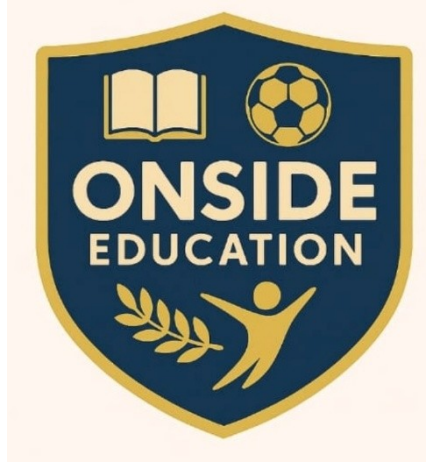




**Onside Education**  
**Cultural Capital Strategy**  
**2026–2029**

## **Vision**

At Onside Education, we believe that every young person deserves access to the knowledge, experiences, skills and opportunities that enable them to succeed in education, employment and life.

Many pupils attending Alternative Provision have experienced disrupted education, limited opportunities, social disadvantage or barriers to participation. Our Cultural Capital Strategy aims to broaden horizons, raise aspirations and ensure that all pupils develop the knowledge and experiences required to become successful, confident and responsible citizens.

We recognise that cultural capital is not simply about visits and experiences; it is about ensuring pupils gain the knowledge, understanding, behaviours and social awareness necessary to navigate modern Britain successfully.

Our curriculum and enrichment programme are designed to provide pupils with experiences that many may not otherwise encounter, whilst developing confidence, aspiration and readiness for adulthood.

## **Definition of Cultural Capital**

Onside Education adopts the Ofsted definition of cultural capital:

"The essential knowledge that pupils need to be educated citizens, introducing them to the best that has been thought and said and helping to engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement."

At Onside Education, cultural capital includes:

- Knowledge of society and the wider world.
- Understanding of different cultures, communities and beliefs.
- Experiences beyond pupils' immediate environment.
- Careers awareness and aspiration.
- Creativity and self-expression.
- Participation in sport, leadership and community activities.
- Preparation for adulthood and employment.

## **Strategic Aims**

We aim to ensure all pupils:

### **Aspiration**

- Understand the opportunities available to them.
- Develop ambitious but realistic future goals.
- Raise expectations of themselves and others.

### **Experiences**

- Participate in meaningful enrichment activities.
- Engage with employers, professionals and community organisations.
- Experience environments beyond their local community.

### **Knowledge**

- Understand modern Britain.
- Develop awareness of local, national and global issues.
- Learn about different cultures, religions and communities.

### **Independence**

- Develop confidence and resilience.
- Learn practical life skills.
- Become prepared for employment and adulthood.

## **Cultural Capital Through the Curriculum**

### **English**

Pupils develop:

- Vocabulary and communication skills.
- Reading for pleasure.
- Exposure to literature and different viewpoints.

- Debate and discussion.
- Understanding of diverse experiences and cultures.

Examples:

- Biographies
- Sports journalism
- Current affairs
- Fiction and non-fiction texts

## **Mathematics**

Pupils develop:

- Financial literacy.
- Data interpretation.
- Problem-solving skills.
- Understanding of statistics used in society.

Examples:

- Budgeting
- Tax
- Wages
- Banking
- Cost of living

## **Science**

Pupils develop:

- Scientific understanding.
- Environmental awareness.
- Understanding of health and wellbeing.

- Awareness of technological developments.

Examples:

- Climate change
- Sustainability
- Public health
- Medical developments

### **Citizenship / PSHE / RSE**

Pupils develop:

- Understanding of democracy.
- Human rights awareness.
- Equality and diversity.
- Knowledge of British institutions.
- Social responsibility.

Examples:

- Parliament
- Elections
- Equality Act
- Justice system
- Community participation

### **Careers, Employability & Digital Skills**

Pupils develop:

- Knowledge of employment pathways.
- Understanding of workplaces.
- Digital competence.

- Professional behaviours.

Examples:

- Employer encounters
- Apprenticeships
- CV writing
- Interview preparation
- Workplace technology

## **Sport & Physical Education**

Pupils develop:

- Teamwork.
- Leadership.
- Discipline.
- Community engagement.
- Healthy lifestyles.

