

An Introduction to Child Development

Intent

Child Development at The Abbey School sets out to inspire students to consider a career in the early years sector, or other related sectors where knowledge of child development is relevant. We aim to give students an opportunity to acquire some of the knowledge and understanding identified by employers as the building blocks for future competence in the workplace.

Topics studied in Key Stage 4 are studied again in more rigorous detail in Key Stage 5. This allows students to build upon their prior knowledge to become resilient, independent and enquiring learners who are highly motivated to achieve their full potential. Students are encouraged to develop and use a range of skills including literacy, numeracy and ICT through various tasks and assignments, to prepare them for further study or employment in this sector. Specialist vocabulary is taught to extend students' knowledge, understanding and link to careers.

Implementation

As part of the department planning process, teachers need to plan the following opportunities to ensure consistent implementation of pedagogy and policy across the department we offer the following:

- A knowledge organiser which outlines knowledge (including vocabulary) that all children must master
- A group of lessons for each topic, which carefully plans for progression and depth; moving from Pass to Merit and distinction
- A short topic test to ensure understanding
- Challenge questions for pupils to apply their learning in a philosophical/open manner
- Trips and visits from experts who will enhance the learning experience
- Quality assurance through standardisation within the department
- Regular training to keep up to date with changes to BTEC specifications

Impact

Childcare professionals are critical to the infrastructure of today's economy and without them millions of working parents would not be able to work.

Our Child Development curriculum is planned to demonstrate progression. If students are keeping up with the curriculum they will work through the criteria for BTEC of Pass, Merit and Distinction and will gain good or better progress.

The impact of the curriculum is measured through:

- Students meeting the BTEC criteria of Pass, Merit, Distinction
- A celebration of learning for each term which demonstrates progression across the school
- Tracking of knowledge in end of topic tests
- Pupil discussions about their learning
- Outcomes post KS4 and KS5 – many students move onto University/apprenticeships within the child care sector.