



Subject Descriptors

Website Curriculum Content

Life Skills Enterprise is a growing specialist school. Our curriculum combines ambitious academic learning with life skills, therapeutic support, vocational opportunities, careers education and preparation for adulthood. As the school expands, Key Stage 4 pathways will continue to develop in response to pupils' abilities, interests, EHCP outcomes and future aspirations.

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Academic Curriculum

Core and wider academic subjects taught across the school.

English and Reading

At Life Skills Enterprise, English and literacy are central to the curriculum because communication, reading and writing underpin pupils' access to learning, independence and future employment.

All pupils joining LSE undertake a phonics screening assessment and reading assessment on entry. This enables staff to identify gaps in foundational reading knowledge, fluency and comprehension and to plan the most appropriate support from each pupil's individual starting point.

Where pupils require support with foundational reading skills, LSE uses Fresh Start Phonics, delivered with fidelity to the programme. This provides a structured and systematic approach to developing secure phonics knowledge, decoding, fluency and confidence in reading. Pupils' progress is monitored carefully so that intervention remains targeted and responsive to need.

Reading is given a high priority across the school. Pupils are encouraged to read regularly through structured reading opportunities, including DEAR - Drop Everything and Read - and through access to high-interest, age-appropriate texts matched to their reading ability and interests. Reading assessment is used to identify pupils who require additional intervention in areas such as phonics, fluency, comprehension, vocabulary and reading stamina.

Literacy is not confined to English lessons. Staff reinforce pupils' spoken and written communication across the curriculum, including through life skills, careers, vocational learning and community-based activities.

As pupils progress through the school, appropriate learners will work towards Functional Skills English, with pathways from Entry Level through to Levels 1 and 2. As LSE grows, qualification pathways will continue to develop in response to pupils' abilities, aspirations and intended destinations.

Mathematics

At Life Skills Enterprise, mathematics is designed to help pupils become confident, increasingly independent young adults who can apply mathematical knowledge in everyday life.

The curriculum draws on appropriate National Curriculum content while being carefully adapted and sequenced to meet pupils' individual starting points. Teachers make use of practical equipment, visual representations, modelling and real-life activities before moving pupils towards more abstract mathematical understanding.

Particular importance is placed on functional mathematics. Pupils are given opportunities to apply learning through practical contexts such as money, shopping, budgeting, cooking, time, measurement, travel and independent living.

Through this approach, pupils develop fluency, reasoning and problem-solving skills alongside an understanding of why mathematics matters beyond the classroom.

Where appropriate, pupils will work towards Functional Skills Mathematics, including Entry Level and Levels 1 and 2. Qualification pathways will develop further as LSE expands and pupils progress into Key Stage 4 and post-16 provision.

Science

Science at Life Skills Enterprise encourages pupils to investigate, question and understand the world around them.

For younger pupils and those working at earlier developmental stages, science is delivered through practical and engaging Discovery Studies. Pupils explore areas such as living things, materials, forces, light, the environment and the human body, with an emphasis on investigation, observation and experimentation.

Lessons are designed to create curiosity and a sense of awe and wonder, while also teaching pupils how scientific understanding applies to everyday life.

As pupils move through the school, science becomes increasingly structured and prepares appropriate learners for accredited study. LSE will offer Functional Skills Science for pupils who are able to access this pathway, alongside other suitable science qualifications as the Key Stage 4 curriculum develops.

Science is also reinforced through environmental studies, gardening, animal care, food technology and outdoor learning, giving pupils opportunities to apply scientific knowledge in meaningful and vocational contexts.

Global Studies

Global Studies brings together History, Geography and Religious Education.

At LSE, the aim is to help pupils understand the world around them, their place within it and the experiences, cultures and beliefs of other people.

Pupils study a range of historical periods, significant people and events, physical and human geography, environmental issues, communities, religions and worldviews. Learning is designed to develop curiosity, communication, interpretation, problem-solving and an ability to consider different perspectives.

Where appropriate, learning is supported through visits, workshops, local fieldwork and practical experiences so that pupils can connect classroom knowledge with the wider world.

Global Studies also makes an important contribution to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and supports their understanding of Fundamental British Values, protected characteristics, diversity and respectful participation in modern Britain.

Computing and Digital Skills

Life Skills Enterprise provides a computing and digital curriculum designed to equip pupils with the practical skills they will need for education, employment and adult life.

Pupils develop confidence using digital technology for communication, research, organisation, creativity and problem solving. They learn how to use a range of software and digital tools, manage and save work, communicate appropriately online and increasingly work independently.

