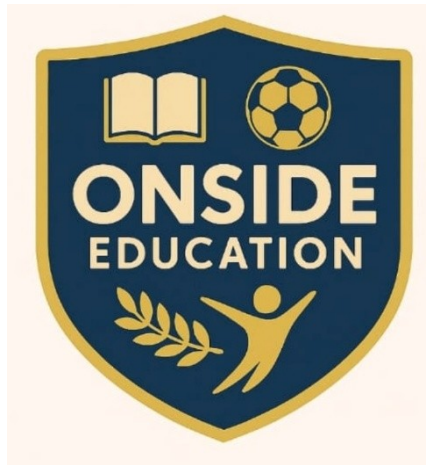




Onside Education

Key Stage 4 Curriculum Overview

Issue Date: Sept 2025

Review Date: Sept 2026

Our KS4 Curriculum

At Onside Education, our Key Stage 4 curriculum is designed to provide pupils with the qualifications, skills, knowledge and personal attributes needed to progress successfully into further education, training, apprenticeships and employment.

The curriculum combines academic learning, vocational qualifications, personal development and preparation for adulthood. It has been designed to meet the needs of pupils who may have experienced barriers to learning, disrupted education, attendance difficulties or social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) challenges.

Our aim is to ensure every pupil leaves Onside Education with:

- Recognised qualifications
- Improved confidence and resilience
- Employability skills
- Positive post-16 destinations
- Increased independence
- A clear understanding of their future pathway

The curriculum is underpinned by our four pillars of learning:

- Emotional Regulation & Wellbeing
- Thinking Skills & Executive Function
- Social Understanding & Relationships
- Identity, Agency & Purpose

These principles support both academic success and personal development.

KS4 Weekly Curriculum

Subject	Hours Per Week
English (GCSE / Functional Skills)	5

Subject	Hours Per Week
Mathematics (GCSE / Functional Skills)	4
Science ELC	3
Health & Fitness Level 1/2	3
Sports Coaching Level 1	1
Sports Leaders Level 1	1
PE / Physical Development	2
PSHE / SMSC / RSE	1
Careers, Employability & Digital Skills	1
Intervention / Targeted Support	1
Character Education	1
Home Cooking Skills Level 1	1
Creative Expression & Enrichment	1
Total	25 Hours

Subject Overview

English (GCSE / Functional Skills)

English develops the literacy, communication and analytical skills needed for further education, employment and everyday life.

Key areas include:

- Reading comprehension
- Creative writing
- Transactional writing

- Speaking and listening
- Vocabulary development
- Functional communication

Pupils follow either a GCSE or Functional Skills pathway appropriate to their needs and prior attainment.

Mathematics (GCSE / Functional Skills)

Mathematics develops practical and academic numeracy skills that support independent living, employment and further study.

Key areas include:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio and proportion
- Geometry
- Statistics
- Financial mathematics
- Problem solving

Pupils follow either a GCSE or Functional Skills pathway.

Science (AQA Entry Level Certificate)

Science helps pupils understand the world around them through practical and applied learning.

Key areas include:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Health and the human body

- Environmental science
- Scientific investigation

The curriculum prepares pupils for further learning and supports scientific literacy in everyday life.

Health & Fitness Level 1/2

This qualification develops knowledge and practical understanding of health, fitness and wellbeing.

Key areas include:

- Components of fitness
- Exercise programmes
- Nutrition
- Healthy lifestyles
- Fitness testing
- Personal wellbeing

The qualification provides progression opportunities into sport, fitness and health-related careers.

Sports Coaching Level 1

Pupils develop practical coaching and leadership skills through sport.

Key areas include:

- Coaching principles
- Planning sessions
- Communication
- Teamwork
- Evaluation
- Safe practice

The qualification supports progression into coaching, leadership and community sport.

Sports Leaders Level 1

Pupils learn how to organise and lead sporting activities.

Key areas include:

- Leadership
- Event organisation
- Officiating
- Communication
- Team management
- Responsibility

This qualification helps develop confidence and employability skills.

Physical Development

Physical Education supports health, wellbeing and participation in physical activity.

Key areas include:

- Fitness
- Team sports
- Individual sports
- Physical wellbeing
- Resilience
- Healthy lifestyles

PSHE, SMSC and RSE

This programme prepares pupils for life in modern Britain and supports personal development.

Key areas include:

- Relationships
- Consent
- Mental health
- Equality and diversity
- British Values
- Financial literacy
- Online safety
- Citizenship

The curriculum promotes respect, responsibility and informed decision-making.

Careers, Employability & Digital Skills

This programme prepares pupils for successful progression into further education, training and employment.

Key areas include:

- Career planning
- Employability skills
- CV writing
- Interview preparation
- Digital literacy
- Workplace technology
- Online professionalism
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) awareness

Pupils develop confidence using:

- Microsoft Office
- Google Workspace
- Email communication
- Digital collaboration tools

The programme aligns with the Gatsby Benchmarks for Careers Education.

Intervention & Targeted Support

Additional support is provided to address individual barriers to learning and progression.

Key areas include:

- SEMH support
- Literacy intervention
- Numeracy intervention
- Attendance support
- Mentoring
- Reintegration planning

Interventions are tailored to individual pupil needs.

Character Education

Character Education develops the personal qualities required for success in education, employment and life.

Key areas include:

- Leadership
- Resilience
- Responsibility
- Integrity

- Respect
- Community contribution
- Self-reflection

Home Cooking Skills Level 1

Pupils develop practical skills that support healthy and independent living.

Key areas include:

- Food preparation
- Nutrition
- Food hygiene
- Meal planning
- Budgeting
- Healthy eating

This qualification promotes independence and life skills.

Creative Expression & Enrichment

Creative Expression & Enrichment provides opportunities for pupils to develop creativity, confidence and communication skills through practical projects.

Key areas include:

- Podcasting
- Sports Journalism
- Photography
- DJ'ing
- Music Technology
- Creative Media

Pupils create portfolios of work and gain experience of creative industries and digital media.

Qualifications Available

Pupils may achieve qualifications including:

Academic Qualifications

- GCSE English Language
- GCSE Mathematics
- Functional Skills English
- Functional Skills Mathematics
- AQA Entry Level Certificate Science

Vocational Qualifications

- Health & Fitness Level 1/2
- Sports Coaching Level 1
- Sports Leaders Level 1
- Home Cooking Skills Level 1
- Esports Leadership Qualifications (where appropriate)

Careers and Preparation for Adulthood

Preparation for adulthood is embedded throughout the curriculum.

Pupils develop:

- Communication skills
- Leadership skills
- Digital literacy
- Financial awareness
- Workplace behaviours

- Independence
- Teamwork
- Problem-solving skills

All pupils receive careers guidance and support to identify suitable post-16 destinations.

Cultural Capital

Pupils access a range of experiences that broaden their understanding of the wider world, including:

- Employer encounters
- College and training provider visits
- Guest speakers
- Community projects
- Leadership opportunities
- Sporting events
- Creative showcases
- Reading and enrichment activities

These experiences raise aspirations and support successful transitions into adulthood.

Post-16 Progression

The KS4 curriculum prepares pupils for progression into:

- Further Education Colleges
- Apprenticeships
- Training Providers
- Employment with Training
- Sport and Fitness Pathways

- Coaching and Leadership Opportunities
- Creative and Digital Industries

By the end of Key Stage 4, pupils will have developed the qualifications, confidence, employability skills and personal qualities required to take the next step in their education, training or career journey.