

Curriculum Strategy 2024-2027

1. Delivering the College Strategy

The College Strategy runs to 2030 with one strategic goal “To support the development of global sustainable citizens through residential adult education”. Our Curriculum Planning is a 3 year rolling process to support this. This is also in line with a 3 year funding settlement from WMCA.

2. Curriculum Planning

Our Curriculum Planning Cycle is set out in Appendix 1. It shows the links to Finance and Human Resources to ensure curriculum efficiency and financial sustainability. It also shows how Governors and the Management Team have oversight of the process. A key milestone is now approval of the Accountability Agreement in May. This sets out how the college’s curriculum contributes to meeting current skills needs with development objectives for the following year.

3. Planning Principles

In any year our Curriculum Planning will:

- Focus on disadvantage and those least likely to participate in education
- Deliver social and climate justice and create a College of Sanctuary
- Address the 3 domains in the College Strategy: Health and Wellbeing, Good Work and Community & Civic Engagement
- Fulfill our statutory duty to meet skills needs:
 - Take account of national policy and priorities
 - Meet regional priorities as set by WMCA and use their flexibilities
 - Identify and contribute to meeting the skills needs of 4 Stakeholder groups: Employers, Civic, Community and Education
- Specialise in a small number of priority vocational areas
- Enable progression internally and externally
- Maximise use and impact of residency and college grounds
- Ensure economy, efficiency, effectiveness
- Use funding for Skills and for Tailored Learning to achieve different objectives
- Draw down additional funding through full cost and project work

The scope of this document is the mainstream curriculum offer. Curriculum is also about embedding, enrichment and the environment, particularly in residential education. There are related plans for these including our transformational Teaching and Learning at Fircroft Framework, our Climate Action Plan and our Student Engagement Strategy.

4. Current Curriculum Objectives

Specific objectives for 2024/25:

1. Support the physical and mental health recovery to assist work/life progression
2. Support student progression into good employment
3. Supporting a sustainable transition, climate justice action and green skills
4. Reduce digital exclusion amongst our students
5. Extend our Leadership and Management offer to close the skills gap
6. Increase employer/wider stakeholder engagement in curriculum offer and course design

Specific objectives for 2025/26:

1. Support student progression into good employment
2. Support the physical and mental health recovery of adults in the West Midlands to assist work/life progression
3. Support a sustainable transition, climate justice action and green skills
4. Reduce digital exclusion amongst students through our curriculum offer
5. Increase employer/wider stakeholder engagement in curriculum offer and course design

Additional objectives to 2027 to be agreed

5. Curriculum modelling and monitoring

The next level of detail in curriculum planning is set out using 4Cast, WMCA delivery plans and a Curriculum Plan and timetable on Sharepoint. KPIs relevant to our Curriculum include average class size, retention and achievement, progression, learner feedback scores.

Curriculum Planning Cycle

Appendix 1

Month	Curriculum plan	Integration internal	Oversight internal & external	Monitoring, review and in year adjustment based on monthly MT dashboard and report on KPIs
Sept	Yr 1 set longer term objectives		MT review year end performance	R13 Analyse previous year KPIs/4Cast
Oct		Cascade annual objectives	Governors agree Curriculum Strategy	
Nov		SAR and QIP on Curriculum	Ed Cttee update on current year's offer and draft SAR	MT autumn review of KPIs Amend Jan-July offer Update risk register if applicable
Dec	Pull together partner and region needs	Consult Learner Voice	Full GB sign off SAR WMCA PRM. Growth discussion in year	R04 (to 1 st Nov)
Jan	Set out Curriculum intent for next year		MT discuss Curriculum Objectives	
Feb			Ed Cttee agree Curriculum Objectives for following year WMCA PRM. Growth next year	R06 (to 1 st Jan) MT spring review of KPIs Amend April-July offer Update risk register if applicable
Mar	Draft Curriculum profile to deliver expected allocation (LARs for longer, just volume for shorter)	Interactive modelling process with MIS on income 4Cast test for efficiencies	MT sign off draft profile and discuss Accountability objectives	
Apr		Contribution/Resources discussion leading to: Draft budget Fees HR business case for changes	Allocation Delivery plans to WMCA	
May	Draft Curriculum plan with titles Allocate tutors and remission		GB/Ed Cttee sign off Accountability Statement and Objectives for following year	
June	Final Curriculum plan distributed to tutor household Awarding bodies	Populate REMS and 4Cast		R10 (to 1 st May)
July	Confirm KPIs for next year	Express in annual strategic objectives		

