

Art 15: All pupils in Sperrinview have the right to meet with other children and to join groups or organisations, to benefit their futures

Art 23: All pupils in Sperrinview have the right to lead a full and decent life with dignity and independence and to play an active part in the community (RRS team 2015)

Art 28: Every pupil in Sperrinview has the right to an education which will be differentiated to meet their individual needs (RRS team 2015)

Sperrinview Special School School Leavers' Policy

Rationale

Post 16 provision in Sperrinview offers students opportunities and experiences which will assist them in making the transition from school to adulthood.

The programme seeks to build upon what has been taught over earlier years through participation in a broad range of structured activities, taking account of the students' needs, abilities, interests and aspirations and post-school opportunities available in the local area.

Since students leave school at the end of the year in which their nineteenth birthday falls, they enter the School Leavers' Programme at the beginning of the year following their sixteenth birthday.

Aims

- To enable students to extend and generalise knowledge, skills, concepts and positive attitudes through, participation in practical tasks and real life situations.
- To enable students, where appropriate, to review their experiences, plan ahead and set targets.

- To provide students and their parents with *Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance*, to enable them to make informed decisions with regard to training, opportunities beyond school and of the world of work.
- To provide a range of experiences appropriate to the individual and sometimes complex needs of each young adult.
- To help the students to develop an awareness of their environment and the society in which they live.
- To encourage students to develop confidence and self-esteem and to have tolerance and concern for the rights, opinions and property of others.
- To enable students to act independently as a result of making informed choices and decisions.
- To encourage constructive use of leisure time using a variety of creative and physical activities.
- To provide students with experiences which will help to develop spiritual awareness.

Organisation

The School Leavers' Programme is, for the most part, facilitated from a base in *Classes Starlight, S1 and T1*. Emphasis will be placed on cultivating attitudes, appropriate adult behaviour and a way of life which will encourage students to be less dependent on adult direction. Given that this approach is different to what students have been accustomed to the first term will be recognised as a period of adjustment.

Parental Involvement

Parental involvement is an important and integral element of the School Leavers' Programme. Parents will be made aware of this at the transition review.

During term one of involvement in the programme the student and his/her parents will be invited to discuss the nature and content of the post 16 provision. This will be an opportunity to agree realistic goals for the time when the student leaves school.

It is important to seek approval and/or permission for involvement in activities which require students to act more independently with reduced levels of support. Since this approach is the culmination of all that has been achieved at school to date, it is important that the new and different challenges are approached positively, enthusiastically and realistically by all the partners who have an input. The important and central role which the teacher occupies in maintaining good communication with home and others cannot be overstated. Throughout the three years, parents will be encouraged to support and extend the work undertaken within and beyond school. Indeed all of those involved must recognise that a degree of flexibility is essential in assisting students to achieve.

Range of Activities

The School Leavers' Programme incorporates the following areas of study:

Communication and Literacy

Numeracy

Independent Living Skills

Use of Leisure

Learning for Life and Work (including Personal Development [PD], Citizenship/RE, Home Economics [HE] and Careers Education, Information and Guidance [CEIAG]/Employability)

Each area contains a number of units of work some of which may lead to external accreditation.

Links with external agencies are also an integral part of the programme eg South West College [SWC], local schools/colleges, Team Enterprise, Oakridge SEC, Cookstown Adult Centre, Training and Employment Agency, Appleby Careers Project, Dungannon District Council [Community Arts], leisure centre, local industry etc.

Professionals and others with specific expertise are invited to meet students and share their experiences and knowledge eg dietician, beauty therapist and personnel from places of work.

Roles

The co-ordinator of the School Leavers' Programme is Ms Ruth Walker. The Principal has overall responsibility for the implementation of the policy.

External Support/Resources

EA Southern Region

Co-ordinator

SWC /Local schools/colleges

Education Transition Officers

Health Transition Officers

Local charities and business/industry

Local facilities eg leisure centre, cafes, shops, banks.

Oakridge Social Education Centre/Cookstown Adult Centre

Parents

School staff including ancillary staff

Team Enterprise

DEL

Staff Development and Training

Staff to visit other schools where good practices have been established.

Team Enterprise seminars.

External Accreditation

Adolescent development including relationships - PD & RSE

Links with DEL

Record of Achievement issues/development

ICT Training and development

CCEA Employability Programme

Dungannon/Cookstown Employability Project

Dungannon and Cookstown Area Learning Community

Monitoring/Evaluation

The co-ordinator will meet on an ongoing basis with the Principal, and senior school teachers to monitor and evaluate the programme.

Review

A sub-committee of the Board of Governors will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of this policy as part of a timetabled, on-going process.

Signed: _____ Date: _____