



Athena Learning Trust Trust-wide Curriculum Policy

Review

Reviewed on: 31st October 2022

Reviewed by: Board

Review Period: 3 years



ATHENA
LEARNING TRUST

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PART A

1.1. Application

This Athena Learning Trust Strategic Policy applies to the Athena Learning Trust as a whole and to all the schools and service units in the Trust. The Athena Learning Trust, including all the schools and services within the Trust, their Trustees, governors and staff, must abide by this Athena Learning Trust Curriculum Policy.

It is the responsibility of the governing body and Principal of each school, and the Board of Trustees and CEO for Trust shared services, to ensure that their school/service and its staff adhere to this Athena Learning Trust Curriculum Policy.

This Athena Learning Trust Curriculum Policy applies to the Athena Learning Trust as a whole and to all the schools in the Trust and the Trust Shared Service.

The Athena Learning Trust, including all the schools, their Trustees, governors and staff, must abide by this Athena Learning Trust Curriculum Policy.

This Policy is subject to the Trust's Scheme of Delegation for Governance Functions. If there is any ambiguity or conflict then the Scheme of Delegation and any specific alteration or restriction to the Scheme approved by the Board of Trustees takes precedence.

In implementing this policy and associated policies and procedures the governing body, Principal and school staff, and Trust Shared Service staff, must take account of any advice or instruction given to them by the Athena Learning Trust CEO, appropriate Athena Learning Trust Director of Education or Board of Trustees.

Where appropriate policies and procedures relating to Trustees, governors and/or governance have been approved by the Board of Trustees, they override relevant references to governors within these policies and procedures.

If there is any question or doubt about the interpretation or implementation of this Policy, the Athena Learning Trust Directors of Education or Athena Learning Trust CEO should be consulted.

1.2. Approval and review

Maintenance of this Policy is the responsibility of the Athena Learning Trust Director of Education.

This Policy was approved by the Board of Trustees on: 31 October 2022

This Policy is due for review by: October 2025.

1.3. Terminology

The Trust means the Athena Learning Trust (Athena Learning Trust).

- School means a school within the Athena Learning Trust.
- Principal means the Principal or principal of the school.
- CEO means the chief executive officer of the Athena Learning Trust.
- Trust Shared Service means staff employed by the Trust to provide central or Trust-wide services, as distinct from staff employed to work in a specific school or schools
- Governors and Trustees includes governors, Trustees, non-governor members of Trust Committees and members of the Trust Panel.
- Governing body means the committee of the Board of Trustees to which Trustees have delegated appropriate powers and functions relating to the governance of the school.

In this policy references to the Athena Learning Trust will be read as including the Athena Learning Trust shared service and all schools in the Athena Learning Trust.

1.4. Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the Principal of each school, and Athena Learning Trust CEO for the Trust Shared Service, to ensure that their school/service and its staff adhere to this Athena Learning Trust Curriculum Policy.

1.5. Policies and procedures

The following Trust policies and their associated procedures are directly related to and complement this Athena Learning Trust Curriculum Policy:

- School Curriculum Statement
- School Relationships and Sex Education Policy
- School Early Years Foundation Stage Statement (for primary schools)
- School Careers Guidance Access Statement (for secondary schools)

PART B

1. Context

The school curriculum comprises all learning and other experiences that each school plans for its pupils. The development and implementation of the school curriculum is the responsibility of the Principal; the school curriculum must serve the interests of all its students, and must comply with this Trust policy and with appropriate DfE legislation and guidance

2. Trust School Curriculum policies

All schools in the Athena Learning Trust must adopt and maintain a curriculum that is in accordance with this Policy, with appropriate DfE legislation and guidance, and serves the interests of all its students.

Each school must offer a curriculum which is balanced and broadly based and which:

- promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society; and
- prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

(Academies are required to ‘offer a broad and balanced curriculum’ under Section 1 of the 2010 Academies Act.)

The National Curriculum forms one part of the school curriculum; whilst, as academies, Trust schools are not formally required to follow the National Curriculum, Trust schools must take account of the National Curriculum in planning their own school curriculum, and have regard to it as ‘good practice’.

All Trust schools must:

- make provision for personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE), drawing on good practice.

- teach relationship and sex education to pupils, taking account of DfE guidance on sex and relationship education.
- make provision for a daily act of collective worship and must teach religious education to pupils at every key stage.

Schools are free to include other subjects or topics of their choice in planning and designing their own programme of education.

The following information must be clearly set out in the school's agreed curriculum statement and published on the school website:

- the school's approach to the curriculum.
- the content of the school's curriculum for each subject in relation to each academic year.
- In relation to Key Stage 1: the names of any phonics or reading schemes in operation.
- In relation to Key Stage 4: a list of the courses provided that lead to a GCSE qualification and list of other courses offered at Key Stage 4 and the qualifications that may be acquired.
- In relation to Key Stage 5: a list of the courses provided that lead to an A level qualification and list of other courses offered at Key Stage 5 and the qualifications that may be acquired.

The school must also publish on its website details about how additional information relating to the curriculum may be obtained. (In accordance with DfE guidance and the terms of the Academy Trust Handbook and Athena Learning Trust Funding Agreements.)