



## Curriculum Overview: Redbridge High School

At Redbridge High School, our curriculum is designed to offer a vibrant, inclusive, and dynamic educational experience tailored to each pupil's unique needs. Learning at Redbridge is an active process of sense-making, involving the selection, organisation, and integration of relevant information which develops from each student's unique starting point. This philosophy aligns with Fiorella & Mayer's (2014) research, emphasising the cultivation of deep understanding and robust learning skills.

### How Our Pupils Learn

Understanding that working memory plays a crucial role in learning, we design our curriculum to support the formation of long-term memories through interconnected schemas. By building on prior knowledge, we ensure lessons are cumulative and interconnected. Inspired by Cain and Oakhill, our systematic vocabulary instruction employs SCOPE levels to enhance students' grasp of complex and high-frequency words.

We utilise various aids and strategies, such as Makaton signing, Aided Language Boards (ALBs), and alternative communication tools, to support language development. These methods, combined with structured dialogue and 'Primers'—physical cues facilitating memory recall—enhance both receptive and expressive language skills. Our teaching incorporates visual cues and real-world experiences, integrating objects, pictures, films, and personal workbooks to create a holistic learning environment.

### Flexible Learning Pathways

**Formal Pathway:** This pathway is designed for our most capable learners with severe learning difficulties. It emphasises subject-based learning and independence, reflecting the structured and comprehensive approach, which integrates academic progress, pastoral support, and life skills development.

**Semi-formal Pathway:** Catering to the majority of learners with severe learning difficulties, this pathway focuses on "readiness for learning" and cross-curricular links. Themed and project-based learning, encourages active engagement and real-world application of knowledge.

**In-formal Pathway:** This pathway supports complex learners, including those with severe autism, focusing on sensory differences and reducing barriers to learning. This approach emphasises the development of communication, cognition, and independence through tailored learning experiences.

**Pre-formal Pathway:** Dedicated to pupils with profound and multiple learning difficulties, this pathway encourages exploration and concept development through a multidisciplinary approach. This individualised and sensory-rich curriculum emphasises real-life experiences and the development of resilience and independence.

## **Adaptation and Personalisation**

Our curriculum is highly adaptive, drawing from various curriculum documents to meet the diverse needs of our learners. This personalised approach ensures the content is meaningful and relevant to each student's journey, fostering a deeper connection with the material. The flexibility of our learning pathways allows pupils to transition between them as their knowledge and understanding evolve, ensuring their educational experience remains aligned with their developing needs.

## **Specialist Trained Staff and Supports**

Our specialist trained staff utilise personalised approaches to unlock the full potential of every student, recognising that diverse learning styles require tailored methodologies. We provide specialist supports for communication, empowering students to express themselves and fostering both academic success and meaningful connections within our school community.

## **Legislative and Research Support**

Our curriculum aligns with the latest OFSTED framework and meets statutory obligations under the Children and Families Act 2014. By incorporating insights from Fiorella & Mayer (2014) and Cain & Oakhill, our curriculum is research-informed and designed to ensure inclusivity and accessibility for all students.

## **Conclusion**

Redbridge High School's dynamic curriculum is an innovative, inclusive, and research-backed framework designed to foster deep understanding, independence, and lifelong learning. Our flexible pathways and personalised approaches ensure each student's educational journey is supported and enriched, preparing them for the challenges and opportunities of adulthood. This comprehensive approach is in line with best practices seen in special education schools across the UK, highlighting the effectiveness and comprehensiveness of our educational strategies.