Purple Ruler Curriculum Policy 2024-2025

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Introduction

Purple Ruler is an innovative online educational institution committed to delivering high-quality education to Key Stage 4 (KS4) learners. Our mission is to foster a supportive and inclusive learning environment that promotes academic excellence, personal growth, and social responsibility. We strive to prepare our learners for future success by offering a flexible and personalised curriculum that caters to diverse learning needs and promotes holistic development.

The purpose of this curriculum policy is multifaceted and includes several objectives such as, providing a clear and structured framework for the curriculum, ensuring compliance with all

relevant statutory requirements, and emphasising the holistic development of learners. This policy aims to support inclusive education, guide curriculum development, foster a positive learning environment, enhance professional development for staff, engage stakeholders, and commit to continuous improvement. Through these objectives, we ensure that Purple Ruler's curriculum meets the needs of all learners, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

The curriculum at Purple Ruler is designed to be broad and balanced, covering all required areas of learning to provide a comprehensive educational experience. We offer a range of subjects, including English, Maths, Combined Science, Geography, History, Psychology, Business Studies, Citizenship Studies, Computer Science, PSHE, PE, Career Guidance, and a digital functional skills course. This extensive curriculum ensures that learners receive a well-rounded education, preparing them for future academic, personal, and professional success.

Our curriculum offers all learners the opportunity to experience linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical, aesthetic, and creative aspects of education. British values are actively promoted, developing strong values that reinforce and are reinforced by British values. Learners build and deepen their knowledge of the world around them, using that knowledge creatively and critically.

Our educational philosophy is guided by the following core values, shaping our approach to teaching and learning.

Our Core Values

At Purple Ruler, Our Values Define Our Culture, Drive Our Teaching, and Guide Our Commitment to Excellence

01 Integrity
Ensures ethical behaviour, transparency, and trustworthiness in all educational practices and interactions.

02 Versatility
Reflects the ability to adapt teaching methods and approaches to meet diverse learner needs.

03 Respect
Promotes a love for learning and encourages inquisitiveness.

04 Ingenuity
Encourages creative problem-solving and innovation in both teaching and learning.

05 Empower
Focuses on enabling learners to take control of their learning journey, build confidence, and develop self-efficacy.

06 Compassion
Emphasises understanding and addressing the unique challenges and needs of each learner, creating a nurturing educational atmosphere.

07 Inclusivity
Ensures all learners have equal access to educational opportunities, fostering a diverse and supportive community.

08 Curiosity
Promotes a love for learning and encourages inquisitiveness.

This policy provides detailed guidance on all aspects of the curriculum at Purple Ruler, including curriculum structure, content and delivery, assessment and reporting, inclusion and accessibility, PSHE education, Spiritual, Moral, Social, and Cultural (SMSC) development, global citizenship and sustainable development, career guidance, extracurricular activities, stakeholder involvement, professional development for staff, monitoring and evaluation, and

legal and regulatory compliance. Through these comprehensive strategies, we ensure that every learner at Purple Ruler has the opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential.

Purple Ruler Values and Ethos

The curriculum at Purple Ruler is guided by core principles that ensure a comprehensive, inclusive, and high-quality education for all learners. These principles emphasise the importance of a personalised, broad, and balanced curriculum that promotes equality of opportunity, meets individual needs, pursues excellence, fosters creativity and self-confidence, and recognises that learning extends beyond the classroom. Additionally, the curriculum focuses on imparting holistic skills and developing personal values.

Principles

1. **Long-Term Commitment to Personalised Learning**: Purple Ruler's programmes involve frequent, regular online sessions that are adaptable and flexible, ensuring personalised, supportive, and effective learning experiences through consistent facilitator relationships and tailored goal setting.

2. **Creating a Safe and Supportive Learning Environment**: Purple Ruler is dedicated to fostering a secure, caring atmosphere where learners feel supported and empowered, building strong, trust-based relationships with facilitators who understand and address individual needs.

3. **Fostering Holistic Development and Passion for Learning**: Purple Ruler encourages active participation, critical thinking, and a love for learning by connecting educational content to real-world contexts, promoting personal growth and academic achievement.

4. **Empowering Learners Through a Caring Pedagogy**: Facilitators at Purple Ruler inspire learners to take risks, be bold, and overcome challenges by fostering open communication, strong connections, and a flexible approach to teaching.

5. **Customised Learner-Centered Guided Learning**: Purple Ruler employs a learner-centered approach that ignites curiosity and encourages active exploration, guiding learners through real-world problem-solving to achieve a deep, meaningful understanding of the subject matter.

The curriculum at Purple Ruler is designed to support the school's values, aims and ethos, ensuring that every learner receives a well-rounded education that prepares them for future success. This is achieved through several key strategies:

Holistic Development: We provide a rigorous academic programme that challenges learners and promotes high standards of achievement. We encourage self-knowledge, self-esteem, and confidence through a supportive and nurturing educational environment. Additionally, we promote social responsibility and community involvement through service-learning projects.

Inclusive Education: We ensure all learners, including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), have access to high-quality education. By implementing support systems such as Individual Education Plans (IEPs), we meet the diverse needs of learners.

Engagement and Participation: We employ active learning strategies that engage learners and encourage participation. We value learner voice through surveys and feedback mechanisms to inform school policies and practices. Moreover, we encourage strong stakeholder involvement in the educational process through regular communication, meetings, and participation in school activities.

Cultural and Ethical Awareness: We integrate ethical education into the curriculum to help learners develop a strong moral compass. We promote cultural literacy by including diverse perspectives in teaching materials and encouraging critical examination of global issues. Furthermore, we educate learners about global citizenship and sustainable development goals to foster a sense of responsibility towards the wider world.

Learner Information

At Purple Ruler, we pride ourselves on our inclusivity and flexibility, offering bespoke timetables tailored to individual learners or school needs. Our mission is to inspire and empower every learner through a holistic, inclusive approach to education. By tailoring our classes around learner profiles, we ensure that learners receive exactly what they require, igniting passions, empowering minds, and shaping futures through curiosity, positivity, and critical thinking.

As stated in our 📄 Purple Ruler Learner Admissions Policy , we are committed to ensuring that no learner is disadvantaged due to their background, abilities, or needs. This commitment to equity is reflected in our curriculum goals and desired outcomes, aiming to create an inclusive learning environment where every learner can thrive.

Full-time learners need to enrol before each academic term. Understanding that many of our learners are some of the hardest to reach, we provide additional support for schools that want to enrol learners with us part-time to help build their confidence or reintegrate them back into mainstream schools. These learners can be enrolled at any time during the academic year.

Course Structure and Initial Assessment

Each course at Purple Ruler begins with a comprehensive Course Brief tailored to the specific needs of the school and learners. The Course Brief includes the start date, additional

instructions, and key focus areas to ensure all stakeholders are informed and aligned. Our courses are content-based, focusing on exam criteria to prepare learners for assessments. Baseline tests are conducted during the first or second lesson to gauge initial learner performance and tailor subsequent sessions accordingly.

Start Date: 1 July 2024

Additional Information:

- Conduct baseline test in the **first lesson**
- SEN details will be shared with you privately.
- **Key Focus:** Build learner confidence and develop their knowledge in the specified areas and skills. The aim is to boost understanding and practice exam skills.
- Speak to your learners to gain further insight into their needs and preferences regarding content and learning styles.

Subject	Year Group	Exam Board	Number of Sessions	Academic Information from the School - FOCUS areas	General Course Information	Baseline Testing link See this link for troubleshooting for the **Baseline Examination**
English	10	AQA	8-12	The school has not provided specific focus areas, but has asked us to **focus on exam skills.** You are not expected to cover all topics, these are just ideas. Please speak to your learner to create a detailed course plan based on their needs. Topics:	English Literature Curriculum specifications English Language Curriculum specifications English Literature Part	**English Language:** https://www.classmarker.com/online-test/start/?quiz=hkf6486100f7d9a2

Personalised Learning

Facilitators are encouraged to speak to learners to gain further insight into their needs and preferences regarding content and learning styles. We collaborate closely with stakeholders to understand and focus on the specific academic areas they require, ensuring our teaching aligns with their academic goals.

Each learner receives a detailed profile created by our Academic Team, including information such as current grade, target grade, special educational needs (SEND), and specific focus areas. This ensures that each lesson is personalised to meet the learner's academic and developmental needs. Profiles and academic information are updated and provided to facilitators once the course has been set up.

Initial Assessments

Baseline tests are an integral part of our planning process, helping us understand each learner's starting point and tailor our teaching strategies to improve their learning outcomes. Individualised learning plans are developed based on baseline assessments and specific areas of difficulty identified in the Course Brief.

Recognising that some traditional tests do not accommodate various SEND needs, we adjust our baseline assessments to suit individual learner requirements. For example, we may remove the time limit to reduce anxiety, portray the questions in an interactive quiz format, or incorporate them into a discussion with the learner.

Facilitators are required to assess each learner's needs before the lesson and select the most suitable method to ensure the assessment is effective and supportive. This personalised approach ensures that all learners, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), are accurately assessed and given the best opportunity to succeed.

For learners who are non-native English speakers and cannot provide previous English proficiency test scores, Purple Ruler will administer an English Proficiency test within the first session to assess their language skills. The results of this test will be used to plan lessons and tailor instruction to the learner's language abilities. If adequate previous data is unavailable, the cost of the test will be charged to the Local Authority (LA) for referred learners, or to the parents/guardians for those enrolled individually.

Purple Ruler Pedagogy

At Purple Ruler, our pedagogy is grounded in a commitment to providing an inspiring, inclusive, and holistic educational experience. Guided by core principles, our teaching and learning environment integrates aspects of the International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum, with a strong emphasis on inquiry-based learning.

Purple Ruler's pedagogy cultivates personal growth and ignites a passion for lifelong learning. We prioritise robust learner-teacher bonds within a safe, adaptable space, fostering curiosity and positivity. Our approach encourages intellectual exploration and celebrates accomplishments through tailored, inquiry-driven learning. Continuous facilitator development ensures top-notch teaching quality, amplifying each learner's voice in their quest for knowledge.

Pedagogical Principles

Inspiration and Empowerment: At Purple Ruler, we aim to inspire and empower learners by creating a stimulating and supportive educational environment. Our teaching practices are designed to motivate learners, foster a love for learning, and encourage them to take ownership of their educational journey. Facilitators promote open communication, allowing learners to express themselves freely and share their thoughts, concerns, and questions.

Holistic and Inclusive Education: Our pedagogy emphasises the holistic development of learners, focusing on academic achievement as well as personal, social, and emotional growth. We strive to create an inclusive learning environment where all learners feel valued, respected, and supported. We integrate Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) to support learners' emotional wellbeing and social skills, helping them understand and manage their emotions, form positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

Curiosity and Critical Thinking: We promote curiosity and critical thinking by encouraging learners to ask questions, explore new ideas, and engage in thoughtful inquiry. Our lessons are

designed to challenge learners and develop their problem-solving and analytical skills. We create opportunities for learners to engage critically and creatively, moving beyond surface-level understanding to embrace knowledge deeply.

Tailored Education: Recognising the diverse needs of our learners, we tailor our educational approaches to meet individual learning styles and preferences. Differentiated instruction, personalised learning plans, and flexible teaching methods ensure that every learner can achieve their full potential. Facilitators adapt their methods to meet individual needs, ensuring a personalised experience.

Inquiry-Based Learning: Drawing from the IB curriculum, we adopt an inquiry-based learning approach that encourages learners to become active, engaged, and lifelong learners. Inquiry-based learning involves learners formulating questions, investigating to find answers, building new understandings, and sharing their learning with others. This method promotes deep engagement and critical thinking, empowering learners to take an active role in their education.

