

# Whole School Curriculum Policy

INTENT IMPLEMENTATION AND IMPACT



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| <b>Approved by:</b> | Diane Anderson |
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| <b>Next review due by:</b> | October 2027 |
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# FreshSteps Independent School Curriculum Overview

## Introduction

FreshSteps Independent School provides an alternative and adapted curriculum for pupils with special educational needs. We recognise that many of our pupils have faced challenges in their education prior to joining FreshSteps, which have significantly impacted their academic progress, as well as their social, emotional, and mental health.

The COVID-19 pandemic added an additional layer of challenge for all pupils, deeply affecting wellbeing and learning. In response, our curriculum has been continually updated to meet pupils' varying needs, with a strong emphasis on promoting a healthier state of mind, rebuilding confidence, and re-engaging learners.

## Our Approach During and After COVID-19

Throughout the pandemic, FreshSteps provided a broad and varied curriculum designed to maintain a sense of normality while supporting pupils' holistic development.

- **Live Online Learning:** Delivered across all subjects, including fitness/PE.
- **Flexibility & Personalisation:** Pupils were supported at their point of need, often through off-timetable sessions or therapeutic environments such as the Wellbeing Room.
- **Therapeutic Support:** Provision of Lego therapy, time-out spaces, and pastoral care.
- **Extended Wellbeing Curriculum:** Introduction of a school football team to encourage social interaction and teamwork.
- **Holiday Enrichment:** Easter and summer schemes, funded by the DfE, provided additional opportunities for learning and socialisation.

## Curriculum Aims

Our curriculum is designed to re-engage pupils with learning and equip them with the knowledge, skills, and confidence they need to succeed in school and beyond.

We aim to:

- Provide an **alternative personalised curriculum** that is accessible to all.
- Deliver a **Covid catch-up programme** to address gaps in learning.
- Offer a **wellbeing programme** that promotes resilience, confidence, and positive mental health.
- Prioritise **core skills** in reading, writing, communication, science, and maths, supported by targeted interventions.

- Raise attainment through **ambitious teaching** that meets pupils where they are and challenges them to progress.
- Support behaviour and social development through **structured interventions** and strategies.
- Develop creativity, artistic expression, and a love for sports as part of a balanced education.
- Encourage pupils' **social, moral, cultural, and spiritual growth** as members of the school and wider community in modern Britain.
- Prepare pupils for the **next phase of learning and adult life** by building independence and functional life skills.
- Promote **wellbeing, healthy living, and safety** across all aspects of school life.

## **Key Features of the Curriculum**

### **1. Academic Foundations**

We recognise that many pupils join us performing below expected levels. Intervention programmes are rigorous and targeted, enabling pupils to make meaningful progress in core academic skills.

### **2. Therapeutic & Pastoral Support**

Pastoral systems empower pupils to overcome barriers and rekindle a love of learning. Therapeutic spaces and structured interventions support behaviour, self-regulation, and emotional resilience.

### **3. Creativity & Enrichment**

We provide enrichment activities, project-based learning days, and opportunities for pupil voice, encouraging learners to take responsibility for their school community and decision-making.

### **4. Staff Training & Support**

We ensure our staff have access to high-quality training and professional development, enabling them to meet the diverse needs of our pupils effectively.

## **Principles**

- Provide an alternative personalised curriculum accessible to all.
- Prioritise academic catch-up and wellbeing post-Covid.
- Raise attainment with ambitious, inclusive teaching.
- Embed sports, creativity, and enrichment to develop the whole child.
- Promote resilience, independence, and skills for lifelong success

The FreshSteps curriculum is **broad, personalised, and ambitious**, designed not only to close academic gaps but also to promote wellbeing, resilience, and a love of learning.

# Covid Catch-Up Curriculum

## Intent

The pandemic placed a significant strain on pupils' learning, emotional wellbeing, and ability to thrive in classroom settings. The intent of the **Covid Catch-Up Curriculum** is to bridge the learning gaps caused by missed face-to-face education, while also addressing the increased mental health challenges pupils faced.

