

Curriculum Commentary – Pool Hayes Academy-

At Pool Hayes Academy, our curriculum is deliberately designed to secure transformational academic, personal, and cultural outcomes for every learner. Rooted in our core values — **ambition, respect, resilience, and scholarship**—the curriculum ensures that all pupils, irrespective of starting point or background, can access a broad, balanced, and coherently sequenced body of knowledge that prepares them for future success.

In addition to this, our curriculum is influenced by Academy Transformation trust, the curriculum intention consisting of **powerful knowledge, promoting social mobility, and ensuring an ambitious, inclusive, knowledge-rich education across all its academies**. The intent emphasises high expectations, strong core skills, and a curriculum designed to transform life chances. Furthermore the ATT curriculum states that the curriculum should be: Ambitious and inclusive, be knowledge rich in learning, develop core skills, develop and uphold character, values and safeguarding and be enjoyable and enriching learning.

Curriculum Intent

Our intent is shaped around three key principles:

1. Knowledge-Rich Curriculum

We believe that powerful knowledge opens doors. Curriculum plans clearly identify the substantive and disciplinary knowledge pupils must master, ensuring vertical progression within subjects as well as meaningful connections across them. Vocabulary acquisition, cultural capital, and reading essential.

2. Inclusivity and High Aspiration

The curriculum is designed so that every pupil—particularly those who are disadvantaged or with SEND—can thrive. Adaptations prioritise access rather than reduction, and teaching staff are trained to use evidence-informed strategies to scaffold understanding without compromising rigour. All pupils are supported to study a wide, ambitious curriculum, including the EBacc.

3. Preparing Pupils for Life Beyond School

Our curriculum helps pupils develop not only disciplinary expertise but also character. Personal development is integrated through careers education, enrichment pathways, and opportunities for leadership. The curriculum fosters confidence, curiosity, and independence, ensuring pupils leave as articulate, well-rounded young people ready for further study or skilled employment.

Curriculum Implementation

The curriculum is implemented through consistent, high-quality teaching grounded in research-based practice. Teachers make use of shared planning, checking for understanding toolkit and lesson blueprints to ensure clarity and coherence. Retrieval practice and spaced repetition are routine features of lessons, building long-term retention and confident recall.

Assessment is purposeful and proportionate. Formative strategies allow teachers to diagnose misconceptions and adapt teaching responsively. Summative assessment points provide checkpoints against curriculum standards and inform targeted intervention. Leaders ensure alignment between

assessment, curriculum, and teaching through collaborative departmental planning and standardisation.

Reading is prioritised, with targeted support for less confident readers through structured interventions and high-quality phonics where appropriate.

Curriculum Impact

The impact of the curriculum is reflected in pupils:

- **knowing more, remembering more, and being able to do more**, demonstrated through secure progress across subjects
- showing increasing confidence in disciplinary thinking, such as scientific enquiry, mathematical reasoning, geographical analysis, and literary interpretation
- producing high-quality written and oral work that reflects ambition and mastery
- achieving strong outcomes at KS4 and progressing to well-matched Post-16 pathways
- demonstrating positive attitudes to learning, resilience, and pride in their achievements

Regular monitoring—through lesson visits, student voice, work scrutiny, and assessment analysis—shows improvements in curriculum coherence, knowledge retention, and classroom consistency. Leaders adapt curriculum plans based on evidence and evaluation, ensuring it continues to evolve in response to pupil need and subject developments.

Next Steps for Curriculum Development

- Strengthen cross-phase transition to ensure curriculum continuity between KS2–KS3.
- Further embed disciplinary literacy strategies across all subjects.
- Enhance provision for higher-attaining pupils to stretch depth of understanding.
- Continue to refine assessment practice to ensure alignment with curriculum end-points.