



Hillcrest School Cramlington



The Bridge Policy

Date established by Governing Body:	September 2021
Date for Full Implementation:	September 2021
Policy Ref No:	SP – Bridge
Approved by:	Chair of Governors, Head Teacher
Date:	September 2021
Review Frequency:	Annually
Last Reviewed Date:	22/11/2022
Next Review due by:	September 2023



The 6th Form/Bridge - Preparing for Adulthood Policy

The 6th Form/Bridge provision is located in a self-contained lodge to promote independence and to meet the needs of young people with many different needs, including social, emotional and behavioural needs.

Students attend The 6th Form/Bridge from the age of 15 to 17 (Year 11 & 12). Our aim is to prepare our students for life beyond Hillcrest School. The 6th Form/Bridge journey helps to prepare our students for adulthood by giving them the skills and confidence that they will require for the future. During their time in The 6th Form/Bridge, students are given various opportunities to realise their full potential and prepare them for the future.

In The 6th Form/Bridge, the emphasis of the curriculum is on life skills and preparing our students for the future. Therefore, we provide a wide ranging curriculum to cater for the needs of all students and their additional needs. The majority of the curriculum is accredited and all students are provided with the opportunity to develop their achievements at a pace that is appropriate to the individual.

Independent living skills are embedded in our curriculum and through activities in the Lodge such as our joint lunches where students plan, purchase and cook a lunchtime meal on a budget. Independent travel opportunities are a key focus and students are supported in developing these vital skills.

All students either currently have an EHCP. Transition planning is built into revised EHCP's.

Support is focused on the young person's aspirations and the following outcomes:

- Exploring different employment and further education options
- Independent living skills including independent travel
- Participating in society
- Being healthy and happy

Positive links between home and school are imperative. There are various opportunities to develop this relationship in a formal setting.

- Regular phone calls home
- Multi-disciplinary meetings
- Parents' evenings



This is also supported in a less formal setting such as:

- Our community café
- Whole school events such as School Fayres and Sports Day

*** Please note that this was restricted due to Covid - we are now in the process of developing these initiatives.*

There is a focus throughout The 6th Form/Bridge on aspirations for the future. This is supported in a variety of ways:

- Individual pathways set with the student
- Regular review of pathways
- Regular involvement of the family
- Relevant work experience opportunities
- Regular college visits to explore options
- Varied curriculum
- Impartial Careers advice

Work experience is essential to give students the opportunity to experience different work placements as well as giving them a taste of the life of work. We aim to provide opportunities that match student aspirations. Previously we have run a community café at the Lodge which offered a fantastic opportunity for students to learn about working in a team and the various skills that go along with running a café. The 6th Form/Bridge also ran a hot drinks service for staff which develops functional English and Maths skills alongside developing communication, problem solving and forward planning skills. Our maintenance group worked alongside the school caretaker to develop and improve the school environment. Projects have included clearing and tidying the The 6th Form/Bridge area, organising the bungalow and reupholstering chairs.

***These opportunities were limited due to Covid restrictions - new initiatives are currently being set up.*

This year The 6th Form/Bridge have developed links with The Hope Centre where pupils have the opportunity to volunteer in the foodbank and the clothes bank. This is a positive link which we hope to develop further in the future.

The ultimate aim of our The 6th Form/Bridge is to offer as many opportunities to our young people to help prepare them for the next stage of their life journey. Our holistic approach ensures that all individuals are supported in the best possible way to allow them to reach their full potential.