Data-Driven and Engaging Methods: Our pedagogy is informed by data-driven practices that use assessment data to guide instruction and improve learner outcomes. We employ engaging and interactive teaching methods, including technology integration, practical activities, and collaborative learning, to enhance the learning experience. Regular assessments and feedback help tailor teaching strategies to meet learners' evolving needs.

Collaboration and Professional Growth: We believe in the power of collaboration and continuous professional growth. Our educators work together to share best practices, develop innovative teaching strategies, and engage in ongoing professional development to enhance their teaching skills and subject knowledge. Facilitators are encouraged to reflect on their lessons and teaching methods, fostering a culture of continuous self-improvement.

Commitment to Continuous Improvement: We are committed to the continuous improvement of our pedagogical practices. We regularly review and refine our teaching methods, incorporating new research, technologies, and feedback from learners and staff to ensure the highest quality of education.

Safe Learning Environment: We are committed to creating a physically and emotionally safe learning environment where all learners feel secure and respected. Our approach includes robust safeguarding measures, ongoing staff training on proactive support strategies, and the promotion of a positive school culture that values diversity and inclusivity. We ensure that all learners, especially those with SEND and SEMH needs, receive the necessary support to thrive in a safe and supportive educational setting.

SEND Provision: Purple Ruler is dedicated to supporting learners with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) through tailored strategies and support mechanisms. We develop Individual Education Plans (IEPs) that outline personalised goals and support strategies for learners with EHC Plans. These plans are regularly reviewed and updated to reflect the learner's progress and evolving needs. Our inclusive practices include differentiated instruction, the use

of virtual tours, and ensuring accessibility to all learning materials and platforms. We also collaborate closely with stakeholders to create a holistic support system.

Equity and Diversity: We emphasise the importance of equity and diversity in all aspects of our educational provision. Purple Ruler is committed to ensuring that all learners, regardless of their background, have equal access to learning opportunities. This includes making reasonable adjustments to remove barriers to learning and participation, fostering an inclusive school culture, and promoting respect and understanding among learners and staff. Our policies and practices are designed to support the diverse needs of our learner community and uphold the principles of the Equality Act 2010.

By aligning our pedagogical principles with our mission, values, and goals, we ensure a comprehensive and inclusive educational experience that empowers every learner to achieve their full potential.

Technology Integration

At Purple Ruler, the integration of technology into our curriculum is essential for preparing learners for the demands of the modern world. Our approach encompasses two key areas: digital literacy and online safety, ensuring that learners are well-equipped to navigate the digital landscape effectively and responsibly.

Digital Literacy: In today's digital age, digital literacy is a crucial skill for all learners. We integrate digital literacy into our curriculum to prepare learners for the modern world. This includes teaching learners how to use technology effectively and responsibly, developing their skills in online research, digital communication, and content creation. We ensure that all learners have access to the necessary digital tools and resources to support their learning.

Online Safety: Ensuring the safe use of technology is a key priority at Purple Ruler. We implement comprehensive e-safety education to teach learners about online safety, privacy, and the responsible use of digital platforms. Our measures include monitoring online activities, providing guidance on recognising and avoiding online risks, and promoting a positive digital footprint.

By integrating digital literacy and online safety into our curriculum, we ensure that learners are not only proficient in using technology but also aware of how to do so safely and responsibly. This holistic approach to technology integration prepares learners for the digital challenges of the future.

Curriculum Aims and Objectives

Purple Ruler's commitment to the integrated growth of each learner and educator is manifested through continuous improvement. Together, we create an environment where everyone is empowered to shape their educational journeys, fostering a lifelong love of knowledge and ensuring success for all. Teaching is conducted by qualified, skilled, and empathetic staff who foster a safe, welcoming, and warm environment.

The aims and objectives of our curriculum reflect our commitment to providing a comprehensive and balanced education that prepares learners for future success. These include:

- **Academic Excellence**: Achieving high standards of academic excellence, ensuring all learners acquire the knowledge, skills, and competencies necessary for further education and life. Learners will develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills.

- **Personal Growth**: Encouraging self-knowledge, self-esteem, and confidence, helping learners develop a strong sense of identity and self-worth. Learners will also develop self-awareness, emotional resilience, and the ability to set and achieve personal goals.

- **Social Responsibility and Ethical Awareness**: Fostering social responsibility and ethical behaviour, preparing learners to contribute positively to society and the wider world. Learners will understand and respect diverse perspectives, demonstrate empathy, and engage in responsible and ethical behaviour.

- **Building Upon Prior Knowledge**: Ensuring that new learning builds upon learners' existing knowledge and skills.

From the onset, facilitators focus on building a rapport with learners by using our introductory lesson. This lesson introduces learners to the expected rules and behaviour and incorporates a cross-conceptual theme used to assess learner understanding through real-world connections. For example, using cooking to explain measurements or to discuss foods from different cultures.

Our curriculum includes robust safeguarding protocols to ensure the safety and security of our learners. This encompasses strict visitor access protocols, mandatory background checks, and supervision for all digital interactions. Our digital literacy programme emphasises online safety, teaching learners about secure use of digital tools and responsible online behaviour. We utilise secure platforms like Lark and Lessonspace, ensuring that all digital interactions are monitored and protected.

Curriculum Structure

The curriculum at Purple Ruler is designed to provide a comprehensive and balanced education that meets statutory requirements and supports the holistic development of learners. Full-time supervised education is provided for pupils of compulsory school age, in accordance with section 8 of the Education Act 1996. This approach ensures that, as far as is reasonably

practicable, pupils gain experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical, and aesthetic and creative education.

Our curriculum aims to reignite and cultivate learners' natural curiosity and enthusiasm for learning. We strive to boost learners' self-assurance, self-worth, and academic self-belief. By fostering increased engagement, we aim to enhance attendance, academic achievement, and personal advancement. Purple Ruler is committed to creating a constructive, supportive, and encouraging virtual learning atmosphere, establishing a foundation of trust and security for learners through meaningful facilitator relationships.

The KS4 curriculum at Purple Ruler provides a broad and balanced education, covering essential areas of learning while allowing for specialisation based on learner interests and career aspirations. This structure ensures that all learners develop a strong foundation in core subjects and have opportunities to explore a wide range of additional subjects.

Core subjects are mandatory for all learners at KS4, providing essential knowledge and skills critical for their academic and personal development. These include:

- English Language and Literature
- Mathematics
- Combined Science
- Personal, Social, Health, and Economic (PSHE) Education
- Physical Education (PE)

In addition to core subjects, learners choose from a range of foundation subjects for a broader educational experience and to explore individual interests. These include:

- Geography
- History
- Psychology
- Business Studies
- Citizenship Studies
- Computer Science

Note: Please see Appendix 1 and 2 for the curriculum map and schemes of work.

Time Allocation

The curriculum ensures balanced time allocation across subjects, enabling learners to gain a comprehensive education while allowing for specialisation. The typical time allocations for KS4 subjects are as follows:

KS4: Year 10-11			
Type	Subject	Lessons per week	Duration of lesson (min)
Core	English	3	60
	Maths	3	60
	Combined Science	3 (yr 10) / 4 (yr 11)	60
	PSHE	1	60
	PE	1	60
Foundation	Global Citizenship	2	60
	Geography	2	60
	History	2	60
	Psychology	2	60
	Business Studies	2	60
	Computer Science	2 (yr 10) / 3 (yr 11)	60
Functional Skills	Digital Skills	2	30

Integration of IB Curriculum and Inquiry-Based Learning

The curriculum at Purple Ruler integrates elements of the International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum, focusing on inquiry-based learning. This approach encourages learners to become active, engaged learners skilled in critical thinking and problem-solving. Key components include:

- **Learner-Led Investigations**: Encouraging learners to formulate questions and pursue investigations to find answers, promoting independent research and inquiry.
- **Project-Based Learning**: Long-term projects requiring research, collaboration, and presentations, emphasising real-world applications and interdisciplinary learning.
- **Reflective Practices**: Implementing reflective practices where learners assess their learning process and outcomes, fostering deeper understanding and self-awareness.

Curriculum Content and Delivery

The curriculum content and delivery at Purple Ruler are designed to provide a comprehensive, engaging, and effective learning experience for all learners, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Social, Emotional, and Mental Health (SEMH) challenges. Technology and online learning tools are integrated to enhance digital literacy and online safety, preparing learners for the modern digital world.

The curriculum at Purple Ruler offers learners a deep understanding of each of the following subject areas:

- **English Language and Literature:** Learners develop their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills through the study of classic and contemporary literature, including poetry, prose, and drama, with an emphasis on critical analysis, creative expression, and effective communication.

- **Mathematics:** This subject covers numerical and problem-solving skills, emphasising real-world applications through algebra, geometry, statistics, and calculus.

- **Combined Science:** Offers a comprehensive study of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, focusing on scientific inquiry and critical thinking.

- **Personal, Social, Health, and Economic (PSHE) Education:** Addresses topics like health, relationships, and economic understanding, integrating socio-emotional learning and life skills.

- **Physical Education (PE):** Emphasises physical fitness, health, and wellbeing through theory and movement sessions.

- **Geography:** Learners explore physical and human geography, environmental issues, and global interconnections, with a focus on fieldwork.

- **History:** This subject examines significant events, periods, and figures, emphasising critical thinking and analysis.

- **Psychology:** Introduces learners to the scientific study of the mind and behaviour, promoting understanding of psychological theories.

- **Business Studies:** Offers practical knowledge about business, including entrepreneurship, finance, marketing, and management.

- **Citizenship Studies:** Teaches civic responsibilities and government structures, emphasising the role of citizens in a democratic society.

- **Computer Science:** Develops digital literacy and technological proficiency through computing and information technology.

- **Digital Functional Skills:** Develops essential digital literacy and practical skills for using technology effectively, including basic IT skills, online safety, and digital communication.

The Purple Ruler curriculum is designed with a strong commitment to inclusivity, ensuring that all learners, including those with SEND and SEMH needs, have equitable access to education. We

