



SHIRLEY HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

Our Vision:

To develop aspirational learners who strive for excellence academically, creatively and culturally, benefitting from a wide range of opportunities led by inspirational educators.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Intent of the curriculum:

The curriculum intent of the Child Development department is to support the overall aims and vision of Shirley High School. Our knowledge rich curriculum will support learners through their learning journey and develop their understanding of the developmental milestones of children from birth to five years, as well as the importance of play.

We believe the ability to understand how to look after ourselves and others within our society is vital in the modern world. Studying Child Development at Key Stage 4 will give students a diverse range of knowledge and understanding of the world in which they will live and work. Our aim is to develop compassion in all students and inspire them to want to make a difference in children's lives.

As a department we prepare our students to be responsible for their own actions in the community and to respect the views and wishes of others. We aim to foster students' personal development by supporting them to become critical and analytical learners who can make decisions independently.

Our curriculum supports the school's aim of 'Striving for Excellence' as we ensure students have the support they need in order to achieve at least what is expected of them in a creative and innovative way. Child Development students are the future leaders of children's early education, going on to lead others into learning. Every child is special, unique and students will understand this from studying Child Development.

Implement:

We teach the Cambridge National level 1 / 2 specification for our GCSE Child Development course. We aim to promote the personal development of students in our teaching and learning. This will ensure students gain a real insight into all of the challenges, excitement, considerations and responsibility surrounding children's development and the number of agencies and people involved in supporting the development of children.

We highly value our wider curriculum, covering topics where meaningful links can be made with other subjects, such as Personal Development; Religious Studies; Food Preparation and Nutrition; Health and Social Care; Biology; PE; DT; Sociology and Psychology. The Child Development course encourages multiple approaches to learning, including practical opportunities and the application of real-life scenarios, which will support students to develop their applied knowledge and practical skills. The Cambridge National in Child Development covers all aspects of child development and parental responsibility, from conception to five years old. Pupils will develop the essential theoretical knowledge and practical skills needed to create the best conditions for a child's development and well-being.

This course aims to challenge students to investigate the equipment needed for babies, toddlers and preschool children up to five, as well as the stages and benefits of play. For this qualification students will need to pass core units which are assessed through written assignments, practical observations of children and an external exam.

The department will ensure cultural capital and equal opportunities are implemented with links to local nurseries and pre-schools, visits from health professionals, visits to maternity units and by running different house competitions in line with our curriculum.

We feel vocational specifications bring the subject to life and inspire the students to achieve more by using a blend of coursework and examination. This course will enable students to gain a more practical insight into the importance of health professionals that support children. In addition, this will allow the students



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to see how learning in the classroom is put into practice in the workplace. Through work experience opportunities, students can also approach local employers for post 16 job opportunities.

Impact:

Our curriculum ensures all students are fully engaged in their lessons and play an active role in their learning. This ensures they make excellent academic progress and leave us as well rounded citizens who uphold the values of the school and are suitably prepared for life in modern Britain.

Our project-based schemes and home learning plan support students to develop very strong independent learning skills, both within and outside of the classroom, and to become critical and analytical learners, who are able to make informed decisions. We foster enthusiasm for the discipline and subsequently prepare students for careers in related fields in Child Care, Health and Social Care, Psychology, Sociology and Biology. There are several colleges in the local area offering courses related to children and many nurseries within the area that provide local employment opportunities.

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We want all at SHS to believe in and maintain the values of our school:

