Willow Vale School
Career Programme Strategy 2026/2027

Vision Statement

Be Safe – Be Kind - Belong

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Milestones and Learning Outcomes

Curriculum

Embedding employability skills, positive employer relationships through all the curriculum areas to ensure a positive experience for all students.

Students complete Careers Related Learning based on the six learning areas in the Careers Development Institution Framework.

CEIAG

Working jointly with an independent career's advisor, students attend careers appointment. They will discuss their career and/or educational aspirations looking at pathways, opportunities and further training, skills and qualifications needed. They will agree an action plan with the advisor which is shared with staff and family to support progress towards.

Employer Engagement

The encounters will be based on what employers are offering nationally, within their hometowns to ensure insight into the labour market and the opportunities that are available to our students.

Internal Experience of Work

Understanding the skills and disciplines, attitudes and attributes required to succeed in the world of work. Students work on AQA's in lessons

External Experience of Work

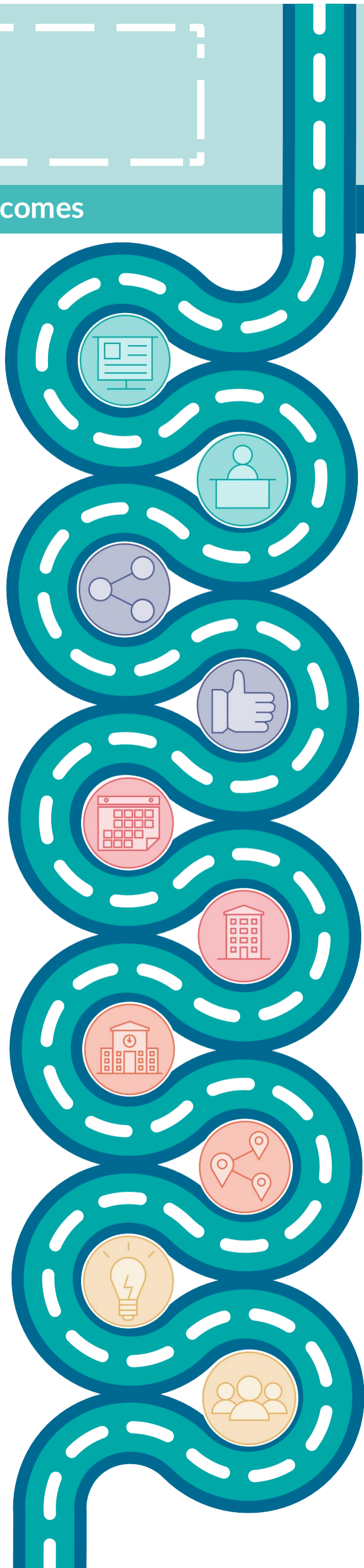
Students apply for work experience placements that best suit their interests and chosen pathway. They are supported to complete application forms and will take part in mock interviews.

Destinations

Measuring the impact of the careers programme. Supporting students and their parents/carers to understand career options and pathways available post 16. Working with external agencies to secure additional support for next steps

Parental involvement

Working collaboratively with parents/carers to ensure best outcomes for their young person. Responding to parent/carer feedback to ensure quality of provision.



Key Events and Experiences

Gatsby Benchmark 3 and 4

Support with key skills to help with future pathways Students will be supported with developing key skills or through a student's EHCP.

Students will undertake AQA'S. complete CVs and capture careers aspirations.

Gatsby Benchmark 8

External Careers Advice
All students will have 1:1 interviews with a qualified careers advisor from an external agency during year 11.

Gatsby Benchmark 5

Encounters with Employers and Employees
All students will be given the opportunity to learn from employers, this will be through a variety of activities such as employer talks, workplace visits, apprenticeship week, mock interviews and employer workshops. Each student will have at least three encounters a year.

Gatsby Benchmark 6

All students in years 10 and 11 will be offered work experience

There are also opportunities to gain work experience at external one-off events.

Alumni share experiences of workplaces.

Gatsby Benchmark 2 and 3

Destination data is collected for 5 years which supports us to measure the impact of the careers programme.

Staff will work with students and their parents/carers to explore career options and pathways available to secure a positive destination for each student.

Gatsby Benchmark 1

Parents/carers to attend the Parents evenings three times a year and discuss destinations.

Inspiring and preparing young people for the world of work.