provide tailored support and accommodations to meet diverse learning needs, including individualised learning plans, additional resources, and specialised support services. Our curriculum delivery ensures that every learner can participate fully and achieve their potential, fostering an inclusive and supportive learning environment.
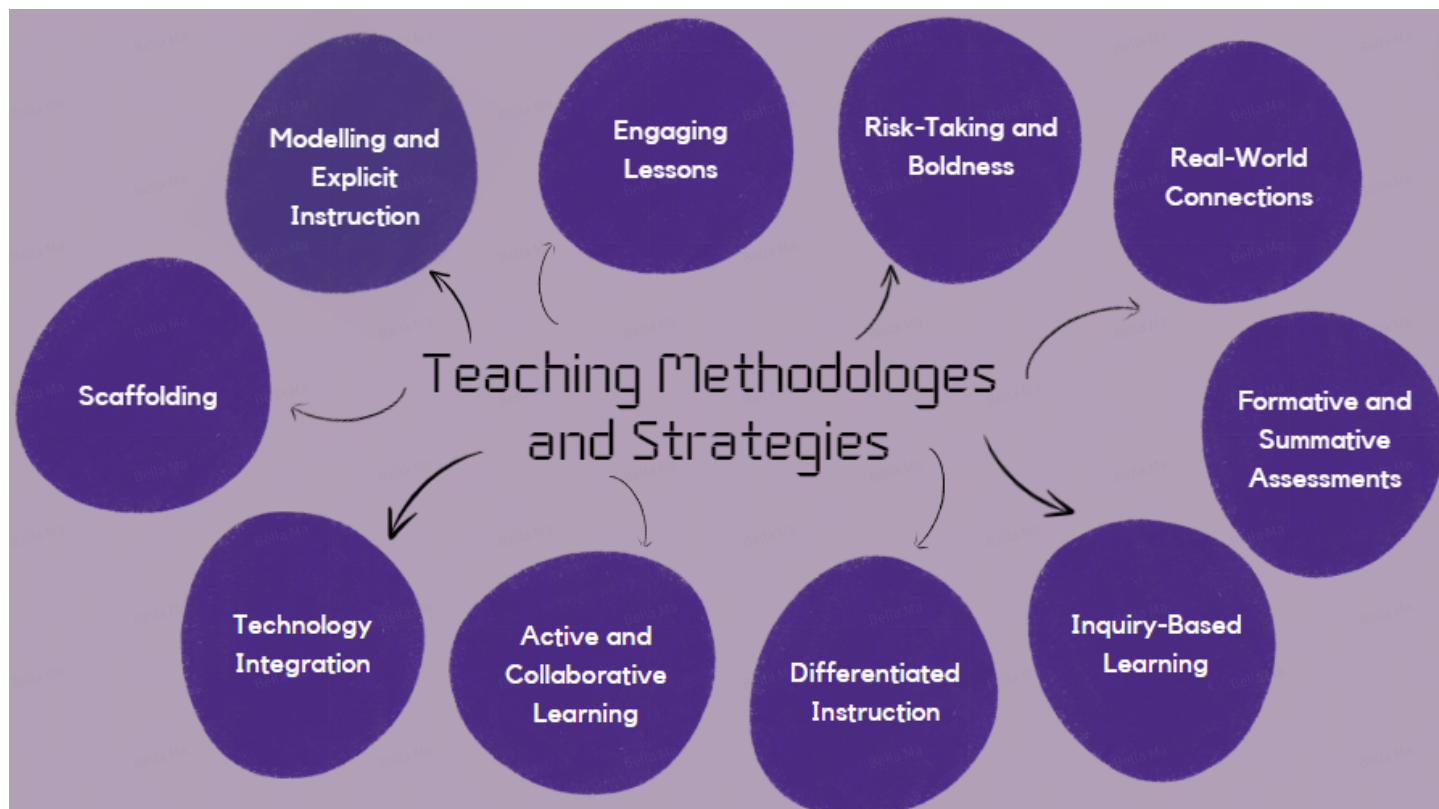
Teaching Methodologies and Strategies

Our teaching methodologies and strategies create an engaging and effective learning environment that supports the diverse needs of our learners. We employ a variety of approaches to ensure that each learner can thrive academically and personally. Key strategies include:

- **Modelling and Explicit Instruction**: Facilitators demonstrate problem-solving or analytical thinking processes step-by-step. This involves teaching facts and foundational knowledge, explaining their significance and application, and guiding learners to apply what they have learned to new and unfamiliar questions. For example, in a Maths lesson, a facilitator might solve an equation step-by-step on an interactive whiteboard, explaining each step and its importance, then guiding learners through similar problems before gradually increasing complexity. This method helps learners build a strong conceptual understanding and develop the ability to think critically and independently.

- **Engaging Lessons**: Lessons are meticulously planned to stretch learners, ensuring that the content is appropriately challenging and stimulating. The Test Teach Test method is used to assess learners' understanding at the beginning and end of each lesson, allowing facilitators to tailor their instruction to meet learners' needs effectively. For instance, a facilitator might start a Science lesson with a pre-test to gauge prior knowledge, then teach the new content, and finish with a post-test to assess understanding and identify areas needing further development. This approach helps identify areas of strength and areas requiring further development.

- **Risk-Taking and Boldness**: Learners are encouraged to step outside their comfort zones, take risks, and tackle challenges that may initially seem daunting. Facilitators inspire learners to be bold and brave, fostering an environment where mistakes are viewed as learning opportunities and resilience is built. For example, in an English class, learners might be encouraged to share their stories, receive constructive feedback, and revise their work, learning to view criticism as a growth opportunity.

- **Real-World Connections**: The greatest achievements in learning occur when learners can recognise and understand the connections between concepts and the real world. By relating academic content to real-life situations, we make learning more relevant and engaging, helping learners see the practical applications of their studies. For instance, a History lesson might involve analysing primary source documents from historical events, allowing learners to connect the past with current societal issues.

- **Inquiry-Based Learning**: This approach encourages learners to ask questions, conduct investigations, and develop solutions, promoting active learning and critical thinking. Learner-led investigations and project-based learning activities allow learners to explore topics deeply and engage with the material in a meaningful way. For example, a facilitator might assign a project where learners research and present on a current environmental issue, encouraging them to develop their own questions and seek answers through investigation.

- **Differentiated Instruction**: Teaching methods are tailored to meet the diverse needs of learners, including those with SEND and SEMH challenges. This includes using tiered assignments, flexible grouping, and personalised learning plans to provide targeted instruction that caters to varying abilities and learning styles. For example, in a History lesson, learners might be given different tasks based on their interests and abilities: some might create a timeline of events, others might write an essay on the causes and effects of a specific event, while others could produce a multimedia presentation. Each task is designed to challenge learners appropriately and engage them based on their strengths and interests.

- **Active and Collaborative Learning**: Group work and peer-to-peer learning are emphasised to develop communication, teamwork, and leadership skills. Activities such as debates, role-plays, and peer reviews encourage collaboration and help learners learn from each other. For instance, a Citizenship class might involve a debate on a historical issue, allowing learners to argue different perspectives and learn collaboratively.

- **Technology Integration**: Digital tools and resources are seamlessly integrated into teaching and learning. We use virtual labs, simulations, multimedia resources, and online platforms to create engaging and interactive lessons. For example, in a Biology lesson, learners might use a virtual lab to simulate genetic experiments. Our digital literacy programme also includes lessons on cyberbullying, data privacy, and responsible online behaviour, ensuring learners are proficient in digital skills and understand the importance of online safety.

- **Scaffolding**: Guided practice gradually builds learner understanding and independence. It involves assessing learners' current knowledge, providing foundational support, and using structured activities to help them apply new concepts. Over time, facilitators reduce support as learners gain proficiency, offering continuous feedback and encouraging self-reflection to foster independence. For example, in a science class, a facilitator might start with a detailed demonstration of an experiment, then guide learners through a similar experiment in pairs, and finally have learners design and conduct their own experiments independently. Each stage includes feedback and adjustments to ensure learners are developing their skills and understanding progressively.

- **Formative and Summative Assessments**: Ongoing assessments are used to monitor learner progress and inform instruction. Summative assessments evaluate learning outcomes at the end of instructional units. Feedback is timely and constructive, encouraging reflective practices and supporting continuous improvement in learner learning. For instance, a Geography facilitator might use weekly quizzes to gauge understanding, provide feedback, and adjust instruction, while end-of-unit tests assess overall comprehension.

By providing a curriculum that is both comprehensive and adaptable to individual needs, we ensure that every learner is equipped with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to succeed in an ever-changing global society.

Assessment and Reporting

The Assessment and Reporting section outlines the methods and processes used at Purple Ruler to evaluate the learner's learning journey, track progress, and communicate outcomes to learners, parents/guardians, and other stakeholders. This ensures that assessment practices are thorough, consistent, and aligned with the school's educational goals. It also emphasises the importance of feedback and continuous improvement, ensuring that learners receive the support they need to succeed.

At Purple Ruler, we employ a comprehensive assessment framework designed to monitor learner progress, inform instructional practices, and support learner's learning journey. This framework includes:

1. **Formative Assessment**: Regularly assessing learner understanding through quizzes, classwork, homework, and informal checks for understanding. Immediate, constructive feedback helps learners identify areas for improvement and set learning goals. Formative assessment data is used to tailor instruction and address individual learner needs, ensuring support throughout their learning journey. These assessments allow learners to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding, providing insights for facilitators to adjust lesson structures to suit learners' abilities, pace, and needs. It is difficult to provide a timeframe for these assessments as they can be conducted at any point in the course through fun quizzes or homework, making the process flexible and responsive to learners' needs.

   Feedback on Formative Assessments:

   - **Verbal Feedback Within Lessons**: Real-time, spoken feedback during lessons to address immediate concerns and guide learners.

   - **Automated Feedback**: Instant feedback on online quizzes, including explanations of correct and incorrect answers, discussed during class sessions.

   - **Peer Feedback**: Structured opportunities for learners to give and receive feedback from classmates, fostering collaborative learning.

   - **Feedback in Lesson Reports**: Comprehensive feedback provided in lesson reports after sessions, summarising performance and offering actionable steps for improvement.

2. **Summative Assessment**: These are conducted at the end of instructional units to evaluate learner understanding and mastery of the material covered throughout the unit. These assessments are crucial for measuring how well learners have assimilated the knowledge and skills taught during the course.

   All summative assessments are aligned with the expectations set out in the national curriculum for Key Stage 4 (KS4) and adhere to the guidelines provided by the GCSE examination boards (e.g., AQA, Edexcel). This alignment ensures that learners are assessed against national standards, preparing them effectively for their GCSE examinations. The assessment criteria are meticulously designed to reflect the rigor, content, and structure of the final GCSE exams, providing an accurate measure of a learner's readiness for these crucial assessments.

   The summative assessments also incorporate a variety of question types and assessment methods mirroring those used in GCSE exams, including multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions, and extended writing tasks. This comprehensive approach not only evaluates the breadth of a learner's knowledge but also their ability to apply that knowledge in different contexts, a key skill assessed in the final exams.

   Types of Assessments:

   Half-Term Assessments: Informal tests administered at mid-point intervals to gauge learners' knowledge and understanding up to that point. These assessments help to identify

areas where learners may need additional support before the end-of-term evaluations.

End-of-Term Assessments: Conducted at the conclusion of each instructional term, these assessments evaluate learners' understanding and mastery of the specific content covered during the term. They provide immediate feedback on the effectiveness of the instructional methods and help guide further adjustments if needed.

Half-Yearly Examinations: Formal tests conducted at the end of April to evaluate learners' understanding of all material covered up to that point in the academic year. These assessments provide a comprehensive review of learners' progress and highlight areas for further development.

Yearly Examinations: Formal tests held in July to assess learners' cumulative knowledge and skills acquired throughout the entire academic year. These examinations offer a thorough evaluation of learners' overall performance and integration of the year's content.

Feedback on Summative Assessments

- **Detailed Assessment Reports**: After major assessments or final exams, provide a comprehensive overview of learner performance, including strengths, score breakdown, and areas needing improvement via email. This offers learners a detailed view of their overall performance.

- **Class Feedback**: During an online session, provide feedback on overall class performance by addressing common trends, discussing frequent errors, and offering general guidance.

- **Annotated Copies**: After assessments are completed, provide direct, specific feedback on individual work by annotating digital copies with comments and corrections. Share these annotated copies with the learner in the next online session.

3. **Baseline Tests**: Conducted in the first or second lesson to assess prior knowledge and understanding of the subject. These initial assessments provide facilitators with valuable insights into learners' existing knowledge and skill levels. Facilitators analyse the results to identify the strengths and weaknesses of each learner, which is crucial for designing effective and tailored lesson plans.

Baseline tests help facilitators pinpoint areas where learners may need additional support or targeted instruction, allowing them to adapt their teaching strategies to better meet individual needs. This targeted approach ensures that lessons are designed to address specific areas for improvement while reinforcing existing strengths.

Baseline tests are adjusted to accommodate SEND needs by removing time constraints for anxious learners, increasing text size, and incorporating questions into engaging formats like fun quizzes rather than formal tests. This approach ensures that all learners can demonstrate their prior knowledge comfortably.

In cases where summative assessments are not conducted (e.g., in PSHE or PE), learners will take an additional baseline test later in the course to measure their acquired knowledge. The results from these tests will be included in the lesson report after class and used to evaluate learner progress and attainment. This data is instrumental in refining lesson plans and adapting teaching methods, ensuring that each learner's needs are met effectively throughout their educational journey.

4. **Feedback and Learner Voice**: Learners are taught that homework, summative assessments, and in-class tests are conducted for their benefit, not the facilitator's. Any feedback given to learners should be positive, encouraging, and aimed at enabling learner progress. Marking should be constructive and provide clear directions for improvement.