Online safety is embedded throughout the curriculum. Pupils are taught about privacy, digital footprints, cyberbullying, online relationships, reliability of information and the safe and responsible use of technology.

Digital skills are also reinforced across the wider LSE curriculum, including careers, travel training, independent living and vocational learning.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE)

PSHE is an essential part of the curriculum at Life Skills Enterprise and supports pupils to develop the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to be safe, healthy, confident and increasingly independent.

Relationships and Sex Education is taught within the school's wider PSHE programme and is adapted carefully to pupils' developmental and communication needs.

Lessons encourage discussion, reflection, communication and decision-making. Pupils are supported to understand themselves, recognise risk, seek help when needed and make informed choices.

PSHE is closely connected to LSE's wider work on careers, safeguarding, wellbeing, the Wheel of Independence and preparation for adulthood.

- self-awareness and self-esteem
- managing emotions
- healthy lifestyles
- relationships and consent
- changing and growing
- online safety
- rights, responsibilities and protected characteristics
- money and financial awareness
- careers and preparation for adulthood

Physical Education

At Life Skills Enterprise, the starting point for Physical Education is engagement and participation.

Some pupils may arrive with limited confidence in sport or negative previous experiences of physical education. LSE aims to help pupils develop a positive relationship with physical activity and understand how movement contributes to physical and emotional wellbeing.

Pupils develop fundamental movement skills, coordination, balance, stamina and fitness through a range of individual and team activities. As confidence increases, pupils are encouraged to apply skills in games, competition and increasingly challenging physical activities.

PE also develops important wider skills including teamwork, communication, resilience, fair play, perseverance and respect for others.

Physical activity is supported by wider opportunities such as outdoor learning, sensory circuits, cycling, enrichment activities and community sport.

Art and Creative Studies

Creative learning is an important part of the LSE curriculum.

Pupils explore a range of artists, designers, materials, techniques and creative processes through Art and Creative Studies. They are encouraged to experiment, develop their own ideas and communicate thoughts and emotions through creative work.

Art also provides valuable opportunities for regulation, concentration, confidence and self-expression and therefore complements the school's therapeutic approach.

As LSE develops, creative qualification pathways will be reviewed in response to pupil need and interest. These may include accredited art, design and craft-based courses where appropriate.

Key Stage 4 and Vocational Pathways

Developing academic, functional and vocational routes matched to pupil need, aspiration and destination.

LSE is a growing school and its Key Stage 4 curriculum is being developed progressively as pupils move through the provision. The aim is not for every pupil to follow the same qualification route. Each young person will have an ambitious and meaningful pathway supporting progression into further education, training, employment and adult life.

Functional Skills

Pupils who are able to access accredited functional learning will have opportunities to work towards Functional Skills English, Functional Skills Mathematics and Functional Skills Science.

Qualifications will be offered at appropriate levels according to pupils' starting points, progress and readiness. Functional learning is reinforced through real-life contexts so that pupils can apply knowledge confidently beyond the classroom.

Gardening and Horticulture

Gardening is an important vocational and life-skills pathway at LSE.

Pupils develop practical knowledge and skills through activities such as preparing soil, planting, growing fruit and vegetables, maintaining outdoor spaces, using tools safely and understanding seasonal growing cycles.

Learning develops responsibility, organisation, teamwork, perseverance and problem solving while also creating opportunities to apply mathematics, science, literacy and environmental learning.

LSE will offer BTEC and/or ASDAN-accredited pathways in Gardening and Horticulture as the Key Stage 4 curriculum develops.

Animal Care

Animal Care provides pupils with a practical and highly engaging route into vocational learning.

Pupils develop knowledge of animal welfare, feeding, health, hygiene, safe handling, environments and responsible care. They also develop transferable workplace skills including reliability, communication, teamwork, following instructions and completing practical tasks safely.

Animal Care creates valuable links to careers in animal welfare, veterinary care, agriculture, kennels, catteries, zoos and other land-based industries.

LSE will offer BTEC and/or ASDAN Animal Care qualifications for appropriate pupils as its accredited curriculum expands.

Environmental Studies

Environmental Studies develops pupils' understanding of the natural world and their responsibility towards it.

Learning may include habitats, conservation, wildlife, sustainability, recycling, biodiversity, local environments and the impact of human activity.

Pupils take part in practical learning wherever possible, making use of outdoor and community environments. Environmental Studies also supports science, geography, gardening and vocational learning.

As LSE grows, pupils will have opportunities to work towards ASDAN and/or BTEC Environmental Studies or related land-based qualifications where appropriate.

Food Technology

Food Technology combines practical life skills with an increasingly formal academic and vocational pathway.

