

Saddleworth School

Education Brief

Our school motto is “Aim High” which permeates everything that we seek to do as a community of learners. We want to “empower and inspire” via a humanising curriculum which has an international dimension.

We believe that we are developing a unique curriculum that will equip learners to thrive in the 21st Century. A curriculum that will inspire and empower and that will enable young people to understand themselves and their place in the world in which they live. Each learning space should reflect this bold ambition, it should feel warm, bright and enable teachers to access resources to smoothly promote learning.

Our vision is for a school:

1. where each child is supported to fulfil their own potential and to follow an appropriate pathway of their choice, wherever that may take them; locally, nationally or globally.
2. where adults and children form a community in which everyone is treated with respect, given equal consideration of their interests and helped to have rich lives in mind, body and spirit.
3. which teaches students to become confident, resilient and independent so that they can be successful in their lives after school.
4. that is embedded in the Saddleworth community, where children make a positive contribution to the community’s life.

We want Saddleworth to provide a world class education fit for purpose in the 21st Century that will enable pupils to lead rich and fulfilling lives. The new school building will be built for collaboration between children and adults; “learning is not a spectator sport.” Staff, pupils and the community will be encouraged to participate in and lead learning.

Curriculum and Organisation

The curriculum at Saddleworth School will be organised predominantly but not exclusively around five Year Groups 7-11. Pupils will study all of the areas of the National Curriculum and a great deal more. We will encourage pupils to understand that what they learn in school they can transfer into their future lives.

In the younger years we are encouraging pupils to make connections between various areas of human experience. Our unique English and Philosophy course (taught to Year 7 and 8 pupils) is currently the best example of this practice. The course involves the subjects of English, PHSCE, Drama and RE being taught via the

context of key texts by one teacher per class. As well as enabling an in-depth study of a number of great literary texts, this course supports transition from primary school, providing children with greater continuity of care and easing them into the secondary school experience. It also gives pupils a clear understanding of the opinions of others and nurtures an open mind-set encouraging them to think for themselves about what it is they truly believe in and what they want from life.

Fundamental to our curriculum is a belief that those who have a secure sense of self will be empowered to enjoy success in life. It's because of this belief that all pupils at Saddleworth will follow an appropriate core course in RE and PHSCE (taught by committed specialists) until they leave the school.

In Years 9, 10 and 11, a more subject specific approach will become the norm as pupils prepare to sit public examinations. The new school will have 1500 pupils and because of this scale, will be able to offer a comprehensive range of qualifications at sixteen. By structuring options carefully we will ensure that all pupils have a broad and balanced curriculum that is taught and assessed at the right level for them. The vast majority will follow traditional Level Two qualifications. A minority of pupils will follow Level One qualifications and a handful may venture off site to complete courses with partner colleges and / or training providers. We will continue to teach a number of vocational qualifications that a minority of pupils will follow.

The school day will be as follows:

8.35am	Briefing Monday / Wednesday
8.45am	Ready or present session (with pd 1 teacher)
8.50am	Period 1
10.40am	Break
10.55am	Period 2
12.45pm	Lunch for Y7, Y9 & Y11 Assembly / Form Period for Y8, Y10
1.00 pm	Lunch for Y8 & Y10
1.25pm	Assembly / Form Period for Y7, Y9, Y11
1.40pm	Period 3
3.30pm	Finish

The new building should enable each year group to have an identified home base in which general teaching areas and form spaces are located. Our expectation is that pupils would only leave these home bases to be taught for practical lessons in areas such as science, technology and PE. Each home base should look and feel different; becoming increasingly adult and sophisticated in feel, providing pupils with a sense of progression as they move up through the school.

ICT will support learning on demand right across the school. For example, all pupils will be expected to keep a record of what they are learning via an individual e-portfolio that they will regularly share with each other, their teachers and parents. For this to happen, access to ICT is not to be seen as a special event but integral to the learning process.

Although not ideal, we would envisage that examinations will have to be accommodated in the Sports Hall. With this in mind along with a desire for community access, we would like to see the sports buildings set apart from the main school building. This would mean candidates could complete exams without disturbance and provide PE with good access to playing fields.

Teaching and Pedagogy

We are looking to develop exciting and dynamic learning experiences that inspire children and invite them to have an active involvement in what it is they are studying.

The English and Philosophy course involves a great deal of participatory drama and colleagues are developing their use of Kagan structures that invite group discussion and encourage pupils to articulate what it is that they are learning.

In science, technology and PE there is a clear expectation that pupils will regularly be involved in practical work and much of the work in humanities is focussed on discussion with long term assignments becoming more common.

Leaders in the school will be dispersed across the building with each home base hosting a year leader and a senior leader. There will be staff work areas in each home base but again these should not feel exclusive. A small central staff area for social use would also be welcomed.

CPD will take place on one afternoon a week throughout the school year when pupils will be learning off site. We are very keen that colleagues should demonstrate and share practice and that ICT should be used to support teachers managers and administrators in enabling the effective and efficient running of the school, tracking of pupils and raising of attainment.

Behaviour, Pastoral Care, Health and Well-being

There will be a central provision to serve the whole school carefully designed for those pupils who struggle to maintain the standards of behaviour we would expect. Currently we have an exclusion area where pupils are isolated and follow an alternative school day, a counselling space where agencies can work alongside pupils whose behaviour is cause for concern and a learning support base where pupils can follow an alternative curriculum if they have been withdrawn from a particular subject. In the new school we would anticipate a similar arrangement carefully located so as to be accessible to external agencies and parents yet apart from the main school.

The school has superb catering provision which we are hoping to develop further in the new build. We envisage that all pupils will stay in school during break and lunchtimes.

Saddleworth has an outstanding tradition of sporting success and the full range of sports leisure activities will be organised at the school for pupils and the wider community.

SEN and Disabilities

Saddleworth School has an absolute commitment to inclusion and those pupils with SEN will be offered effective differentiated teaching that for the most part will see them learning alongside others in the school. When absolutely necessary pupils will be withdrawn and so the new building will need some specialist provision for pupils with SEN. We would like for this to be accommodated in the heart of the school as a statement of our commitment to all children.

At the front of the school meeting rooms will be available for colleagues and pupils to meet with parents and those from external agencies who are supporting children.