5. **Communication of Assessment Outcomes**: Effective communication of assessment outcomes is crucial for supporting learner progress and involving parents in the educational process. Purple Ruler employs several reporting mechanisms:

   ○ **Weekly Progress Reports:** Weekly reports are sent every Friday, offering stakeholders a general overview of learner attendance, lesson content, behaviour, and facilitator feedback, along with a brief, encouraging note to boost the learner's confidence. The live document is updated daily and accessible anytime with an assigned password, providing stakeholders with regular and up-to-date information on the learner's progress.

   ○ **Detailed Progress Reports**: Comprehensive reports are sent termly to outline the progress and attainment that learners have made thus far, including any necessary adjustments. An annual report is sent at the end of the academic year, detailing the learners' learning journey, overall progress, and achievements.

   ○ **Parent-Teacher Conferences**: Organised termly to discuss learner progress, strengths, and areas for development, with opportunities for individual consultations to address specific concerns and develop action plans.

Examination Preparation: Exam access is coordinated with the schools or local authorities with whom learners are enrolled, ensuring all logistical aspects are managed efficiently and learners are well-prepared for their examinations.

Annual Progress Report

The Annual Progress Report at Purple Ruler is a comprehensive document designed to provide a detailed overview of each learner's academic and personal development throughout the school year. This report is integral to ensuring that learners, parents or guardians, and facilitators have a clear understanding of progress, areas for improvement, and the next steps required to support ongoing success. The Head of Academics will oversee the writing of the annual progress report by the academic team.

The report includes the following key sections:

1. **Core Subject Attainment**

   The report covers the learner's progress and attainment in all core subjects, including English, Mathematics, Combined Science, and any elective subjects chosen by the learner. Each subject report includes:

   - Performance Summary: A breakdown of the learner's performance in key areas such as reading, writing, mathematical reasoning, and scientific inquiry. This section provides a clear picture of the learner's achievements in each core subject.

   - Comparison to National Benchmarks: An analysis of the learner's performance against national benchmarks, including GCSE grade expectations or equivalent standards. This comparison helps parents/guardians or LAs to understand how their child's achievements align with the national curriculum standards for Key Stage 4 (KS4). It offers insights into the learner's standing relative to peers across the country, aiding in setting realistic academic goals.

   - Areas of Strength and Improvement: Specific feedback on the learner's strengths in each subject is provided, alongside targeted areas for improvement. This section includes suggestions for resources or strategies to support further development, ensuring that both learners and parents/guardians have actionable guidance to enhance academic performance.

2. **Overall Academic Development**

   This section offers a holistic view of the learner's academic growth throughout the year, highlighting how their progress aligns with Purple Ruler's educational aims and values. Emphasis is placed on the development of critical thinking, creativity, resilience, and other key competencies that are central to our educational philosophy. The report also reflects on the learner's progress across the curriculum, not just in core subjects, ensuring a well-rounded evaluation.

3. **Personal Development and Engagement**

   Beyond academics, the report evaluates the learner's engagement in online lessons and participation in class activities. It also covers personal development aspects, including social and emotional growth, which are crucial for success in both school and life. This section provides insights into how well the learner is integrating into the school community, their ability to collaborate with peers, and their overall emotional and social wellbeing.

4. **Recommendations for Next Steps**

   Based on the learner's performance, the report includes tailored recommendations for the next academic year. These may consist of suggested areas of focus, additional support that might be required, or enrichment opportunities to further the learner's academic and

personal development. The recommendations are designed to ensure that each learner is well-prepared for the challenges of the coming year, with clear goals and strategies in place.

5. **Parental and Learner Feedback**

   The report concludes with an invitation for parents/guardians or partnered schools and learners to provide feedback on the year's progress. This feedback can be discussed in detail during a scheduled parent-teacher conference, ensuring that all parties are aligned on the learner's educational journey. This section fosters a collaborative approach to education, where parents/guardians and learners can voice their thoughts, concerns, and suggestions, contributing to the continuous improvement of the learning experience.

6. **Annual Review of Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP)**

   For learners with an EHCP, the Annual Progress Report includes an annual review section that summarises the year's progress and any changes or updates made to the EHCP. This review is shared with the Local Authority (LA) to ensure that all statutory requirements are met, and that the learner continues to receive the support they need to thrive. The report details how the support strategies outlined in the EHCP have been implemented and their impact on the learner's progress. It also includes recommendations for any adjustments to the EHCP for the following year, ensuring that the learner's needs are continuously met.

View more details on the 📄 Purple Ruler Reporting System Policy here.

Assessment Process

Initial Assessment: Baseline tests, conducted in the first or second lesson to assess prior knowledge, help facilitators identify weaker areas and plan future lessons accordingly. These tests are adjusted to meet SEND needs and are essential for understanding each learner's starting point, allowing us to tailor teaching strategies to enhance learning outcomes.
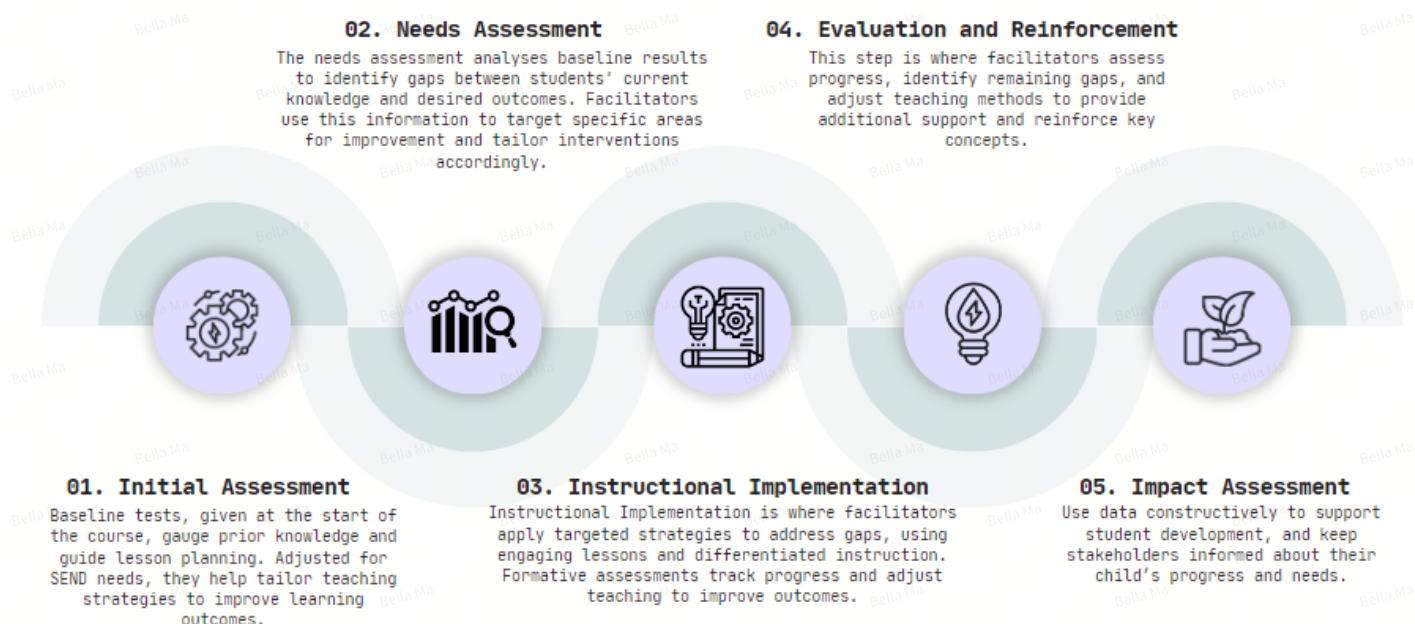
Needs Assessment: This involves identifying and evaluating discrepancies between learners' current knowledge and desired learning outcomes. By analysing baseline test results and other performance data, facilitators can pinpoint specific areas where learners are struggling. This process helps in understanding the gaps in knowledge and skills, enabling the development of targeted interventions and tailored lesson plans to address these needs and bridge the gaps effectively.

Instructional Implementation: Facilitators put targeted strategies and interventions into practice based on the needs assessment. Facilitators deliver lessons designed to address identified gaps, using various instructional methods and resources to engage learners and reinforce key concepts. Differentiated instruction ensures that all learners, including those with SEND needs, receive appropriate support. Regular formative assessments help monitor progress and adjust teaching approaches to enhance learning outcomes and keep learners on track to achieve their goals.

Evaluation and Reinforcement: This involves assessing learner progress to see if learning goals have been met. Based on these evaluations, facilitators identify areas needing further support and adjust their teaching methods accordingly, providing additional assistance and reinforcing key concepts as necessary.

Impact Assessment and Communication: Learner progress is assessed and areas for further support are identified. Data should be used constructively to help learners build on their successes and learn from their challenges, rather than reinforcing underachievement. This information is then shared with stakeholders to keep them informed and engaged in their child's development.

FIVE PHASES OF THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

02. Needs Assessment
The needs assessment analyses baseline results to identify gaps between students' current knowledge and desired outcomes. Facilitators use this information to target specific areas for improvement and tailor interventions accordingly.

04. Evaluation and Reinforcement
This step is where facilitators assess progress, identify remaining gaps, and adjust teaching methods to provide additional support and reinforce key concepts.

01. Initial Assessment
Baseline tests, given at the start of the course, gauge prior knowledge and guide lesson planning. Adjusted for SEND needs, they help tailor teaching strategies to improve learning outcomes.

03. Instructional Implementation
Instructional Implementation is where facilitators apply targeted strategies to address gaps, using engaging lessons and differentiated instruction. Formative assessments track progress and adjust teaching to improve outcomes.

05. Impact Assessment
Use data constructively to support student development, and keep stakeholders informed about their child's progress and needs.

Learner Progress Monitoring

At Purple Ruler, effective learner progress monitoring and support are crucial to achieving academic success. Our approach involves a structured process where subject facilitators and the Head of Academics play key roles in tracking progress, identifying challenges, and implementing interventions. By setting clear assessment criteria, intervening with tailored strategies, and maintaining open communication with stakeholders, we aim to support each learner's development and address any barriers to learning.

Subject Facilitators

- Monitor each learner's progress through assessments with clear success criteria. Learners should understand how to improve.

- Complete end-of-lesson reports promptly with quiz scores and details on learner engagement.

- If progress is insufficient after feedback, intervene with strategies like additional practice or explanations.

- If no improvement occurs, notify stakeholders and work with the Head of Academics to create a support plan.

- If issues persist, arrange a meeting with stakeholders to discuss progress and strategies, led by the Head of Academics for subject-specific issues or broader concerns.

Purple Ruler's commitment to monitoring and supporting learner progress ensures that all learners have the opportunity to succeed. Through consistent assessment practices, targeted interventions, and collaborative efforts between facilitators, the Head of Academics, and stakeholders, we strive to foster an environment where learners can overcome challenges and achieve their academic goals. This approach not only addresses immediate learning needs but also builds a foundation for long-term educational success.

Data-Driven Instructional Improvement

Assessment data plays a crucial role in informing and improving instructional practices at Purple Ruler. This data-driven approach ensures that teaching is responsive to learner needs and promotes continuous improvement.

- **Data Analysis**: Identifying trends, strengths, and areas for improvement at both individual and group levels. Tracking learner progress over time ensures they are meeting learning objectives and making expected gains.

- **Curriculum Reviews**: Regular updates to ensure relevance and effectiveness, while resource allocation addresses areas identified as needing improvement through assessment data.

- **Professional Development**: Opportunities for facilitators to enhance their assessment literacy and ability to use data effectively in their practice, encouraging collaboration and sharing best practices.