Pupils learn about food preparation, nutrition, hygiene, food safety, ingredients, cooking methods, planning meals and following recipes. They develop practical independence as well as literacy, numeracy, organisation and problem-solving skills.

Food learning is strongly connected to the Wheel of Independence, particularly meal preparation, shopping, budgeting and self-care.

For pupils with the appropriate academic profile and interest, LSE will offer GCSE Food Technology / Food Preparation and Nutrition as part of its developing Key Stage 4 curriculum.

ASDAN

ASDAN programmes provide an important alternative and complementary pathway for pupils whose strengths are best demonstrated through practical, portfolio-based learning.

At LSE, ASDAN programmes will support the development of communication, teamwork, independence, problem solving, organisation, resilience and personal effectiveness.

Planned areas include Gardening, Animal Care and Environmental Studies, alongside broader personal development programmes where appropriate.

Pupils will build evidence through practical tasks, project work, discussion, photographs, written work and reflection.

Skills Curriculum

Practical independence, therapeutic learning, careers and preparation for adulthood.

Life Skills and the Wheel of Independence

Life Skills is not an additional subject at LSE; it is one of the central strands of the curriculum.

The Wheel of Independence provides a framework through which pupils develop practical skills for adult life. Areas include meal preparation, food shopping, money skills, self-care, housekeeping, laundry, leisure and time management.

Pupils are taught these skills explicitly and are given repeated opportunities to practise them in realistic settings.

As confidence develops, adult support is reduced so that pupils become increasingly independent.

Independent Living

Independent Living sessions help pupils develop the everyday skills required to manage adult life with as much independence as possible.

Sessions may include cooking, cleaning, laundry, budgeting, shopping, personal organisation, household safety and managing routines.

Where appropriate, occupational therapy advice is incorporated so that pupils are supported to overcome sensory, physical or organisational barriers.

Outdoor Learning

Outdoor Learning is an integral part of the curriculum rather than an activity used only as a reward or alternative to classroom learning.

Pupils develop confidence, resilience, teamwork, problem solving and self-regulation through practical experiences outside the classroom.

Outdoor learning also creates opportunities to apply knowledge from science, mathematics, English, environmental studies and life skills.

The approach reflects LSE's wider belief that emotional wellbeing and successful learning are closely connected.

Thrive and Therapeutic Learning

LSE recognises that pupils learn best when they feel safe, understood and able to regulate.

The Thrive Approach and the school's wider therapeutic provision support pupils' emotional development, relationships, confidence and readiness to learn.

Therapeutic strategies are integrated with education rather than replacing it. The intention is to remove barriers so that pupils can participate in increasingly ambitious academic, practical and social learning.

Careers and Employability

Careers education is embedded throughout the LSE curriculum because preparation for employment and adult life begins long before a pupil leaves school.

Pupils explore different careers, develop an understanding of their own strengths and interests and learn about the skills needed in the workplace.

The programme includes careers lessons, use of Unifrog, employer encounters, external visitors, further education links and, as pupils become ready, meaningful work experience.

Careers learning is also embedded within English, mathematics, life skills, vocational subjects and community learning.

The aim is for pupils to leave LSE with a realistic but ambitious understanding of their future options and the confidence, skills and independence needed to progress towards them.

Shopping and Community Independence

Pupils are given opportunities to apply learning in genuine community settings.

Shopping activities develop planning, communication, road safety, budgeting, money handling, decision-making and social confidence.

As pupils develop, adults gradually reduce support so that young people become more confident navigating shops and community environments independently.

Travel Training

Travel Training prepares pupils to move around their local community safely and increasingly independently.

Pupils may learn to travel on foot, use buses and trains, plan routes, read timetables, manage money or travel cards, recognise risks and know what to do when plans change.

Travel Training links closely with careers and preparation for adulthood because the ability to travel independently can significantly widen opportunities for further education, employment and community participation.

Enrichment

Enrichment broadens pupils' experiences beyond the classroom and is an important element of LSE's double-stranded curriculum.

Educational visits, workshops, cultural experiences, sport, outdoor activities and community learning are used to develop confidence, resilience, curiosity and independence.

Experiences are chosen to enrich curriculum learning and introduce pupils to opportunities that they may not otherwise encounter.

Extra-Curricular Opportunities

Extra-curricular activities provide pupils with opportunities to discover interests, develop friendships and build confidence outside formal lessons.

Activities can evolve according to pupil interests, staff expertise and local opportunities.

As LSE grows, the extra-curricular offer will continue to expand alongside the academic and vocational curriculum.

Life Skills Enterprise

Ambitious learning | Independence | Preparation for adulthood