Although FreshSteps provided daily live online learning in all subjects, including PE, many pupils struggled with the transition back into routines. Our catch-up programme is designed to ensure pupils re-engage academically, emotionally, and socially.

## Provision

Catch-up takes place **during the school day, after school, and through Easter and summer holiday programmes.**

### Academic Interventions

- Reading and spelling support
- Exam catch-up sessions
- Handwriting programmes
- Fitness and PE
- Use of high-quality online learning tools (Prodigy, Seneca, Reading Eggs) in English, Literacy, Science, and Maths

### Wellbeing & Social Development

- Easter University programme combining classroom learning and wellbeing activities
- First-ever summer school (blended learning + social emotional development)
- Early intervention afterschool clubs, including interschool football competitions
- Pastoral care to support mental health and successful reintegration

These provisions ensure pupils access both **academic recovery** and **emotional resilience-building** opportunities.

## Implementation

The school is currently organised into **eight teaching groups**, ensuring age-appropriate and needs-based provision:

- 1 × Nurture class
- 1 x Key Stage 1 class
- 1 × Key Stage 2 classes
- 3 × Key Stage 3 classes
- 2 × Key Stage 4 class
- 1 × Vocational Year 11 group
- 1 × Post-16 class

- 4 x Apprenticeships training in Teaching Assistant and Sports Leadership-these are pupils who have remained with the school post 16 education

## Differentiation & Personalisation

FreshSteps delivers an alternative curriculum that is flexible, engaging, and tailored to individual pupil needs.

- Pupils are grouped by **aptitude and need**, not just age.
- Lessons are well-planned and differentiated to maximise progress for all, regardless of ability or disability.
- Enrichment and collaborative opportunities are designed around individual strengths, aptitudes, and learning styles.
- Early recognition that some pupils continue to benefit from online learning has helped sustain engagement and success.

The Covid Catch-Up Curriculum at FreshSteps blends **targeted academic interventions**, **wellbeing programmes**, and **personalised approaches** to ensure pupils recover lost learning, build resilience, and re-establish routines for long-term success.

## Nurture curriculum

At FreshSteps, our **Nurture Group** provides tailored support for a small group of six pupils with additional needs. The group is designed to offer a **safe, structured, and nurturing environment** where pupils can build confidence and essential life skills at their own pace.

Learning takes place through **play-based activities**, which help pupils develop:

- **Routines and structure** for daily school life.
- **Social skills**, including sharing, turn-taking, and communication.
- **Emotional regulation** supported by trusted adults in a calm setting.
- **Independence and basic self-care skills**.

Through guided play, creative tasks, and consistent routines, pupils are supported to feel secure, re-engage with learning, and make progress in both their **academic development** and **personal growth**. The nurture group acts as a bridge to wider school life, helping pupils' transition successfully into the classroom and beyond.

## Impact

The Nurture Group has had a **measurable impact** on pupils' confidence, behaviour, and readiness to learn. Pupils who previously struggled with transitions are now able to follow routines with greater independence. Staff report improved communication, better social interaction, and increased participation in whole-class activities. Parents have also noted progress in pupils' confidence and willingness to engage outside of school. As a result, pupils are better prepared to access the wider curriculum and achieve success in line with their individual targets.

## Primary and Secondary Curriculum Overview

### Primary Phase (Key Stage 1 & 2)

In the Primary phase, teaching focuses on **building strong foundations in literacy and numeracy** through:

- **Daily phonics interventions** and guided reading.
- **Power Maths scheme** and ICT resources such as Reading Eggs, Mathletics, and Prodigy.
- **Rising Stars literacy intervention scheme** to boost attainment.
- **Letters and sounds reading scheme**

Pupils also study **Science, RSHE, DT, and ICT**, with ICT embedded across all subjects. PLAN BEE science is used to raise attainment.

Wellbeing, safety, and healthy living are promoted through science, RHE, ICT, and structured play. In line with updated RSE guidance, pupils learn about:

- Families and caring relationships
- Friendships and respect
- Online safety
- Sex education (preparing for adolescence, conception, and birth)

Physical development is central, with **PE lessons tailored to needs**, plus weekly **boxing and horse-riding sessions**. Daily use of outdoor spaces supports structured play and social interaction.