By maintaining a robust assessment and reporting framework, we ensure that all learners receive the support and guidance they need to achieve their full potential.

Inclusion and Accessibility

Purple Ruler is committed to providing an inclusive and accessible online education, ensuring every learner can succeed regardless of their individual needs or circumstances. This commitment is reflected in our strategies, policies, and practices designed to support learners with Additional Learning Needs (ALN), Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), and

Social, Emotional, and Mental Health (SEMH) needs. By complying with statutory requirements and promoting an inclusive educational environment, we ensure that all learners receive the necessary support to thrive.

We believe that an inclusive curriculum is essential for creating an equitable and supportive online learning environment. To achieve this, we focus on equity and access, ensuring all learners have equal access to high-quality education, resources, and opportunities. By removing barriers to learning and participation, we cater to learners with diverse needs. Recognising and valuing the diverse backgrounds, abilities, and experiences of our learners, we provide differentiated instruction and personalised support tailored to individual learning needs. Additionally, we promote a positive school culture that values diversity, fosters mutual respect, and encourages a sense of belonging for all learners. Celebrating the achievements and contributions of all learners helps recognise their unique strengths and talents.

To support learners with ALN, SEND, and SEMH needs, Purple Ruler employs a range of strategies. We adapt teaching methods and materials to meet diverse learning needs through differentiated instruction, including tiered assignments, flexible grouping, and scaffolded instruction. Ongoing professional development for staff on inclusive teaching practices, differentiation strategies, and understanding ALN, SEND, and SEMH needs ensures that our team is well-equipped to support all learners effectively. This training includes the use of assistive technologies and resources.

Ensuring accessibility for disabled learners is a fundamental aspect of our inclusion policy. Purple Ruler is committed to making reasonable adjustments to the curriculum, teaching methods, and online learning environment to accommodate the needs of learners with disabilities. We ensure that all online learning platforms and resources are accessible to learners with visual, auditory, or cognitive impairments. We strive to create a supportive and inclusive online learning environment where all learners feel safe, valued, and respected, promoting a positive and inclusive school culture through our policies, practices, and community engagement.

Our ▤ Purple Ruler SEND and Inclusivity Policy 2024-2025 outlines our commitment to supporting learners with SEND and ensuring compliance with statutory requirements. Key elements of the policy include the development and maintenance of IEPs for learners with EHC Plans or SEND Plans, involving learners, parents, and other stakeholders in their development and review. We make reasonable adjustments to the curriculum, teaching methods, and online learning environment to accommodate the needs of learners with SEND, providing additional support and resources as needed. Employing inclusive teaching practices, we use differentiated instruction, multi-sensory approaches, and assistive technologies to support learning.

Supporting learners with SEND and SEMH needs at Purple Ruler is a shared responsibility among all staff members. Coordination and oversight involve identifying, assessing, and supporting learners with SEND and SEMH needs, overseeing the development and

implementation of IEPs. Providing support and guidance to facilitators and staff on inclusive teaching practices and strategies is essential, and we facilitate ongoing professional development and training on SEND-related topics. Collaboration and communication with stakeholders ensure a collaborative approach to supporting learners, with effective communication and coordination among all parties involved. Monitoring the progress and outcomes of learners with SEND and SEMH needs and evaluating the effectiveness of support strategies helps us use data and feedback to inform continuous improvement, ensuring that our SEND policy meets the needs of our learners.

By embedding these principles and practices into our curriculum and educational approach, we ensure an inclusive and supportive learning environment where every learner can thrive.

Please review our full 🗎 Purple Ruler Equality and Inclusion Policy here.

British Values

At Purple Ruler, we are committed to promoting British values, which are integral to our educational philosophy and practice. These values include democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, and tolerance. By embedding these values into our curriculum and school culture, we help learners grow as individuals and citizens within their communities and country.

Democracy: We encourage active participation in the democratic process through mock elections and debate clubs. Mock elections teach learners about the democratic process, and debate clubs develop critical thinking and public speaking skills. The principle of democracy is also explored in History, where learners examine different historical events and how democracy and liberty have evolved over time.

Rule of Law: Understanding the importance of laws and rules in society is a key aspect of our curriculum. We establish clear classroom rules and expectations and incorporate legal studies into our lessons. Learners learn the value of laws that govern and protect us, the responsibilities that come with them, and the consequences of breaking laws. This is reinforced through our learner behavioural policy, facilitator and learner code of conduct as well as in elements of the PSHE course.

Individual Liberty: We promote individual freedoms and personal responsibility by offering choice and agency in learning paths and extracurricular activities. Personal development programmes emphasise self-awareness, self-discipline, and goal-setting, educating learners about their rights and responsibilities within the school and the wider community. Learners are encouraged to understand and exercise their rights safely, for example, through online safety education.

Mutual Respect: Mutual respect is a cornerstone of our school culture. We foster an environment of respect and understanding through respectful interactions among learners,

staff, and the community. Diverse teaching resources help learners understand and respect various cultures, faiths, and beliefs. Conflict resolution promotes understanding and empathy, teaching learners that their behaviour affects their own rights and those of others. Mutual respect is reinforced throughout the curriculum by providing opportunities for learners to express their views in a safe environment.

Tolerance: We build tolerance and appreciation for diversity by celebrating different cultural and religious holidays, ensuring the curriculum includes perspectives from various cultures and communities, and facilitating interfaith dialogues. This helps learners understand their place in a culturally diverse society and experience such diversity within the school community.

Curriculum Integration

British values are integrated throughout the curriculum in various subjects. Here are some specific examples:

- **English Language and Literature**: Learners read stories and poems that teach themes of tolerance, mutual respect, and democracy. They explore characters and situations that challenge them to think about different perspectives and moral dilemmas.

- **Geography**: Lessons cover how different cultures live and work throughout the world. Learners learn about global interconnections and the impact of cultural practices on societies, promoting a deeper understanding of ethical issues and respect for diversity.

- **History**: Learners study different historical events and how concepts like democracy and liberty have evolved over time. They examine the development of democratic institutions and the struggle for human rights, fostering an appreciation of the rule of law and individual freedoms.

- **Psychology**: The curriculum includes topics on social influence, including conformity, obedience, and minority influence, which help learners understand how societal norms and laws develop and the importance of individual and collective action.

- **Business Studies**: Learners learn about the ethical responsibilities of businesses, the importance of corporate social responsibility, and how businesses operate within legal frameworks. They discuss the role of businesses in promoting fair trade and ethical practices.

- **Citizenship Studies**: This subject explicitly teaches civic responsibilities, government structures, and the role of citizens in a democratic society. Learners engage in discussions about current events and social issues, developing their understanding of democracy, the rule of law, and individual liberties.

- **Computer Science**: Learners learn about data privacy, cyber ethics, and the importance of following laws and regulations related to technology use. They explore the impact of technology on society and discuss issues related to digital citizenship.

- **PSHE (Personal, Social, Health, and Economic Education)**: This subject addresses topics like health, relationships, and economic understanding, integrating socio-emotional learning and life skills. Learners learn about their rights and responsibilities, how to manage their emotions and relationships, and the importance of mutual respect and tolerance.

Cultural Appreciation and Respect

Appreciation and respect for learners' own and other cultures are promoted through various lessons covering different faiths and beliefs, such as the study of different deities, religions, and festivals. For example, in Geography, learners learn about the challenges faced by different cultures, particularly in the developing world, encouraging them to form ethical viewpoints. In English Literature, societal norms and expectations are discussed in relation to various plays and prose, helping learners develop empathy and critical perspectives on fairness and inequality.

By embedding these principles into our curriculum and school culture, we ensure that learners not only receive a high-quality education but also develop into well-rounded individuals who respect and uphold British values in their lives.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) Education

Curriculum Intent

At Purple Ruler, the PSHE curriculum is designed to empower every learner with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to thrive. Grounded in our mission to inspire and empower through holistic education, the curriculum aims to nurture personal development, promote social awareness, and foster a deep understanding of health and wellbeing. We are committed to cultivating a positive learning environment where learners feel supported, respected, and motivated to achieve their full potential.

The PSHE curriculum aims to equip learners with essential knowledge, skills, and attributes to manage their lives effectively, focusing on several key areas:

Empowerment and Wellbeing: We empower learners with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to make informed decisions about their health, relationships, and personal development. The curriculum fosters mental, emotional, and physical wellbeing, promoting resilience and self-esteem.

Social and Relationship Skills: We develop positive and respectful relationships among learners, families, and communities. Our curriculum equips learners with communication, conflict resolution, and empathy skills to navigate diverse social contexts.

Preparation for Life and Citizenship: Learners are prepared for responsible participation in society, understanding their rights and responsibilities as citizens. We enhance financial literacy, career readiness, and understanding of global issues to support informed decision-making and active citizenship.

Safety and Health Awareness: Our curriculum promotes safety awareness, including online safety, physical health, and mental wellbeing. We provide education on managing risks, making healthy choices, and accessing support systems.

Curriculum Implementation

The PSHE curriculum at Purple Ruler aligns closely with the PSHE National Curriculum guidelines for Key Stage 4, ensuring comprehensive coverage of essential topics relevant to learners' lives. We integrate a variety of teaching strategies to engage learners effectively:

- **Interactive Online Lessons:** Utilising digital tools and resources to create dynamic and engaging online lessons.

- **Real-World Case Studies:** Incorporating real-world scenarios to help learners apply their learning to practical situations.

- **Collaborative Projects:** Encouraging teamwork and collaboration through group projects and activities.

- **Weekly Sessions:** Dedicating specific time each week to facilitate meaningful discussions, promote critical thinking, and empower learners to make informed decisions.

PSHE is also integrated across the curriculum. For example, social issues are explored through English, health topics are covered in Biology and PE, and citizenship is addressed in History and Citizenship Studies.

Main Themes and Lesson Sequences

The PSHE curriculum covers a broad range of themes essential for personal, social, health, and economic education:

Health and Wellbeing: This includes understanding self-awareness, self-esteem, mental health issues, and strategies for emotional wellbeing. We also promote healthy lifestyles, nutrition, physical activity, and personal safety.

Relationships: We focus on building positive relationships, effective communication, and conflict resolution skills. Lessons also promote respect for diversity, understanding different perspectives, and challenging stereotypes.

Living in the Wider World: Learners are taught about their rights and responsibilities, financial literacy, and preparing for future careers. We also promote sustainability, environmental conservation, and responsible citizenship.

Online Safety: We educate learners about safe and responsible use of technology, including online privacy, cyberbullying, and digital footprint management.

Inclusivity and Support

Purple Ruler is dedicated to ensuring that our PSHE curriculum is inclusive and supportive of all learners. Lessons are tailored to meet the diverse needs of all learners, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Social, Emotional, and Mental Health (SEMH) needs. Adaptations may include simplified materials, visual aids, and extended time for tasks.

In accordance with government guidelines, our lessons cover essential topics such as healthy relationships, consent, and personal safety with sensitivity and respect. We involve parents and carers in the learning process through regular updates, resources, and workshops, ensuring consistent messages and support both at school and at home.

Impact

The impact of our PSHE lessons at Purple Ruler is multifaceted. Learners develop a deep understanding of personal wellbeing, including mental health awareness, healthy lifestyles, and strategies for managing challenges. They enhance their social and relationship skills, learning about diversity, respect, and positive communication in both online and offline contexts. Engagement in PSHE promotes a positive school ethos, leading to improved attendance, academic achievement, and overall wellbeing. Learners are equipped with essential life skills and prepared for future success, fostering resilience, responsibility, and a lifelong commitment to personal growth.

Sex Education

Sex education provides an understanding that positive, caring environments are essential for developing a good self-image and that individuals are in charge of and responsible for their own bodies. It provides knowledge about reproduction, sexuality, and relationships, encouraging the acquisition of skills and attitudes that allow learners to manage their relationships responsibly and healthily.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from any or all parts of the school's sex education programme, other than those elements required by the National Curriculum Science Order. Parents wishing to exclude their children from this programme should write to the Head of Academics, stating their objections.

