

Horizons AP Academy Curriculum Statement 2025/2026

Curriculum Vision

Horizons Alternative Provision Academy is a Pupil Referral Unit, part of the Maiden Erlegh Trust, for young people in the Reading area, spanning Key Stages 1 to 4. Our curriculum is designed to meet the unique needs of students who may have been excluded from mainstream education or face significant challenges.

Our learners follow bespoke study programmes founded on core learning, and their individual aspirations. These programmes promote:

- Inclusion and support: A safe and inclusive environment where students can feel supported, respected, and valued.
- Personalised learning: A tailored curriculum that addresses the individual needs, abilities and interests of each student, allowing for a scaffolded approach and a successful pathway.
- Social and Emotional Development: Opportunities to develop social and emotional skills, including resilience, self-regulation, and conflict resolution.
- Core Skills: Essential academic skills in subjects such as Literacy, Numeracy and Life Skills to improve their prospects.
- Vocational Skills: Preparation for future employment or further education by offering vocational courses as part of our core offer.
- Positive Behaviour and Well-being: Positive behaviour, self-esteem, and mental well-being through pastoral care and therapeutic support.
- Reintegration: Successful reintegration into mainstream education or transition to further education, training or employment.
- Community Engagement: Engagement with families, local communities, and relevant agencies to provide a holistic support network.
- Monitoring and Evaluation: Regular assessment and adaptation of the curriculum to ensure it meets students' changing needs and maximises their progress.
- Equal Opportunities: All students, regardless of their background, have equal access to educational opportunities and support.

It is our wholehearted belief that a great education is an intrinsic right for all young people - not a privilege - and will cater for all abilities, including those with special educational needs and higher ability students.

Curriculum Implementation

As a Pupil Referral Unit, Horizons AP Academy curriculum does not have to precisely follow the National Curriculum, (see [DFE Alternative Provision Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities - Jan 2013](#)) as our learners arrive with a varied educational history, including:

- Recovering from the trauma of Permanent Exclusion.
- Have unintentionally excluded themselves from education.
- Cannot access mainstream school for medical reasons.
- Having complex social backgrounds and/or are LAC (Looked After Children); and
- Having a defined SEND or EHCP.

It should also be noted that learners can join the roll at Horizons AP Academy, or be dual rolled, at any time in an Academic Year, and can also temporarily move whilst remaining on roll (e.g. to “Guest” at a mainstream school), or permanently, at any time. This “Roll-on/Roll-off” requires flexibility.

Our Primary curriculum offer will include:

Core Subjects:

- Phonics / Reading / English
- Mathematics
- Personal Development
- Science

Additional Subjects:

- Topic – which incorporates History, Geography, RSE.
- Music
- ICT
- Art and Design Technology
- Cooking

Physical Education and Well-being, including outdoor activities:

- PE
- Daily outdoor activities which include development of sensory processing and gross motor skills.
- Enrichment activities and visits to promote physical education and well-being

Personalised Learning:

- Individual learning pathways for each student

- Personalised intervention programme

Therapeutic and Support Services:

- Mentoring
- Mental health support
- Animal assisted therapy
- Daily activities to develop sensory processing, fine motor skills, SALT and OT

Our Secondary curriculum offer will include:

Core Subjects:

- English Language
- Mathematics
- Science
- PSHE (Personal, Social, Health, and Economic Education)

Vocational and Practical Courses:

- Vocational qualifications (e.g., AQA Unit Awards, NCFE, BTEC)
- Practical skills training (e.g., cooking, offsite sporting activities)

Additional Subjects:

- Therapeutic Art
- Humanities
- Creative Arts

Personalised Learning:

- Individual learning pathways for each student
- Small class sizes to provide focused attention

Therapeutic and Support Services:

- Mentoring
- Mental health support

Life Skills and Employability:

- Financial literacy
- Job readiness and employability skills
- Work experience

Physical Education and Well-being, including outdoor activities:

- Physical education
- Promoting healthy lifestyles and fitness
- Outdoor and adventure activities
- Environmental education

Our ILP curriculum offer will include:

KS3 Curriculum:

- Project-based learning with core subjects threaded throughout
- Citizenship

KS4 Curriculum:

- English
- Maths
- Citizenship

Our Hospital curriculum will include:

Core Subjects:

- English Language
- Mathematics

Personalised Learning:

- Individual learning pathways for each patient who is admitted for 3 days and beyond or has frequent admissions. Timetables are created in liaison with the patient's home school
- 1-2-1 bedside teaching

All settings will include:

Personalised Assessment:

- Continuous assessment to track progress
- Alternative assessment methods, including project-based learning

Transition Support:

- Preparation for reintegration into mainstream education or transition to post-school opportunities
- Careers guidance and planning

Parent and Community Involvement:

- Family support and engagement

- Collaboration with local organisations, educational establishments and employers

Restorative Practices:

- Conflict resolution and restorative justice approaches
- Building a positive and supportive school culture

Teaching is facilitated in a variety of ways, to provide a blended curriculum. For example:

- Small class teaching
- Alternative teaching strategies to engage students in learning
- Hospital teaching at the Royal Berkshire Hospital Children's Ward(s)
- Alternative Provision to meet specific requirements/opportunities

Curriculum Impact

The impact of our curriculum is assessed through various measures to determine how well it meets the intended vision and benefits our students. Regular assessment and data analysis are essential to gauge the effectiveness of the curriculum in achieving its intended outcomes and making necessary adjustments to improve student outcomes. A holistic approach to the impact of the curriculum for our students is essential to ensure that all learners are achieving their full potential.

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