### Year 6 Transition – “Primadery”

The **Primadery transition phase** bridges Year 6 to Year 7. During the summer term, pupils experience aspects of secondary life while still benefiting from a nurturing primary environment. This year-long transition equips them for Year 8 and involves parents and the wider school community.

### Secondary Phase (Key Stage 3, 4, 5 & Sixth Form)

#### Tutorial Programme

Introduced in September 2022 as part of the Covid catch-up and wellbeing strategy, the daily **tutorial programme (9:00–9:15am)** provides:

- A safe space with a known adult to check equipment, raise concerns, and provide pastoral support.
- Activities such as **Black History curriculum** and **SMSC enrichment**.
- Early intervention for pupils arriving hungry, stressed, or unsettled, ensuring a positive start to learning.

## English and Mathematics Curriculum

### English

English at FreshSteps emphasises **equal opportunities, independence, and collaboration**, with a focus on speaking and listening, reading, and writing. Lessons are interactive and cross-curricular, often linking with Science and PSHE, while also exploring moral and ethical issues.

#### Aims

Pupils will learn to:

- Communicate confidently, effectively, and appropriately.
- Express themselves creatively and imaginatively.
- Become critical readers of a range of texts.
- Use reading to strengthen writing skills.
- Understand patterns, structures, and conventions of written and spoken English.
- Recognise how language relates to identity and cultural diversity.
- Adapt speech and writing to suit different contexts and audiences.

#### Curriculum Pathways

- **Upper Key Stage 3:** Entry Level Functional Skills.
- **Key Stage 4 & Post-16:** Functional Skills Levels 1–2 or GCSE English (AQA).
- **Post-16:** AQA Unit Award Scheme certificates.
- **Post 16 Apprenticeships linked with Hertfordshire regional college**

#### Enrichment & Support

- Literacy and Homework Clubs.
- After-school and holiday revision sessions.
- Saturday School exam preparation.
- Educational trips for all key stages.
- ICT-based resources including BBC Bitesize and Reading Eggs.

### Mathematics

The aim of mathematics at FreshSteps is to help pupils develop **confidence, enjoyment, and progression** in the subject, while also gaining skills essential for everyday life, financial literacy, and future employment.

#### Curriculum Pathways

- **Upper Key Stage 3:** Entry Level Functional Skills.
- **Key Stage 4 & Post-16:** Functional Skills Levels 1–2 or GCSE Mathematics (AQA).
- **Post-16:** AQA Unit Award Scheme certificates (supporting GCSE preparation or independent living skills).

## Mathematics Curriculum – Enrichment & Financial Literacy

### Enrichment & Support

Mathematics at FreshSteps goes beyond the classroom, with a range of enrichment opportunities designed to strengthen confidence, problem-solving, and enjoyment of the subject:

- Educational trips for all key stages.
- Maths clubs and competitions.
- After-school and holiday revision sessions.
- ICT-based, interactive learning with tools such as **BBC Skill wise, BBC Bitesize, Cool Math, Kahoot, and Prodigy**.

These activities ensure pupils engage with mathematics in creative, collaborative, and practical ways, reinforcing classroom learning and preparing them for future success.

### Financial Literacy Programme

FreshSteps places a strong emphasis on **financial literacy and real-world application** of mathematics. This ensures pupils gain essential skills for independence, employment, and adult life.

- Pupils learn to reason mathematically, solve practical problems, and appreciate the power and relevance of mathematics in everyday contexts.
- A strong focus is placed on building **confidence** and overcoming the misconception that “maths is too difficult.” Pupils are encouraged to “talk maths” and see it as another language they *can* speak.
- The curriculum combines **AQA Unit Awards** with practical “real maths” approaches, helping pupils apply knowledge to real-life scenarios.

### Money Wise Lessons

FreshSteps has introduced the **Dot Fire Money Wise Game**, a 10-lesson, game-based financial and digital literacy programme for **KS2, KS3, and KS4**.

