

Wallace Hall Academy Senior Phase Rationale

Skills for Life, Learning and Work

There has been steady progress at developing skills for life, learning and work at Wallace Hall Academy. In almost all courses, pupils are given support in developing their learning skills. These are reinforced through topic work in PSE, with many outside agencies, partners, local businesses and parents involved. All staff have been trained in the key themes around career planning and developing our young workforce. We are also using the business partners to help develop the 11 key employability skills:

- Communication and Interpersonal Skills
- Problem-Solving Abilities and Initiatives
- A Positive Work Ethic
- ICT Skills
- Numeracy Skills
- Literacy
- Valuing Diversity and Difference
- Working Under Pressure and to Deadlines
- Organisational Skills
- Team Working Skills
- Customer Service

Key Features/Existing Strengths

- S4-6 are timetabled as one cohort to allow for greater opportunities in terms of choice and meeting individual needs.
- At end of S4, pupils will sit National Qualifications in up to seven subjects. Pupils also do 2 periods of core PE, and 1 period of PSE and RMPS.
- In S5 & S6 pupils choose five subjects to study (National 4/National 5/Highers/Advanced Highers/YASS/Vocational courses).
- We offer a range of pathways which build on the Broad General Education offering a rich, accessible experience and wide opportunities to meet the needs of almost all learners. The use of local context and employability pathways is evident at all stages. New courses include Photography, Engineering, Politics, Cyber Security, Digital Media Animation, Makeup Skills, Barista and Professional Cooking.
- Our senior phase model helps to ensure that all young people have the best possible opportunities to move onto positive and sustained destinations. Before any young person leaves Wallace Hall Academy, they are provided with interview training, mock interviews, help with application forms, an experience of work placement and support in developing our 11 key employability skills.
- Opportunities to undertake one or two-year foundation apprenticeships.

Recovery

During the Recovery period, our curriculum is focused on the core areas of literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing to support 'catch-up' in attainment. Pupils' experiences enable them to reflect on the different aspects of their emotions.

During lockdown, pupils and staff have developed a wide variety of ICT skills which can now be used and applied in the return to school. Whilst focusing on recovery and young people's health and safety, the school continues to strive towards delivering high-quality and challenging learning experiences to move forward students' learning, attainment and achievement.



Purpose of the Curriculum S4-S6: The Senior Phase

By the end of S1-S3, most pupils will have benefited from a wide range of learning experiences through the Broad General Education. They will have progressed at different rates and many will have reached high levels of attainment and achievement. Almost all pupils will have covered most of the third level Experiences and Outcomes and many will have covered those at fourth level. Many of the students will have also achieved awards through Duke of Edinburgh, City and Guilds, Saltire, Youth Achievement, YASS and Employability. Students requiring additional support will have covered a number of early, second and third level experiences and outcomes appropriate to their individual needs and circumstances. They will have built a strong platform for life-long learning and for a successful transition into the senior phase and ultimately towards further and higher education, employment and other sustained destinations.

The purpose of our senior phase is:

- to enable all pupils to undertake a range of national qualifications at the appropriate level to ensure progression into a positive destination
- to further develop the knowledge, skills and qualities to support our pupils to take a meaningful and worthwhile place in society
- to further develop the skills for life, learning and work
- to experience opportunities for personal development and achievement
- to experience challenge and success
- to encourage an active and healthy lifestyle
- to support planning for their future lives, careers & learning

S6 Personal Development

In S6 students will choose at least four options – from any curriculum area / subjects / skills for work courses / college courses / achievement awards programmes. They will also opt into committees that look at charity work, social events, Young Enterprise, publicity, MVPs, Eco Group and My World of Work. Other opportunities include completing Open University courses and experience of work placements. Pupils are also encouraged to take on leadership roles such as being part of a Prefect Team or a House Captain.

National Improvement Framework

The vision for Scottish education is that we have:

- Excellence
- Equity

Our priority areas to develop this are:

- Improvement in attainment, particularly in literacy and numeracy
- Closing the attainment gap
- Improvements in Health and Wellbeing
- Improvement in employability skills and positive destinations

We will achieve these by supporting and improving:

- School leadership
- Teacher professionalism
- Parental engagement
- Assessment of children's progress
- School improvement
- Performance information



**Wallace Hall Academy,
Primary & ELC**

"Together we grow, learn and achieve"

Together we grow, learn and achieve with...

Pupils, parents, staff,
carers and the wider
community
Glasgow University
Queensberry Estates

Employability Team
Gates (UK) Ltd
Parent Council
Local Artists
Halo Trust

Business Mentors
Cample Line
Dumfries House
Solway Credit Union
Thornhill Rotarians

University of West of Scotland
Dumfries & Galloway College
Community Learning & Development
Partner Farmers
University of the Third Age