

Explore Curriculum Intent

Subject Vision

At Trinity Academy Newcastle, the Explore curriculum provides learners with meaningful opportunities to develop knowledge, confidence and independence through thematic, experiential and place-based learning. Rooted in the local community and the wider world, Explore enables learners to make connections between subjects, develop real-world understanding, and apply learning beyond the classroom. Through engaging experiences and practical opportunities, learners develop the skills, knowledge, and resilience needed for successful adult lives.

The Role of Explore within the Trinity Curriculum

Explore forms a key part of the **Life Skills and Future Readiness** strand of the Trinity Curriculum Model. It brings together learning from geography, history, science, PSHE, outdoor learning and cultural experiences to provide a curriculum that is relevant, engaging, and firmly connected to preparation for adulthood.

The curriculum contributes significantly to the academy's curriculum drivers by developing independence, communication, self-regulation, resilience, and preparation for adulthood. Through real-world experiences and community-based learning, learners build confidence, broaden aspirations and develop a deeper understanding of the world around them

Assessment and Progression

Assessment is directly aligned to curriculum progression and enables learners to demonstrate growth in knowledge, practical skills, independence and personal development from their individual starting points.

Progress is measured through curriculum mastery and participation in authentic learning experiences. Through Trinity Academy's assessment framework, learners are supported to develop confidence, resilience and transferable life skills across Key Stages 3 and 4.

Key Stage 3 Intent

At Key Stage 3, learners develop the knowledge, practical skills and personal qualities required to engage successfully with the wider world.

Through a carefully sequenced curriculum, learners:

- Develop understanding of communities, history and the environment
- Build practical outdoor learning skills

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- Develop confidence through creative and collaborative projects
- Apply knowledge to real-life situations
- Develop responsibility, leadership and independence

Explore provides opportunities for learners to experience challenge, success and personal growth in a supportive environment.

Developing Knowledge Through Thematic Learning

Learners develop knowledge through carefully sequenced thematic projects that draw upon a range of curriculum areas including geography, history, science, and sustainability. Learning begins with developing an understanding of the local area and progresses towards increasingly complex concepts including environmental responsibility, engineering, future planning and global issues

Developing Cultural Capital and a Sense of Space

Learners develop a strong understanding of their local community, including the history, culture, industry, and environment of the Northeast. Through educational visits, enrichment opportunities and community engagement, learners build cultural capital, broaden their horizons, and develop confidence in accessing the wider world.

Developing Practical and Experiential Learning Skills

Learning is rooted in practical activity, fieldwork, and real-world experiences. Learners apply knowledge through visits, outdoor learning, cooking, community projects, design activities, and problem-solving opportunities. These experiences promote engagement, confidence, and independence whilst helping learners understand how learning applies beyond school.

Developing Collaboration and Self – Resilience

The Explore curriculum provides structured opportunities for learners to work collaboratively, communicate effectively, and develop self-regulation skills. Through teamwork, discussion, and practical experiences, learners learn to express ideas, listen to others, and successfully manage themselves within a range of different environments.

Developing Digital Literacy and Planning Skills

Educational technology is used throughout the Explore curriculum to support research, project work, navigation, planning, and presentation activities. Learners use digital tools to investigate local and national issues, research careers and community opportunities, and present their learning. This supports the academy's commitment to digital literacy and aligns with the NAACE EdTech Review Framework by preparing learners to use technology confidently, safely, and effectively in everyday life. This strengthens the connection between Explore and the whole-school digital learning strategy.

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The Explore curriculum has been designed specifically to meet the needs of learners with SEMH needs. Through practical, engaging and purposeful experiences, learners develop confidence, resilience, emotional regulation, and positive relationships. Experiential learning provides opportunities for learners to experience success, build self-esteem, and engage positively with learning.

Key Stage 4 Progression

At Key Stage 4, learners build upon the personal, practical and social skills established during Key Stage 3 through increasingly independent and purposeful experiences.

Learners continue to develop:

- Independent thinking
- Leadership and teamwork
- Community engagement
- Practical problem-solving
- Decision-making and personal responsibility
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The curriculum supports Preparation for Adulthood through authentic experiences that develop confidence, resilience and life skills. Learners are encouraged to apply learning beyond the classroom whilst maintaining ambitious expectations for progress and achievement.

Preparation For Adulthood

Preparation for Adulthood sits at the heart of the Explore curriculum. Learners develop independence through learning about travel, budgeting, health, housing, careers and employability. As learners progress through the curriculum, they develop the knowledge, skills and confidence required to navigate adult life successfully and make informed decisions about their future pathways.

Intended Outcomes

By the end of Key Stage 4, learners will:

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of their local community, wider society, and global issues.
- Apply knowledge and skills confidently within real-world contexts.
- Communicate effectively and work collaboratively with others.
- Demonstrate increasing independence, self-regulation, and resilience.
- Use technology appropriately to research, communicate, and present learning.

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- Develop cultural capital and confidence in accessing opportunities beyond their immediate environment.
- Understand key aspects of adult life including travel, finance, health, careers, and independent living.
- Be prepared for further education, employment, and active participation within their community and society.
- Demonstrate leadership, responsibility and personal initiative.
- Apply problem-solving and decision-making skills independently.
- Engage confidently with opportunities in education, employment and the wider community.
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Ambition

Regardless of starting point or pathway, all learners are entitled to an ambitious Explore curriculum that develops independence, confidence, resilience and a strong sense of personal identity.

Through carefully planned experiences and high expectations, learners are supported to become:

- Independent learners
- Effective communicators
- Responsible citizens
- Confident problem-solvers
- Successful young adults prepared for further education, employment and adult life