Secret Garden Project which is based at Shustoke Hall near Coleshill and is an accredited SEN Rural Learning Centre for Asdan.

A small number of students work towards the Personal and Social Development (PSD) qualifications at Entry 1, 2 or 3. This is a nationally recognised qualification that gives students the skills to;

- Become confident individuals who are physically, emotionally and socially healthy
- Be responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to society and embrace change
- Manage risk together with their own well being
- As well as introducing them to new activities and personal challenges

Students have to complete enough units to reach the required number of credits for a particular size of qualification. At Entry 1-3, 6 credits are required for an award, and 13 credits or a certificate. Each credit is equivalent to around 10 hours of learning time.

Key Stage 3	Key Stage 4	Key Stage 5
Asdan New Horizons (Award)	Asdan Transition Challenge (Award) Sensory or Introduction and Progression Level	Asdan Towards Independence (Award)
	Asdan Entry 1 qualifications in Personal Progress (at least 8 credits)	Asdan Workright
		Personal and Social Development at Entry 1, 2 or 3 (2-6 credits)
When students show an aptitude in a particular area of the curriculum they will be given the opportunity to access accreditation offered at Forest Oak School		