



SENSORY CURRICULUM POLICY

River View Primary & Nursery School

Reviewed: September 2025

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Signed Chair of Governors:..... Date:.....

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What is the Sensory Curriculum?

The Sensory Curriculum is our learning programme for Children with Complex learning difficulties and disabilities (CLDD).

In our Trent View Hub, we have a group of children that require an inclusive curriculum: The Sensory Curriculum. The definition of complex learning difficulties and disabilities is a child with one or a combination of difficulties, including co-existing conditions such as Autism and ADHD, profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD), physical disabilities, sensory impairments, mental health, a medical condition and challenging behaviour. However, they also include children who have difficulties arising from premature birth, have survived infancy due to advanced medical interventions, have disabilities arising from parental substance and alcohol abuse, and/or have rare chromosomal disorders. These children can be working within the National Curriculum levels or below. Many display a 'spiky learning profile' due to the complexities of their conditions. For those children at the very early stages of cognitive development, a Sensory Curriculum is appropriate for their individual needs. Our Sensory Curriculum is an inclusive curriculum consisting of a programme of study which will be offered in a variety of situations.

For those children at the very early stages of cognitive development a Sensory Curriculum is appropriate for their individual needs. Due to the complex needs of the children requiring access to the Sensory Curriculum, a multi-disciplinary approach may be taken. This will involve agencies outside school, such as Physiotherapy Service, Multi-Sensory Impairment Support Team, Speech and Language etc. Together these agencies with the Sensory Curriculum can offer experiences which will prepare the way for development and learning in other areas of the School Curriculum.

Cognition and Learning:

There is a clear pathway of development from EYFS to year 6 for all Sensory Learners.

At the Trent View Hub, the children are taught using a thematic approach with a new theme each half term. There is a two-year rolling programme that is followed, and is based on providing child-centered, individualised learning opportunities for all pupils through a play-based and intervention provision. We use the Cherry Garden Framework to inform and guide our delivery of the 6 areas of learning: Communication, Language and Literacy, Mathematical Development, Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Physical Development, Understanding of the World and Expressive Arts and Design. The delivery of the curriculum is based around learning through play to engage children with active learning, exploration and becoming a critical thinker. We base pupil's individualised curriculum and goals around the outcomes in their EHCP to ensure that learning is relevant and personalised.

Age appropriateness will be considered when planning and resourcing the Sensory Curriculum, but staff will also consider the developmental level of the individual before deciding on the activities to be presented. The student's interests may also be used as a way into learning and developing their skills further. Chosen activities will promote and develop all the children's senses and will develop their exploration skills.

Communication and Social Interaction:

In the Trent View Hub, within learning we incorporate speech, language and communication therapy and occupational therapy, following guidance and programmes designed by our Speech Therapist and Occupational Therapist.

Teaching communication and social interaction is an important part of the curriculum and a focus of all that we do. The learners will explore and experience communication in ways that are appropriate for them and that give them a way that they can have a voice in the world around them. They will be exposed to Makaton, symbols, verbal words, as well as communication aids that are recommended for the individual child.

Our schools focus on developing a relational and restorative approach for all learners, and this enhances our social interaction curriculum. This prepares all learners to be active global citizens.

Physical and Sensory Development:

Where appropriate staff in the Trent View Hub work alongside NHS therapists to enhance the programmes of study for learners.

We focus on the development of gross and fine motor skills, through varied activity. This can be onsite, as PE or class learning or offsite through trips and visits or adventurous activity. Our school environment and outdoor spaces are designed to offer support and challenge for developing a wide range of physical skills. There are specific areas in school which cater for sensory activities, The Sensory Room, The Movement Room, The Sensory Circuit and Forest School.

Life Skills, mental health, Independence and Careers:

Independence and life skills are the core of our curriculum. They are encompassed in all aspects of the daily timetable and activities. Personal care is an important part of the pupil's day. As they develop, they will be encouraged to develop their independence in these areas. Lunchtime and snack times are important learning opportunities where the pupils develop their manners, communicate choices, learn self – feeding skills and develop the social skill of sitting as part of a group.

In the Trent View Hub, this is addressed through the curriculum area Understanding the World. We are committed to providing our children with a wealth of outdoor learning experiences that inspire curiosity and engagement. In our Forest School area, children have the chance to explore nature in a hands-on way. Our weekly assemblies celebrate a range of different topics, ensuring that all students feel valued and represented and fully prepared for their next stage in life. We incorporate role play into our classroom learning opportunities, providing children with imaginative scenarios to explore the world around them, as well as learning about inspirational people.

The PSHE curriculum and My Happy Mind lessons help develop the students' understanding of Mental Health and Wellbeing. Children are taught approaches to develop strategies to improve their mental health and wellbeing, that they will be able to implement independently as they move into adult life. School visits are also used to develop social and life skills, and to have first-hand experiences.

Assessment and Record Keeping :

Teacher assessment and observation will indicate which area of the curriculum is to be addressed. Observation will be an important tool as some of the achievements that a child makes are small steps but very significant for their development. Photos along with annotations will be used to record all the steps of achievement. Teacher observations and assessments will be recorded using Tapestry. The children's progress will be reported both on a termly and annual basis to parents, through parents meetings and EHCP annual reviews.