- Pupils explore money management and consumer skills in an engaging, hands-on way.
- The approach integrates financial literacy with the aims of the National Curriculum, ensuring mathematics is **relevant, applied, and enjoyable**.

Mathematics at FreshSteps develops not only the skills needed for progression and qualifications but also an **enthusiasm and fascination for maths itself**. By linking learning to real-life contexts, financial education, and interactive enrichment, the curriculum builds confidence, curiosity, and independence for every pupil.



## Curriculum Overview – Subject Areas

### Science

Science at FreshSteps helps pupils understand the **changing world** around them while encouraging responsibility towards the environment. Lessons develop curiosity about how science underpins careers in engineering, medicine, computing, and technology.

- **Key Stage 3:** Alternative programme aligned with National Curriculum, covering biology, chemistry, and physics. Pupils learn through enquiry and practical activities.
- **Key Stage 4 & Post-16:** Functional Skills (Levels 1–2), GCSE Science (AQA), and AQA Unit Award Scheme.
- **Enhancements:** Practical experiments, group activities, quizzes, fieldwork, and trips (Science Museum, ecological studies, Coca-Cola factory), Science Club, and online tools (BBC Bitesize, Kahoot).

### Design & Technology

DT equips pupils for life in a **technological and multicultural society**, with strong emphasis on sustainability and creativity.

- **Key Stage 3:** Focus on materials, properties, design and making, and ethical issues.
- **Key Stage 4 & Post-16:** GCSE DT (AQA), BTEC, or Unit Award Scheme.
- **Enhancements:** Hands-on projects, CAD/CAM, DT Club, trips, and online tools (BBC Bitesize, technologystudent.com, Mr DT). Pupils study design eras, famous designers, and artists (e.g. Banksy).

### PSHE & RSE

PSHE develops skills in **reflection, decision-making, managing risk, and relationships**. Lessons also address community and safeguarding concerns.

- **Themes:** Goals, equality, safety, health, wellbeing, relationships, child-on-child abuse, sexual harassment, gang violence, CSE, and CCE.
- **Qualifications:** AQA QCF Award in PSHE (Entry 2–Level 2), AQA Unit Awards, and post-16 AQA courses.
- **Enhancements:** Workshops with Enfield community nurse, interactive group work, ICT, external speakers, and trips.

### ICT

ICT builds the **skills pupils need for learning, life, and work**, with an emphasis on safety and critical thinking.

- **Skills:** Using ICT, selecting information, developing/presenting/communicating data.
- **Activities:** Word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, multimedia design, databases, and online research.
- **Qualifications:** Functional Skills ICT (Entry 1–Level 2, OCR), AQA Unit Awards, and post-16 AQA ICT courses.

- **Enhancements:** Well-equipped ICT suite, ICT Club, after-school support, trips, external ICT specialists, and online programmes (Thinkuknow, BBC Bitesize).

## Physical Education (PE)

PE at FreshSteps improves **health, behaviour, teamwork, and wellbeing**.

- **Provision:** Weekly PE, football coaching (Tottenham Hotspur Foundation), horse riding, boxing, gym fitness, and swimming (summer).
- **Enhancements:** Specialist coaches, external facilities, and personalised fitness programmes.

## Sports Leadership Courses (KS4/5)

At FreshSteps, pupils in **KS4 and KS5 with additional needs** are offered the opportunity to take part in **Sports Leadership courses**, including the *Level 2 Sports Leader Award*. These courses are carefully adapted to meet pupils' individual needs and focus on developing **independence, confidence, and leadership skills**.

Through practical, hands-on activities such as planning and leading small group sessions, organising games, and supporting younger pupils, students build essential skills in:

- **Communication and teamwork**
- **Decision-making and problem-solving**
- **Self-management and responsibility**

Staff provide structured guidance, modelling, and encouragement to ensure pupils feel supported, while also giving them space to take ownership of their roles.

## Impact

Pupils demonstrate increased **self-belief, maturity, and resilience**, showing pride in their ability to lead others. Many transfer these skills into wider school life and work experience placements, strengthening their readiness for further education, employment, and independent living.

