

Curriculum Intent

Walsall Studio School is part of The Mercian Trust family of schools. In line with the curriculum expectations and overarching intent of The Mercian Trust, Walsall Studio School's curriculum is the realisation of our shared aspirations for all students.

The Mercian Trust – Statement of Intent

We are a family of schools committed to helping each other increase opportunities and improve outcomes for students throughout Walsall and the West Midlands conurbation.

Because of our schools' commitment to providing an expertly delivered ambitious curriculum our students will enjoy developing their knowledge, understanding and skill. We prioritise our efforts to address the social mobility generational failings for disadvantaged and vulnerable children, many of whom have special educational needs and/ or disabilities.

As a result of our commitment to improvement and innovation students in Mercian schools will be the highest academic achievers who will secure places at the very top universities, conservatoires and specialist colleges and those with the greatest practical aptitudes will secure technical vocational awards that are valued by employers and prepare them to progress onto apprenticeship pathways with flagship employers.

As a result of our commitment to each other, both staff and students will be physically and mentally healthy with the resilience, adaptability and values required to make good life choices and build successful personal and professional relationships. They will be the first to welcome people new to our local community and embrace opportunities to learn from different cultural experiences and from people with different religious faiths and beliefs.

Put simply, the staff and students in Mercian schools will live life to the full in the pursuit of what is good, right and true. In doing so they will realise their potential and make a positive contribution to their families and the local, national and international community.

Walsall Studio School – Statement of Intent

In addition to our commitment to fulfilling trust wide intent, our curriculum aims at Walsall Studio School are to:

Transform students into young professionals, equipped with the necessary knowledge, skills, experiences and professional attributes to progress onto their next stage of learning, and for many students, support progression into creative or health related industry.

Working alongside partner organisations, students experience deep, authentic and memorable learning experiences. By creating opportunities for students to immerse themselves in rich subject content and real-world scenarios, students are challenged to apply, refine and master their craft.

Our purpose is to prepare students for success in a fast moving and growing creative world. Through increasing opportunities for students to experience learning in an environment that fosters inspiration and aspiration, our expert staff and collaborative partnerships, challenge students in their academic, vocational and personal endeavours.

Walsall Studio School is a school that places great emphasis on personal growth and development, in a school and community where all are valued, and where tolerance, honesty, respect and co-operation are nurtured.

Our specialist curriculum provides advancement and opportunity for all. We provide a secure environment in which all our staff and students can flourish through our school's commitment to a

learning environment where all individuals see themselves reflected and feel a sense of belonging and equality.

In order to achieve this, our four-year student journey (14-19), is a continuous, progressive and inter-related development of **Knowledge, Skills, Experiences and Professional Attributes**, across an academic, vocational and pastoral curriculum.

Knowledge, Skills, Experiences and Professional Attributes

<p>Knowledge (What we want our students to know and understand)</p> <p>Head</p> 	<p>Walsall Studio School students are all entitled to become:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Experts – to know, understand and have mastered the key concepts, theories and questions related to, and arising from, each subject▪ Fluent – to build and use subject specific vocabulary▪ Inquirers – by providing opportunity for students to reflect on the nature and context of knowledge claims, and conduct thoughtful and purposeful inquiry into different ways of knowing and understanding▪ Open-minded – to understand and appreciate their own cultures and personal histories, and are open to the perspectives, values and traditions of other individuals and communities
<p>Professional Attributes (What we want our students to be like)</p> <p>Heart</p> 	<p>Walsall Studio School students are encouraged to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Motivated – to strive and be ambitious in all areas of their school life, therefore fulfilling their potential and becoming positive role models for other students▪ Aspirant – to have a strong sense of self-belief in order to set themselves ambitious but achievable goals that make them productive members of society▪ Gritty – to show resilience and determination, demonstrating independence and self-challenge in all areas of their lives▪ Independent – to self-regulate and show a sense of independence both in the classroom, our school, and local community▪ Collaborative – to develop professional relationships between peers, staff, industry, other schools and the wider community

<p>Skills (What we want our students to be able to do)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hand</p> 	<p>Walsall Studio School Students have opportunities for the development of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Craftsmanship – to design, create and exhibit authentic work with passion, care, and attention to the highest subject/ industry standard ▪ Competence – to develop a range of domain specific skills in their specialist subject areas, and to transfer these skills into a range of interdisciplinary contexts ▪ Communication – to communicate effectively, frequently and purposefully through different channels (including discussion, debate and questioning) and mediums (including digital platforms) ▪ Creativity – to find and develop connections between different ideas and domains of knowledge in order to solve problems and create authentic responses
<p>Experiences (What we want our students to have accessed and enjoyed)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Habitat</p> 	<p>Walsall Studio School students are given opportunities to experience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community – authentic responsibility in and/ or outside school, working together towards shared aims and values ▪ Action – an ambitious project which impacts on a wider audience than their peers ▪ Service – to access meaningful and extended opportunities to appreciate learning in a variety of contexts and environments that benefit others (community, industry or peers) ▪ Ambition – meaningful and extended opportunities to appreciate what Higher Education and employment have to offer ▪ Culture – visits and trips which are beyond their own life experience or those of their school ▪ Self-awareness – stretched by a range of experiences which challenge their view of themselves and their future