Through our commitment to quality education and continuous improvement, we ensure that every learner benefits from a PSHE curriculum that meets national standards, inspires a love for learning, and prepares them for a successful future in the digital age.

Spiritual, Moral, Social, and Cultural (SMSC) Development

Purple Ruler is committed to fostering holistic growth in learners by integrating Spiritual, Moral, Social, and Cultural (SMSC) development into all aspects of the curriculum. This approach prepares learners to become responsible, respectful, and active members of society, emphasising personal and ethical development, social responsibility, and cultural awareness. We ensure that partisan political views are not promoted within lessons through our daily sweeps and monthly lesson reviews. All adults are expected to model and promote the expected behaviour, treating everyone as valuable individuals and showing respect to all.

Integrating SMSC into the Curriculum

At Purple Ruler, SMSC development is seamlessly integrated into all subjects and activities, ensuring a comprehensive education that fosters spiritual, moral, social, and cultural growth.

In English Language and Literature, spiritual development is promoted through exploring themes of faith and personal growth in literature. Moral discussions focus on ethical dilemmas in texts, social skills are enhanced through group discussions and projects, and cultural awareness is broadened by studying diverse authors and texts from different cultures and time periods.

Mathematics emphasises moral integrity and fairness in problem-solving and assessments, encourages teamwork and collaboration through group activities, and highlights contributions from various cultures and historical contexts.

Science fosters a sense of wonder about the natural world, promoting spiritual growth. It addresses ethical implications of scientific discoveries, promotes social skills through collaborative experiments, and enhances cultural awareness by recognising scientific achievements from different cultures and periods.

Personal, Social, Health, and Economic (PSHE) Education encourages spiritual growth through self-reflection, addresses moral issues such as consent and ethical decision-making, develops social skills and community involvement, and promotes respect for diversity and cultural understanding.

History and Geography explore the spiritual impact of religious and spiritual movements on societies, examine moral questions and ethical dilemmas in historical contexts, understand social structures and citizenship, and study the cultural heritage and diversity of different regions and civilisations.

This integrated approach ensures that SMSC development is an integral part of learners' education, preparing them for life as responsible, respectful, and active members of society.

Addressing Protected Characteristics in Lessons

Purple Ruler is committed to promoting equality and fostering an inclusive environment that respects all protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010. Facilitators play a crucial role in addressing issues involving one or more protected characteristics, including age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation. Learners must understand the world they live in and are provided with the skills to navigate it.

We create an inclusive classroom environment that promotes respect and understanding for all learners, regardless of their background or characteristics. Clear classroom rules emphasise respect, inclusion, and zero tolerance for discrimination or bullying. Inclusive teaching practices involve using diverse teaching materials that reflect a variety of cultures, perspectives, and experiences, ensuring that examples, case studies, and references in lessons are inclusive and representative of all protected characteristics.

We respond to any discriminatory language or behaviour immediately and appropriately, facilitating open and respectful discussions when issues related to protected characteristics arise, and providing support and resources for learners who may be affected by such issues. Our staff participate in ongoing professional development to enhance their understanding of diversity, inclusion, and equality, and to keep up-to-date with best practices for creating an inclusive learning environment.

We also collaborate with parents and guardians, communicating our commitment to inclusivity and respect for all protected characteristics, and encouraging parent involvement in promoting a respectful and inclusive school culture.

Promoting Core SMSC Principles

Our approach to SMSC ensures that principles are actively promoted, enabling pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem, and self-confidence. Learners are taught to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England. We encourage pupils to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative, and understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in their locality and to society more widely.

We aim to enable pupils to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England. Further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions are promoted by enabling pupils to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures. We encourage respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010. Additionally, we support respect for democracy and participation in the democratic process, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England.

Our approach ensures that all pupils gain an understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process, the protection of the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs, and acceptance that people with different faiths or beliefs (or none) should be

accepted and tolerated without being subjected to prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour. Pupils also develop an understanding of the importance of identifying and combating discrimination.

Impact of SMSC Development

Integrating SMSC development into the curriculum at Purple Ruler has a profound impact on learners' personal growth and social responsibility. Learners develop a well-rounded understanding of themselves and the world around them, fostering spiritual, moral, social, and cultural growth. They gain a deep respect for public institutions and services, and an understanding of their roles and responsibilities as citizens. Our commitment to addressing protected characteristics ensures a safe, respectful, and inclusive learning environment for all learners.

Through these efforts, we prepare learners to be informed, empathetic, and engaged members of society, equipped with the skills and understanding necessary to navigate and contribute positively to the world around them.

Global Citizenship and Sustainable Development

Purple Ruler is committed to educating learners about their roles as global citizens and the importance of sustainable development. By integrating Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) goals and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into our curriculum, we aim to promote global awareness, responsibility, and proactive engagement in sustainability initiatives.

At Purple Ruler, we prioritise Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) to equip learners with the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes needed to contribute to sustainable development. Our ESD goals ensure that learners understand the interconnectedness of environmental, economic, and social issues and are prepared to address these challenges effectively.

We focus on increasing learners' awareness and understanding of sustainability issues, such as climate change, biodiversity, pollution, and resource management. Developing learners' critical thinking and problem-solving skills are crucial for analysing sustainability challenges and devising innovative solutions. Creating a sense of ethical responsibility and stewardship for the environment promotes values such as respect, empathy, and justice.

Integration of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into the Curriculum

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a comprehensive framework for addressing global challenges and achieving a sustainable future. At Purple Ruler,

we integrate the SDGs into our curriculum to ensure that learners are aware of these goals and understand their importance.

We map the SDGs across different subjects to ensure comprehensive coverage and highlight the relevance of each goal to various areas of study. Project-based learning activities focus on specific SDGs, encouraging learners to explore these goals in depth and develop actionable solutions. Lessons and units specifically address one or more SDGs, incorporating interactive and experiential learning opportunities.

Examples of SDG Integration in Specific Subjects:

- **English Language and Literature:** Learners read and analyse texts that explore themes related to various SDGs, such as poverty, gender equality, and peace and justice. Writing assignments might include persuasive essays on the importance of these goals or creative projects that imagine a sustainable future.

- **Geography:** The curriculum covers topics such as climate action, life below water, and life on land. Learners might engage in projects that assess the sustainability of local ecosystems or map out the impacts of global warming on different regions.

- **History:** Lessons examine the historical context of SDGs, such as reduced inequalities and quality education. Learners might study the civil rights movement, the history of education reform, or the development of international human rights laws.

- **Science:** Scientific inquiry and experimentation are used to explore clean energy, responsible consumption and production, and sustainable cities and communities. Virtual experiments can focus on renewable energy sources, waste reduction, and sustainable urban planning.

- **Personal, Social, Health, and Economic (PSHE) Education:** PSHE covers good health and wellbeing, gender equality, and reduced inequalities. Lessons include discussions on mental health, personal safety, and social justice, encouraging learners to think critically about their role in promoting these goals.

- **Business Studies:** Learners learn about responsible consumption and production, decent work and economic growth, and industry, innovation, and infrastructure. They might create business models that focus on sustainability, ethical practices, and social responsibility.

- **Computer Science:** The curriculum includes lessons on the impact of technology on sustainable development, such as the role of digital innovation in achieving the SDGs. Projects might involve analysing the environmental impact of technology use.

Encouraging Responsibility, Initiative, and Positive Contribution

At Purple Ruler, we believe in fostering a sense of responsibility, initiative, and the desire to contribute positively to society among our learners. We aim to develop learners who are

proactive, empathetic, and committed to making a difference in their communities and the world.

Personal development programmes focus on self-awareness and goal-setting, helping learners understand their strengths and areas for growth. Reflective practices are incorporated into the curriculum, encouraging learners to think critically about their actions and their impact on others. Recognising and rewarding learners for demonstrating responsibility, initiative, and positive contributions reinforces these behaviours and values.

Through these efforts, we ensure that learners develop a comprehensive understanding of their roles as global citizens and the importance of sustainable development, preparing them to contribute positively to society and the environment.

Career Guidance

The Career Guidance section of Purple Ruler's curriculum policy outlines our comprehensive approach to supporting learners in making informed decisions about their future careers. Our goal is to equip learners with the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to navigate the modern job market and pursue fulfilling careers. This section details our commitment to providing accurate, up-to-date careers guidance presented impartially, enabling learners to explore a wide range of career options and achieve their full potential.

At Purple Ruler, our intent for the Careers Guidance course is to empower every learner with the knowledge, skills, and resources they need to make informed decisions about their future careers in a digital age. Grounded in our pedagogical approach, we aim to inspire confidence and ambition, ensuring that each learner has access to comprehensive career information and guidance that aligns with their aspirations and learning styles.

The Career Guidance curriculum at Purple Ruler focuses on several key objectives:

- **Accurate and Impartial Guidance:** Providing learners with accurate, up-to-date information about a wide range of career paths and educational opportunities, ensuring that career guidance is presented impartially, allowing learners to make their own informed decisions.

- **Career Exploration:** Enabling learners to explore various career options, understand the qualifications and skills required for different professions, and develop a clear, actionable plan to achieve their career aspirations. This fosters self-awareness and informed decision-making, helping learners align their strengths and interests with suitable career paths.

- **Skills Development:** Developing core competencies such as communication, teamwork, problem-solving, and critical thinking, which are essential in the modern job market. Providing practical experience in resume building, job searching, and interview techniques to prepare learners for the application process.

- **Professional Attitudes and Behaviours:** Cultivating professional attitudes and behaviours that align with workplace expectations, enhancing learners' employability and workplace success. Encouraging learners to set realistic career goals and create actionable plans to achieve them.

- **Confidence and Resilience:** Building learners' confidence and resilience to adapt to the dynamic demands of the workforce, ensuring they can navigate challenges and changes effectively. Preparing learners to handle the economic aspects of their careers responsibly through financial literacy education.

Our Careers Guidance curriculum leverages our online platform to provide interactive and personalised career education experiences. Learners engage in virtual sessions monthly that cover career exploration, application processes, and skills development. We collaborate closely with local employers, training providers, and higher education institutions to provide real-world insights and practical experiences that enrich learners' understanding of the workplace and vocational pathways. This programme is designed to meet statutory requirements, ensuring that all learners receive impartial and comprehensive careers education. Our curriculum is regularly updated to reflect current trends and opportunities in various industries, ensuring relevance and applicability.

Main Themes and Lesson Sequences

The Career Guidance curriculum at Purple Ruler covers a broad range of themes essential for career exploration, planning, and development.

Year 10: Career Exploration and Planning

- **Researching a Career:** Helping learners identify and explore potential career options, providing them with the knowledge and resources needed to make informed decisions about their future professions.

- **Building Your Skill Set: Pathways to Career Readiness:** Empowering learners to identify and pursue diverse pathways for skill acquisition outside traditional educational settings, equipping them with the knowledge and strategies to build a robust skill set aligned with their career goals.

- **Finding Voluntary Work and the Importance of Work Experience:** Inspiring learners to actively pursue voluntary opportunities and work experience, fostering valuable experience, skill development, community involvement, practical insights into chosen careers, enhanced employability, and a seamless transition from academic learning to professional practice.

- **Networking and Professionalism:** Teaching learners the importance of networking and professional behaviour, equipping them with the skills to build meaningful professional relationships and present themselves effectively in the workplace.

Year 11: Job Applications and Career Advancement

- **Finding and Applying for a Job:** Guiding learners in effectively searching for employment opportunities, understanding job requirements, and submitting well-crafted job applications tailored to their skills and career goals.

- **Preparing for an Interview and Interview Skills:** Preparing learners with essential interview techniques, including how to present themselves professionally, answer questions confidently, and demonstrate their suitability for the role.