## Duke of Edinburgh Outdoor Programme (Essex)

At FreshSteps, pupils in **KS3, KS4, and KS5** take part in the **Duke of Edinburgh outdoor programme in Essex**, which provides unique opportunities to develop personal growth beyond the classroom. Pupils engage in a wide range of activities including **archery, rock climbing, orienteering, and team challenges**, all designed to build confidence and life skills.

The programme focuses on teaching pupils how to:

- Work effectively as part of a team.
- Build **resilience** and independence.
- Strengthen **listening and communication skills**.
- Face and **overcome their fears** in a supportive environment.

Through these experiences, pupils learn perseverance, responsibility, and leadership while developing a strong sense of achievement. The programme has a lasting impact, preparing pupils for future challenges in education, employment, and life.

### **Impact Highlight:**

Pupils who once lacked confidence now demonstrate resilience, teamwork, and leadership through the Duke of Edinburgh programme. Many have overcome personal fears, showing greater independence and a willingness to take on new challenges both in and out of school.

## **Geography & History (KS3)**

Pupils study geography and history to gain **technical skills, theory, and real-world understanding**.

- Topics include:
  - Rivers, rocks, plate tectonics, weather, climate, ecosystems, and Africa.
  - Local area studies, identity, and diversity.
- Skills developed: Data handling, critical analysis, and awareness of people–environment relationships.

FreshSteps provides a **broad and balanced curriculum** where Science, DT, PSHE, ICT, PE, and Humanities are taught in ways that are **practical, enriched, and linked to real-life contexts**. This approach builds pupils' knowledge, curiosity, and independence, preparing them for life beyond school.

## **History, Drama & Black British History Curriculum**

### **History**

History at FreshSteps develops pupils' understanding of **Britain, its past, and the wider world**. Lessons encourage critical thinking, broaden perspectives, and help pupils explore identity and diversity.

#### **Aims:**

- Improve historical knowledge and listening skills.
- Understand the complexity of people's lives, social change, and diversity of societies.
- Explore British history including the monarchy, the history of London, and Shakespeare.
- Develop enquiry skills and broaden viewpoints through discussion and analysis.

History provides pupils with a strong foundation in **chronology, change, cause and consequence**, and builds appreciation of cultural heritage and national identity.

## Drama

Drama is used across phases to develop **creativity, confidence, communication, and collaboration**. Pupils explore emotions, ideas, and social issues through role play, performance, and reflection.

### Primary (KS1 & KS2):

- Play-based learning, imaginative role play, and collaborative exploration.
- Strategies: tableau, freeze frame, hot seating, thought tracking, conscience alley.
- Pupils develop observation, movement, voice, and improvisation skills.
- SMSC is embedded through storytelling and re-enactments.

### Key Stage 3:

- Builds on primary skills with more structured activities.
- Pupils develop vocal/movement sophistication, script work, and polished improvisation.
- Strategies: tableau, freeze frame, hot seating, thought tracking, conscience alley.
- Drama supports personal growth by building empathy, confidence, and teamwork.

SMSC is embedded through storytelling and re-enactments.

### Key Stage 4:

- Pupils participate in **termly plays and performances**, involving the **whole school community**.
- Productions are shared with **parents and friends**, building collaboration across year groups and fostering community spirit.
- Drama at this stage deepens pupils' performance skills and their ability to present to wider audiences.

### Impact:

Drama enhances **SMSC development**, builds self-expression, empathy, and resilience, and supports cross-curricular themes (e.g. ethics in DT, debate in science, and social issues in PSHE).

## Black British History

At FreshSteps, **Black British History** is embedded in **tutorial sessions and PSHE**, highlighting the experiences, challenges, and contributions of black migrants and leaders.

### Course Content (33 lessons):

- Empire Windrush and black migration to Britain.
- Jobs, opportunities, and struggles of early migrants.
- Anti-black violence and civil rights struggles.
- Claudia Jones and the birth of Carnival.
- Cultural influence through music, arts, and mainstream society.
- Contemporary black British influencers and their contributions to modern culture.

