



Alpha Training and Hawthorn Farm  
Curriculum Policy

Date of authorisation:	August 2020
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Last amended:	August 2019
Date of next review:	August 2021

**Aims:**

We will ensure that students are not denied access to the curriculum because of their special needs.

We will promote a curriculum which will move towards independent and group learning and break from a pattern of dependency upon support and a consequent feeling of isolation.

We will ensure that students encounter work which is intellectually challenging and interesting but within their capabilities.

We want to develop in the students the social skills and confidence as well as the opportunities to interact with adults and their peers outside the classroom.

We will ensure that activities are short to keep them within the short attention span of many of our students.

Help students acquire the skills of being part of a learning group: Learning strategies to cope with short term memory and auditory short term memory skills. Coping with distractibility and learning to extend their concentration span.

We aim for students to be able to leave Alpha Training with a range of qualifications or skills ready for the work place or further education.



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**To achieve these:**

We admit students in accordance with our admissions policy.

We teach our students a classroom environment and promote activities in both small groups and 1:1 settings to enable students to understand and then achieve.

The class size is small so that students may receive individual attention but maintain the skills of being part of a learning group.

Individual programs of learning are offered and available for every student.

We aim to have lessons taught by subject specialists who have been trained by ourselves to deal with students' special needs.

The lesson length is short. Within longer lessons, activities may be broken down into smaller units.

We move students to different classroom environments to 'reset' attention span.

We use standardised layout and formats for work to help students engage with the work.

We provide lessons where students rehearse skills in order to improve their efficiency.

Students practice activities to gain automaticity.

We provide impartial careers advice (independent careers advice is an additional provision).