Examples:

- Sports Leadership
- Coaching qualifications
- Competitive sport
- Officiating

## **Creative Expression & Enrichment**

Pupils develop:

- Creativity.
- Confidence.
- Communication skills.

- Appreciation of creative industries.

Examples:

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

### **Cultural Capital Through Enrichment**

All pupils will access enrichment opportunities throughout the year.

### **Employer Encounters**

Examples:

- Sports coaches
- Fitness professionals
- Business owners
- Recruitment consultants
- Apprentices
- College representatives

### **Intended Impact**

- Increased aspiration
- Understanding of careers
- Positive role models

### **Further Education Encounters**

Examples:

- College visits
- Apprenticeship providers
- Training organisations

### **Intended Impact**

- Increased post-16 awareness
- Improved destination planning

### **Community Engagement**

Examples:

- Charity projects
- Community sports events
- Volunteering opportunities
- Local improvement projects

### **Intended Impact**

- Citizenship
- Social responsibility
- Leadership

### **Visitor Programme**

The school will actively seek visitors who can broaden pupils' experiences.

Examples:

- Emergency services
- Health professionals
- Local employers
- Entrepreneurs
- Former pupils



- Sports professionals

### **Cultural Capital Through Reading**

The Reading for Pleasure programme provides exposure to:

- Different cultures.
- Historical events.
- Diverse communities.
- Inspirational role models.
- Current affairs.
- Sporting biographies.
- Environmental issues.

The programme aims to broaden understanding beyond pupils' immediate experiences.

### **Cultural Capital Through Visits**

Where appropriate, pupils will participate in educational visits.

Examples:

#### **Employment & Careers**

- Colleges
- Training providers
- Local businesses
- Sports organisations

#### **Community**

- Libraries
- Community centres
- Museums

- Cultural venues

### **Health & Wellbeing**

- Sports facilities
- Fitness centres
- Outdoor learning environments

### **British Values and Cultural Capital**

The Cultural Capital Strategy actively supports:

#### **Democracy**

- Understanding civic participation.
- Student voice opportunities.

#### **Rule of Law**

- Understanding rights and responsibilities.

#### **Individual Liberty**

- Informed choices and aspirations.

#### **Mutual Respect**

- Understanding differences and diversity.

#### **Tolerance**

- Respecting different faiths, beliefs and cultures.

### **Preparing Pupils for Life in Modern Britain**

The strategy supports pupils to:

- Understand contemporary British society.
- Respect diversity and protected characteristics.
- Engage positively with their communities.
- Develop employability skills.

- Manage finances responsibly.
- Use technology safely and effectively.
- Participate confidently in society.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Leaders will monitor cultural capital through:

### **Curriculum Monitoring**

- Scheme of work reviews.
- Learning walks.
- Book scrutiny.

### **Enrichment Monitoring**

- Visitor records.
- Educational visit records.
- Employer engagement records.

### **Pupil Voice**

- Surveys.
- Discussions.
- Reflection activities.

### **Destination Data**

- Post-16 destinations.
- Apprenticeships.
- Employment outcomes.

## **Success Indicators**

The strategy will be successful when pupils:

- Demonstrate increased confidence and aspiration.

- Understand opportunities beyond their immediate environment.
- Engage positively with different cultures and communities.
- Participate in enrichment activities.
- Show readiness for further education, employment and adulthood.
- Progress successfully into positive post-16 destinations.

### **Onside Education Cultural Capital Entitlement**

Every pupil at Onside Education will:

- ✓ Access a broad and balanced curriculum.
- ✓ Participate in Reading for Pleasure.
- ✓ Meet employers and professionals.
- ✓ Receive careers guidance.
- ✓ Learn about democracy, law and society.
- ✓ Develop leadership skills.
- ✓ Engage in creative and sporting activities.
- ✓ Explore post-16 pathways.
- ✓ Develop life skills for independence.
- ✓ Be prepared to participate successfully in modern Britain.

### **Cultural Capital Statement**

At Onside Education, cultural capital is not viewed as an additional activity but as a fundamental part of our curriculum and ethos. Through academic learning, vocational experiences, personal development, enrichment and community engagement, we ensure that all pupils develop the knowledge, skills, experiences and aspirations required to succeed in education, employment and life.