- **Career Progression:** Supporting learners in developing strategies for ongoing career growth, including setting career goals, acquiring new skills, and seizing opportunities for advancement within their chosen field.

- **Personal Branding:** Helping learners understand the importance of personal branding in career development, including how to showcase their unique skills, strengths, and professional identity effectively in the digital age.

Workplace Awareness and Rights

- **Health and Safety:** Educating learners on essential health and safety practices in the workplace, equipping them with the knowledge to identify hazards, mitigate risks, and promote a safe working environment.

- **Investigating Rights and Responsibilities at Work:** Enabling learners to explore their rights and responsibilities in the workplace, fostering an understanding of employment laws, contractual obligations, and ethical considerations necessary for maintaining positive professional relationships.

- **Managing Your Health at Work:** Supporting learners in developing strategies for maintaining physical and mental health in the workplace, emphasising self-care practices, stress management techniques, and seeking appropriate support when needed.

Financial Literacy and Management

- **Budgeting: Managing Your Money:** Equipping learners with the skills and understanding necessary to create and maintain a personal budget, enabling effective management of income and expenses.

- **Taxes:** Educating learners about the purpose, types, and implications of taxes, empowering them to understand their tax obligations and make informed decisions regarding tax planning and compliance.

Impact of the Career Guidance Curriculum

The impact of our careers guidance programme at Purple Ruler is multifaceted and transformative:

- **Enhanced Career Readiness:** Learners develop essential skills such as CV writing, interview techniques, and digital literacy, preparing them for future employment and educational opportunities.

- **Empowered Decision Making:** By accessing personalised career advice and exploring diverse career paths online, learners gain confidence in making informed decisions about their future.

- **Broadened Horizons:** Exposure to diverse career opportunities and interactions with industry professionals broaden learners' perspectives and inspire future goals.

- **Preparedness for Future Success:** Our programme equips learners with essential skills, ensuring they are well-prepared for further education, training, and the evolving demands of the workplace.

- **Flexible and Inclusive Learning:** Our online platform accommodates diverse learning needs and schedules, providing equitable access to career guidance for all learners.

Our careers guidance programme fosters curiosity, critical thinking, and lifelong learning. We prioritise individualised support, inclusivity, and collaboration with external stakeholders to provide enriching experiences that prepare learners to thrive in their chosen career paths and contribute positively to society.

Careers Links

Unifrog: An online platform where learners can explore their interests and apply for their next steps after school.

National Careers Service: Provides careers information categorised by sector.

Bright Knowledge: Offers clear articles about various jobs, detailing typical daily responsibilities, entry requirements, pay, and the pros and cons of different careers.

Apprenticeships.gov.uk: The official government site for apprenticeships in England, providing information on how to find and apply for apprenticeship opportunities across various sectors.

RateMyApprenticeship: Offers reviews and ratings of apprenticeship programmes from current and former apprentices, helping learners make informed decisions about their apprenticeship options.

Careerpilot: A free careers information and tools platform for 11-19 year olds, providing insights into different career pathways, qualifications, and job sectors.

AllAboutCareers: An extensive career exploration site with information on job roles, industries, internships, and work experience opportunities. It also provides career advice and guides on job applications and interviews.

Extracurricular Activities

The Extracurricular Activities section of Purple Ruler's curriculum policy highlights the essential role these activities play in the holistic development of learners. By offering a variety of activities beyond the traditional academic curriculum, even in an online setting, Purple Ruler aims to foster personal growth, social skills, and well-rounded character development. This section details the online extracurricular opportunities available, the benefits of participation, and our commitment to providing inclusive and enriching experiences for all learners, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Social, Emotional, and Mental Health (SEMH) needs.

Extracurricular activities are integral to the educational experience at Purple Ruler. They allow learners to explore their interests, develop new skills, and build meaningful relationships outside the traditional classroom. Participation enhances learners' academic performance, personal development, and social engagement, contributing to their overall wellbeing and success.

Extracurricular activities encourage self-discovery, confidence, and resilience, while developing leadership, teamwork, and time management skills. They foster friendships, collaboration, and a sense of community, and support classroom learning through practical application. Additionally, they promote mental health and stress relief, contributing to the overall wellbeing of learners.

Purple Ruler offers a diverse array of online extracurricular activities designed to cater to various interests and abilities. Our goal is to ensure every learner finds an activity that resonates with their passions and aids holistic development.

Academic and Intellectual Pursuits:

- **Debate Club:** Develops critical thinking, argumentation, and public speaking skills through virtual debates.
- **Book Club:** Encourages a love for reading, critical analysis, and discussion of various literary genres.
- **Study Club:** Provides a collaborative environment for learners to study together, share knowledge, and support each other's academic progress.

Cultural and Creative Activities:

- **Cultural Diversity Club:** Explores different cultures, festivals, and religions, promoting cross-cultural understanding and respect.
- **Digital Media Club:** Explores photography, videography, graphic design, and social media management through online tutorials.

Wellbeing and Personal Growth:

- **Yoga and Mindfulness Club:** Participate in online yoga sessions and mindfulness practices to promote wellbeing.
- **Creative Writing Club:** Write, share, and critique short stories, poems, and essays in a supportive online environment.

At Purple Ruler, we are committed to ensuring that all learners, including those with SEND and SEMH needs, have access to and can benefit from our online extracurricular programmes. We actively encourage participation and strive to create an inclusive environment where every learner feels welcome and valued.

We ensure activities are accessible to learners of all abilities, providing necessary accommodations and support. This includes using assistive technologies, offering tailored resources, and adapting activities to meet individual needs. Activities are offered at various times, including evenings and weekends, to accommodate diverse schedules and commitments. Parental engagement is encouraged to support their children's participation in extracurricular activities.

Monitoring and Evaluating Online Extracurricular Programmes

To ensure the effectiveness and continuous improvement of our online extracurricular programmes, Purple Ruler implements a robust monitoring and evaluation framework. This helps assess the impact of these activities on learner development and make necessary adjustments to enhance quality and accessibility.

We collect feedback from learners through online surveys and virtual focus groups, track participation rates and attendance in virtual activities, and evaluate the impact on learners' academic performance, personal development, and social skills through online assessments and reflections. Input from parents is also gathered to understand the benefits and identify areas for enhancement.

Purple Ruler is committed to continuous improvement through programme reviews and professional development. We conduct annual reviews of all online extracurricular programmes, provide training and support for staff and activity leaders, and ensure adequate digital resources and support for diverse and engaging activities.

Stakeholder Involvement

The Parental Involvement section of Purple Ruler's curriculum policy outlines the essential role that parents, guardians and stakeholders play in the educational experience and development of their children. At Purple Ruler, we believe that strong partnerships between the school and families are crucial for fostering learner success and wellbeing. This section details our

commitment to engaging stakeholders, the strategies we use to facilitate their involvement, and the various channels through which we communicate and collaborate with them.

Stakeholder involvement is a cornerstone of a successful educational experience. Engaging stakeholders in their children's education helps create a supportive learning environment at home, reinforces positive attitudes towards learning, and enhances academic achievement. At Purple Ruler, we recognise that parents, guardians and stakeholders are vital partners in the educational journey of their children. Involved stakeholders help boost academic performance, improve behaviour and attitudes, increase motivation and engagement, and strengthen the home-school connection.

To facilitate and encourage stakeholder involvement, Purple Ruler employs various strategies. We ensure stakeholders can participate meaningfully in their child's education through regular updates on their child's progress via online portals, emails, and meetings. Virtual parent-teacher conferences allow discussions on learner progress, addressing concerns, and setting goals. Open communication channels, including email, phone calls, and messaging apps, ensure stakeholders can easily reach the management team.

Effective communication is key to fostering strong partnerships with stakeholders. Purple Ruler is committed to maintaining open, transparent, and regular communication with stakeholders to keep them informed and engaged in their child's education. We use online portals for real-time information about attendance, grades, and behaviour, send regular emails, and conduct virtual meetings.

Stakeholders are encouraged to play an active role in monitoring and supporting their child's academic and personal development. We support this through detailed progress reports, collaboration on goal setting, and resources for emotional wellbeing and digital safety. Educational involvement is promoted by encouraging stakeholders to help with homework and study routines and providing ideas for educational activities at home.

By implementing these strategies, we ensure that stakeholder involvement is integrated into the educational process, supporting the success and wellbeing of all learners, including those with SEND and SEMH needs. This collaborative approach helps create a supportive and inclusive learning environment, enhancing the overall educational experience for learners and their families.

Professional Development for Staff

The Professional Development for Staff section of Purple Ruler's curriculum policy underscores our commitment to continuous improvement and excellence in teaching. At Purple Ruler, we recognise that ongoing professional development is essential for maintaining high standards of pedagogy, curriculum delivery, and assessment. This section outlines our comprehensive

approach to staff development, including training on new educational technologies, pedagogical strategies, and a commitment to continuous innovation and improvement.

Professional development is vital for ensuring that our staff are equipped with the latest knowledge, skills, and strategies to provide high-quality education. By investing in our educators' growth, we aim to enhance teaching effectiveness, improve learner outcomes, and foster a culture of lifelong learning within our school community.

Professional development at Purple Ruler offers several key benefits. Enhanced teaching skills allow educators to refine their teaching practices and stay updated with the latest pedagogical trends. This, in turn, improves learner outcomes by equipping facilitators with effective strategies and tools to support learner learning and achievement. Supporting professional growth contributes to higher job satisfaction and retention rates among staff, while encouraging adaptability and innovation helps educators embrace new technologies and innovative teaching methods to meet the evolving needs of learners.

At Purple Ruler, we are committed to providing ongoing professional development opportunities that are relevant, engaging, and impactful. Our professional development programme focuses on key areas such as pedagogy, curriculum delivery, assessment, and the integration of new educational technologies. Workshops on effective teaching strategies, classroom management, and learner engagement techniques are regularly offered. We also provide guidance on differentiating instruction to meet the diverse needs of learners, including those with SEND.

Training on designing and implementing a comprehensive and balanced curriculum that aligns with Purple Ruler's educational goals and standards is another core aspect of our professional development. We encourage the integration of interdisciplinary approaches to enhance the learning experience and foster critical thinking.

Purple Ruler is committed to fostering a culture of continuous improvement and innovation. Regular professional development sessions are scheduled throughout the academic year to ensure ongoing growth and learning. Reflective practice is promoted by encouraging facilitators to regularly reflect on their teaching experiences, identify areas for improvement, and implement changes.

Quality Assurance of Teaching

At Purple Ruler, the Quality Assurance of Teaching plays a pivotal role in staff personal development by providing a structured and supportive framework for evaluating and enhancing teaching practices. Lessons are reviewed monthly by our Quality Assurance team, using a detailed rubric to measure various criteria. This continuous feedback loop helps educators refine their skills and improve their instructional techniques.

The criteria for lesson review include:

- **Time Management:** Ensuring facilitators follow appropriate time guidelines for each learner, demonstrating excellent judgement in time-keeping for each step, and dedicating at least 3 minutes to the 'Teach Me' section.

- **Lesson Structure, Steps, and Pedagogy:** Assessing the presence of all lesson elements, the strategic use of the six steps, scaffolding techniques, and learner-led learning with real-world connections.

- **Presentation:** Evaluating the presentation of the lesson, facilitator, and material. This includes ensuring the facilitator encourages all learners, engages with the material, and uses resources appropriately. The facilitator's setup and background should be professional.

- **Learner Interaction and Enthusiasm:** Assessing the facilitator's ability to establish a strong connection with learners and design material that engages them, even with disabled microphones and cameras. Ensuring consistent use of appropriate Concept Checking Questions (CCQs) and Instruction Checking Questions (ICQs).