This curriculum ensures pupils develop an understanding of the **impact of black communities on British history and culture**, promoting diversity, equality, and respect.

- **History** develops knowledge, enquiry, and cultural awareness.
- **Drama** nurtures creativity, communication, and life skills through active, imaginative learning.
- **Black British History** ensures diversity and representation are celebrated and understood within the curriculum.

## Interventions, Core & Vocational Curriculum (KS4 & Post-16)

### Drama & Performance

- **Qualifications:** AQA Level 1–2 Drama or Certificates, CCEA Certificate in Performance Skills (Levels 1–2).
- **Structure:** Three core units – *Working in the Performing Arts*, *Developing Performance Skills*, *Rehearsing & Performing*.
- **Assessment:** Evidence-based portfolio + final performance (internally assessed and externally moderated). Differentiated workbooks available for pupils with additional needs.
- **KS4 Drama:** Includes **termly plays** and **whole-school performances** for parents and the wider community, encouraging collaboration across year groups.
- **AQA Drama Pathways:** Acting or Design (lighting, sound, costume, set). Students develop creative ideas, collaborate on devised and scripted work, and study social, historical, and cultural influences.

### Vocational Courses (Post-16)

FreshSteps provides a **broad vocational offer** to prepare pupils for further study or employment:

- **On-site options:** Textiles/fashion design, hair & beauty, hospitality and catering, nails & manicure, music technology.
- **Sports programmes:** Gymnastics, cheerleading, boxing, UEFA football programme.
- **Sports leadership courses**
- **Community-based hubs:** Partnerships with providers such as Edmonton Eagles Boxing Club.
- **Core subjects** (Maths, English, Science, PSHE, Drama, History, Geography) remain delivered at the main site.
- **Apprenticeships, Sports and Teaching Assistants**

### Interventions for Academic Progress

Targeted support ensures pupils catch up and thrive:

- One-to-one support in class.
- Specialised reading, literacy, and numeracy programmes. (Monday and Wednesday)
- Targeted group literacy/numeracy lessons.
- Multi-sensory phonics and reading schemes.
- Catch-up lessons in Maths, English, and Science.
- Speech & language therapy.
- **Easter University** for exam preparation.
- After-school and holiday revision classes.

### Enrichment & Specific Learning Days

Dedicated days and clubs enhance learning and wellbeing:

- **Themed Days:** Careers & Aspirations, Online Safety, Literacy, Numeracy, Anti-bullying.
- **Clubs:** Lego, Media, Music, Board Games, Drama, DT, ICT, Football, Covid Catch-up.
- **Trips:** Educational visits, fieldwork, museums, historical sites, and rewards days.

## Careers & Work Experience

A structured programme prepares pupils for the world of work:

- Careers education begins in Year 7, supported by PSHE.
- Careers advisors visit monthly (KS4/5).
- Year 11 pupils receive individual interviews and follow-up guidance.
- Opportunities include:
  - 1–2 weeks' work experience.
  - Group/individual sessions with advisors.
  - Aspirational days and subject-led careers sessions.

## Additional Curriculum Areas

### Music

- Delivered by a trained music teacher.
- Combines **skills development and therapeutic benefits**.
- Pupils can pursue grades/certificates in instruments (piano, keyboard, drums, bongos).
- Enrichment includes singing, lyric writing, podcasting, radio, and lunchtime music clubs.

### Catering, hospitality & Life Skills

- Pupils learn to prepare meals safely, follow recipes, and understand nutrition.
- Skills include table setting, weighing ingredients, and budgeting for shopping.
- Improve cooking skills around healthy eating
- Learn customer service skills

### Languages

- Secondary pupils offered **Spanish after-school club** for communication, cultural awareness, and confidence in oracy.

### Therapeutic Curriculum

- Weekly activities include horse-riding, boxing, Lego therapy, play therapy, art therapy, mentoring, music therapy, swimming, and the **Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award**.
- Designed to support social, emotional, and mental health alongside academic progress.

### SMSC & British Values

- Promoted through **assemblies, student voice sessions, and cross-curricular links**.
- Pupils learn respect, tolerance, and democratic participation.
- Student voice allows pupils to contribute to school decision-making.
- Outdoor trips (historical sites, places of worship, cultural visits) reinforce SMSC learning.
- Strong pastoral support ensures SMSC is lived out daily.

## Enterprise & Community

- Collaboration with Bush Hill Park Primary, Enfield Council, and actor Rudolph Walker.
- **Allotment project:** Secondary pupils mentor younger pupils while growing fruit, vegetables, and flowers, fostering responsibility, role-modelling, and community links.

FreshSteps offers a **broad, ambitious, and therapeutic curriculum at KS4 and Post-16**, combining interventions, core subjects, vocational pathways, and enrichment. Pupils leave with academic qualifications, life skills, and community values that prepare them for adulthood and the world of work.

## Curriculum Impact

### NEXUS Projects

FreshSteps has partnered with **NEXUS projects**, which have had a transformational impact on pupils' **confidence, social skills, and self-esteem**. Through initiatives such as "*Our Superpowers*", pupils have celebrated their disabilities as strengths, with performances filmed for Enfield Council. These projects empower pupils to find their voice and take pride in their uniqueness.

### Whole-School Outcomes

The impact of our curriculum is evident in the **academic, social, emotional, and behavioural progress** of pupils across all phases.

- Academic achievement and attendance have improved significantly, even for pupils who arrive well below expected levels.
- Behaviour, which became more challenging post-COVID, is now managed effectively through reflection time, therapeutic support, and the flexible curriculum.
- Pupils' **EHCPs demonstrate progress**, with targets regularly updated to reflect their growing independence and achievements.

### The Power of Drama

Drama has had an **outstanding impact** on confidence, communication, and wellbeing:

- Pupils who were once too shy to speak in lessons now take speaking roles in school plays.
- Benefits include improved speech and language, memory, listening skills, teamwork, and resilience.
- Productions such as *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (Primary), *Bugsy Malone* (Secondary), *The Lion King* (Whole School), *Christmas Show 2021*, and *The Jungle Book REMIIX* have engaged pupils, parents, and the community.
- Pupils' confidence and talent were recognised when FreshSteps won the **Rudolph Walker Inter-School Drama Award**, becoming the first SEN school to beat five mainstream schools at the Shaw Theatre.

## Wellbeing & Enrichment

Therapeutic and enrichment activities have enhanced **wellbeing and social development**:

- Swimming and horse-riding therapy have supported emotional regulation and resilience.
- Partnerships with local schools, such as Oasis Enfield, enable football matches that build community cohesion.
- The introduction of **three weekly assemblies** (SMSC, Whole School, and Student Voice) has boosted school morale, tolerance, confidence, and pupil voice.
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## Preparing for Life Beyond School

- Pupils now show enthusiasm for **work experience**, developing confidence to work alongside pupils from other schools.
- Attendance is excellent, reflecting pupils' increased engagement and sense of belonging.
- Many pupils are choosing to **remain at FreshSteps post-16**, demonstrating trust in the school's curriculum and provision.
- The creation of Apprenticeships in collaboration with Hertfordshire regional college (Hub provision) has allowed pupils with greater mental health needs to succeed through vocational and creative pathways, avoiding disengagement from education.

## Looking Forward (2025–2027)

FreshSteps will continue to expand its **creative, hands-on, and engaging curriculum**, ensuring it remains fit for purpose and continues to improve:

- **More vocational opportunities** for pupils who thrive in practical settings.
- **Stronger community partnerships** to enhance enrichment and employability.
- **Further embedding of wellbeing and therapeutic support** to meet post-COVID needs.
- **Further extended curriculum**
- **Introduction of a carousel of 3 Technology disciplines for KS3 and \$**

**In summary:** The FreshSteps curriculum has transformed pupils' outcomes. From academic progress to social confidence, from award-winning drama performances to thriving partnerships, our curriculum not only meets but exceeds its intent — preparing pupils to succeed in education, in their communities, and in life.