- **Facilitator Energy, Communication, Passion, and Motivation:** Evaluating the facilitator's energy levels, use of positive reinforcement, and classroom management techniques to inspire and encourage all learners. The facilitator should use excellent vocabulary and maintain consistent energy throughout the session.

- **Content Level and Understanding of Learner Needs:** Assessing the facilitator's understanding of content requirements and goals. The facilitator should effectively use the intro lesson to bring the course together, deliver content with scaffolding, build on prior knowledge, simplify concepts, and adapt where needed.

The Quality Assurance process is integral to staff personal development in several ways:

- **Constructive Feedback:** Regular reviews provide facilitators with constructive feedback on their performance, highlighting strengths and areas for improvement. This helps educators identify specific skills to develop and refine.

- **Professional Growth:** By adhering to the quality standards set out in the rubric, facilitators are encouraged to continuously improve their teaching practices. This commitment to excellence fosters a culture of ongoing professional growth.

- **Targeted Training:** The insights gained from lesson reviews inform the development of targeted professional development programmes. These programmes address common areas for improvement and provide facilitators with the tools and strategies they need to enhance their teaching.

- **Reflective Practice:** Facilitators are encouraged to reflect on their teaching practices and the feedback they receive. This reflective practice is crucial for personal and professional growth, allowing educators to make informed changes to their instructional methods.

- **Peer Learning:** The Quality Assurance process promotes a collaborative learning environment where facilitators can share best practices and learn from each other's experiences. This peer learning fosters a supportive community of educators committed to excellence.

- **Ensuring Consistency:** Daily reviews help maintain a safe and secure virtual learning environment by monitoring inappropriate content and ensuring compliance with safeguarding policies. This consistent oversight ensures that all facilitators meet high standards of quality and professionalism.

By incorporating these elements, the Quality Assurance of Teaching at Purple Ruler not only enhances the quality of education provided but also supports the ongoing personal and professional development of our staff. This approach ensures that our educators are well-equipped to deliver high-quality, engaging, and effective lessons, ultimately benefiting the entire school community.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Monitoring and Evaluation section of Purple Ruler's curriculum policy underscores our commitment to maintaining high standards of educational quality through systematic and continuous review processes. By implementing comprehensive procedures for regular review and updating of the curriculum, monitoring its effectiveness and impact on learner outcomes, and incorporating feedback and learner voice, we ensure that our educational offerings remain relevant, effective, and responsive to the needs of our learners.

Regular review and updating of the curriculum are essential for ensuring that our educational programmes remain current and effective. At Purple Ruler, we have established a structured process for curriculum review involving ongoing evaluation, stakeholder engagement, and data-driven decision-making.

An annual review cycle assesses the curriculum's alignment with educational goals, industry standards, and emerging trends. We involve a diverse range of stakeholders, including facilitators, schools, learners and parents in the curriculum review process to gather comprehensive insights and perspectives. Focus groups and feedback sessions are organised to discuss curriculum strengths, areas for improvement, and potential changes.

Data-driven decision-making is a critical component of our review process. We analyse learner performance data, assessment results, and feedback to identify trends, gaps, and opportunities for enhancement. Educational research and best practices inform curriculum updates, ensuring evidence-based improvements. Changes are communicated to all stakeholders, and necessary support is provided for a smooth transition.

Incorporating feedback and learner voice into the curriculum review process is essential for creating a responsive and learner-centred educational environment. Surveys and questionnaires are conducted regularly to gather learner opinions on various aspects of the curriculum, including content, teaching methods, and overall satisfaction. Survey results are analysed to identify common themes and areas for improvement.

Feedback is treated as an ongoing and iterative process. We regularly review and adjust the curriculum based on learner input and evaluation results, maintaining transparent communication with learners about how their feedback has been used to make improvements. This fosters a culture of transparency and trust, ensuring that the curriculum remains dynamic and responsive to the evolving needs of our learners. Through these efforts, Purple Ruler upholds its commitment to delivering high-quality, learner-centred education that meets the highest standards of excellence.

Roles and Responsibilities

Role	Responsibilities
Head of Academics	- Lead the review and evaluation of the curriculum policy. - Collaborate with the Leadership and Training Team for stakeholder engagement and implementation plans. - Analyse learner performance data, assessment results, and feedback to identify trends, gaps, and opportunities for enhancement. - Identify training needs based on feedback from curriculum reviews and evaluations.
Leadership and Training Team	- Coordinate the annual curriculum review cycle and ensure alignment with the school's strategic goals. - Provide necessary resources and professional development for the implementation of curriculum updates.
Facilitators	- Provide regular feedback on curriculum effectiveness. - Adapt teaching practices based on curriculum changes and monitor learner progress to inform the review process. - Engage in professional development opportunities to enhance their understanding and implementation of the revised curriculum.
Learners	- Participate in surveys and focus groups to provide feedback on the curriculum. - Actively engage with the curriculum and communicate suggestions for improvement.

Stakeholders	• Offer feedback through surveys and parent-teacher conferences.
	• Support their children's learning at home or school, and communicate any concerns or suggestions to Purple Ruler.
Quality Assurance (QA) Team	• Conduct regular evaluations of teaching practices and curriculum effectiveness.
	• Ensure compliance with safeguarding policies and provide recommendations for curriculum improvements.

By clearly defining the roles and responsibilities for reviewing and evaluating the curriculum policy, we ensure a comprehensive and collaborative approach to maintaining and enhancing the quality of education. This structured process fosters continuous improvement and alignment with best practices in education, involving all key stakeholders to ensure the curriculum remains relevant and effective.

Legal and Regulatory Compliance

The Legal and Regulatory Compliance section of Purple Ruler's curriculum policy outlines our commitment to adhering to all relevant laws and regulations governing education. Ensuring legal and regulatory compliance is essential for maintaining the integrity, quality, and accountability of our educational programmes. This section details the procedures and practices we have in place to meet legal requirements, uphold ethical standards, and promote the values of British society.

Compliance with Relevant Legislation

At Purple Ruler, we are committed to complying with all applicable laws and regulations that govern education. This includes national, regional, and local legislation, as well as guidelines and standards set by educational authorities and accrediting bodies.

Key Legislative Frameworks:

- **Education Act 2002**: Ensuring that our curriculum and educational practices comply with the requirements set out in the Education Act 2002, which outlines the statutory responsibilities of schools.

- **Equality Act 2010**: Adhering to the provisions of the Equality Act 2010, which prohibits discrimination and promotes equality and diversity in all aspects of school life.

- **Children and Families Act 2014**: Complying with the Children and Families Act 2014, which includes provisions for supporting learners with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

- **GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)**: Ensuring that all personal data is handled in accordance with GDPR guidelines to protect learner and staff privacy.

Upholding British Values

As part of our legal and regulatory compliance, Purple Ruler is dedicated to promoting the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

- **Democracy**: Incorporating democratic principles into school governance and classroom activities, such as learner councils and mock elections, to teach learners about the democratic process and civic engagement.

- **Rule of Law**: Educating learners about the importance of the rule of law, the legal system, and the consequences of breaking laws, both in the UK and globally.

- **Individual Liberty**: Encouraging learners to exercise their individual rights and freedoms responsibly, while respecting the rights and freedoms of others.

- **Mutual Respect and Tolerance**: Fostering a culture of respect and understanding by celebrating diversity, promoting inclusion, and addressing discrimination and prejudice in all forms.

Safeguarding and Child Protection

Safeguarding and child protection are paramount at Purple Ruler. We are committed to creating a safe and secure environment for all learners and staff, in line with legal requirements and best practices.

- **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)**: Appointing a designated safeguarding lead responsible for overseeing all safeguarding and child protection matters within the school.

- **Safeguarding Policies**: Developing and implementing robust safeguarding policies that outline procedures for identifying, reporting, and addressing safeguarding concerns.

- **Safe Recruitment Practices**: Ensuring that all staff and volunteers undergo rigorous background checks and vetting processes in accordance with safer recruitment guidelines.

- **Staff Training**: Providing regular safeguarding training for all staff to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities and equipped to respond to safeguarding issues effectively.

Please review our full 📄 Purple Ruler Safeguarding Policy 2024/2025 and 📄 Purple Ruler Safer Recruitment and Selection Policy here.

Data Protection and Privacy

Purple Ruler is committed to protecting the privacy and confidentiality of personal data in accordance with GDPR and other data protection laws. We ensure that all data handling practices comply with legal standards and respect individual privacy rights.

- **Data Protection Officer (DPO)**: Appointing a data protection officer responsible for overseeing data protection compliance and managing data protection issues.
- **Data Handling Policies**: Developing and implementing policies for the collection, storage, processing, and sharing of personal data, ensuring compliance with GDPR.
- **Staff Training**: Providing regular training for staff on data protection principles and practices, including data security and breach response.
- **Privacy Notices**: Issuing clear and comprehensive privacy notices to inform learners, parents, and staff about how their personal data is used and protected.

Please review our full Purple Ruler Data Protection and Privacy Policy here.

Relevant Policies

Our curriculum policy is interconnected with several other policies that support an inclusive and comprehensive approach to education:

- SEND and Inclusivity Policy
- Equality and Inclusion Policy
- Reporting System Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Learner Admissions Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Prevent Duty Policy
- Visitor's Policy
- Complaints Policy and Procedure
- Data Protection and Privacy Policy

Appendices

Appendix 1: Curriculum Map

▣ Purple Ruler - Curriculum Map Year 10-11

Appendix 2: Scheme of Works

KS4: Year 10-11			
Subject	**Exam Board**	**Scheme of Work**	**Learning Journey**
English	AQA	📄 Purple Ruler English Scheme of Work	📄 English Learning Journey.pdf
Combined Science	AQA	📄 Purple Ruler Combined Science Scheme of Work	📄 Combined Science Learning Journey.pdf
Citizenship Studies	AQA	📄 Purple Ruler Citizenship Studies Scheme of Work	📄 Citizenship Studies Learning Journey.pdf
Psychology	AQA	📄 Purple Ruler Psychology Scheme of Work	📄 Psychology Learning Journey.pdf
Geography	AQA	📄 Purple Ruler Geography Scheme of Work	📄 Geography Learning Journey.pdf
History	Edexcel	📄 Purple Ruler History Scheme of Work	📄 History Learning Journey.pdf
Maths	Edexcel	📄 Purple Ruler Maths Scheme of Work	📄 Mathematics Learning Journey.pdf
Business Studies	Edexcel	📄 Purple Ruler Business Studies Scheme of Work	📄 Business Studies Learning Journey.pdf
Computer Science	OCR	📄 Purple Ruler Computer Science Scheme of Work	📄 Computer Science Learning Journey.pdf
PSHE	National Curriculum	📄 Purple Ruler PSHE Scheme of Work	📄 PSHE Learning Journey.pdf
Digital Functional Skills	National Curriculum/NOCN	📄 Purple Ruler Digital Functional Skills Scheme of Work	📄 Digital Functional Skills Learning Journey.pdf
Physical Education		📄 Purple Ruler Physical Education Scheme of Work	📄 Physical Education Learning Journey.pdf
Careers Guidance			

Appendix 3: Core Subjects Schedule

Option 1:

	Monday	**Tuesday**	**Wednesday**	**Thursday**	**Friday**
8:30		Science			PE
9:30	English	Maths	English	Maths	
10:30	Break				
11:00	Science		PSHE	English	Science
12:00			Maths		
13:00	Lunch				
14:00					
15:00					

Option 2:

	Monday	**Tuesday**	**Wednesday**	**Thursday**	**Friday**
8:30		Maths	Maths	Maths	PE
9:30	Science	Science			Science
10:30	Break				
11:00			PSHE		
12:00	English		English	English	
13:00	Lunch				
14:00					
15:00					

Appendix 4: Assessment Map

🔲 Assessment Map Year 10 - 11

Appendix 5: Assessment Plan

📄 Assessment Description