Curriculum Policy

Aim & Objectives

Since 1996, Nisai has supported students in the care of schools and local authorities across the United Kingdom. This support has expanded internationally to include collaboration with schools and governments focused on improving levels of English, providing for students with special educational needs (SEN), and addressing diverse learning profiles. A significant part of our work is supporting the re-engagement of children and young people with education.

In many cases, the challenges faced by learners in the UK are mirrored globally disrupted learning, barriers to access, and the need for flexible, meaningful education. Our offer has developed in direct response to these evolving needs, while remaining firmly aligned with the standards and expectations of the UK education system.

Nisai is approved by the Department for Education (DfE) in the UK to support post-16 SEN learners. Our model supports students through high-quality teaching, while enabling schools and government partners to monitor progress via data reporting and outcome tracking. Our goal is always to deliver positive and measurable outcomes.

Curriculum Structure

Nisai provides a broad and inclusive curriculum offer, covering Key Stages 3 to 5 (KS3–KS5) of the UK Secondary Curriculum. This includes a wide range of academic subjects, with a particular emphasis on the core subjects of English, Mathematics, and Science, which are available at all levels.

UK Curriculum Overview:

- **Key Stage 3 (KS3)** – Years 7 to 9 (ages 11–14): A broad, balanced curriculum including English, Maths, Science, Humanities, Computing, Art, and Languages.
- **Key Stage 4 (KS4)** – Years 10 to 11 (ages 14–16): Typically includes GCSE or equivalent qualifications in core and optional subjects.
- **Key Stage 5 (KS5)** – Years 12 to 13 (ages 16–18): Advanced study leading to A Levels, Functional Skills, or vocational qualifications.

Nisai's Curriculum Structure – Key Stage 3 by Ability Level:

To best support our diverse learners, Nisai organises Key Stage 3 not by academic year, but by **ability level**. This ensures that students are placed appropriately according to prior learning rather than age.

- **NS1** – Equivalent to Year 7 ability
- **NS2** – Equivalent to Year 8 ability
- **NS3** – Equivalent to Year 9 / pre-GCSE ability

This structure allows students to consolidate key skills before progressing to Key Stage 4, with flexible movement between levels as needed.

Assessment and Placement

Upon enrolment, all students have the opportunity to complete a wellbeing questionnaire which is issued by CaSST, this questionnaire aims to gather information about their likes and aspirations, which is recorded in Nisai's bespoke

PWP (Personal Wellbeing Plan) system. Teachers can utilise this information to engage students and support them with their personal goals and aspirations.

Students complete initial screening assessments in English and Maths. These establish a baseline for learning and ensure that curriculum choices are aligned to the student's current level.

Following this, subject-specific prior learning assessments are used to identify gaps in knowledge. These insights allow teachers to tailor support, reinforce key concepts, and scaffold learning effectively.

Teachers also review relevant documentation, including Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), to ensure teaching strategies are personalised and inclusive.

Teaching and Learning Approach

Nisai's teaching model is centred on delivering structured, engaging, and effective lessons within an interactive and inclusive virtual environment. Key features include:

- **Small class sizes** – Maximum of 15 students per class to enable personalised support.
- **Short, focused lessons** – Designed to maintain attention and maximise retention.
- **Recorded lessons** – Allow students to revisit content for revision or catch-up at any time.
- **Regular assignments** – Issued and tracked via Nisai's online platform (NVA) and bespoke systems (NISIMS) to monitor engagement and progress.
- **Adaptive teaching** – Teachers use assessment data, EHCPs, and real-time feedback to adjust delivery, providing appropriate support and challenge.

All instruction is designed to promote independence, build confidence, and prepare students for their next stage of learning or transition back into mainstream education.

Monitoring and Reporting

Student progression is monitored and recorded via Nisai's NISIMS system. Teachers record progress against course learning objectives this is regularly reviewed to ensure that students are at the correct level and are making regular progress.

Nisai works closely with partner schools, local authorities, and governments, providing:

- Progress data and assessment reports
- Attendance and engagement summaries
- Outcome tracking aligned to national benchmarks

This collaboration ensures that all stakeholders are kept informed and able to support students effectively within their broader educational plan.

Curriculum Offer 2024/2025

Key Stage 3:

Lessons at Key Stage 3 level are 30 minutes long, four times a week. The English, Maths, Science, ICT and PSHE. Key Stage 3 curriculum at Nisai aims to foster knowledge, skills and develop a curiosity of the real world, helping students to advance to higher levels of study and become informed global citizens.

English, encourages a life-long enthusiasm for reading, writing and spoken communication. Learners develop English skills for different purposes and audiences**.**

Mathematics helps learners to think analytically and have better reasoning abilities. Our curriculum encourages life-long enthusiasm for analytical and rational thinking.

Science helps learners develop a life-long curiosity about the natural world and enables them to seek scientific explanations to the phenomena around them.

ICT aims to develop knowledge and skills in using a range of computer software to communicate, handle information model and program solutions. Learners will also consider wider issues such as eSafety and the adaption of their work to suit their audience.

History helps learners develop an understanding of the nature of cause and effect, continuity and change, similarity and difference and find out how to use and understand historical evidence as part of their studies

PSHE encourages awareness of personal, social, health and economic matters to allow learners to build their knowledge of their role in local, national and global communities.

Introduction to Humanities (NS3 only) enables students to understand the core aspects of human life in context of the world around them, preparing them for a better future. Incorporating Geography, History, Citizenship, Economics, Business, Psychology and Sociology, students will develop skills in compassion, creativity, critical thinking and reasoning preparing them for further study at GCSE level.

Key Stage 4:

Nisai recognises the need that for students to have a full and engaging curriculum, lessons at Key Stage 4 level are 30 minutes long, four times a week except for GCSE Combined Science, which is a double GCSE award and therefore has 1-hour lessons, four times a week.

English:

GCSE English Language helps learners develop the skills required to read fluently and critically in a wide variety of high-quality literary and non-fiction genres, and to use written and spoken English accurately and effectively in different styles and contexts.

GCSE English Literature is underpinned by a skills-based approach to help students read and engage critically with a wide range of literature.

Functional Skills in English (NOCN) Entry Level 3, Level 1 and Level 2 qualifications have been designed to assist learners of all ages and levels to be able to confidently demonstrate the practical skills needed in real-life situations.

Maths:

GCSE Maths aids students to understand the importance of mathematics, are encouraged to be confident in numeracy and to apply the skills that they learn to simple problem solving across the curriculum. We build on skills and understanding in a step-by-step way to work towards the GCSE and Functional Skill assessment criteria.

Functional Skills in Mathematics (NOCN) Entry Level 3, Level 1 and Level 2 qualifications have been designed to assist learners of all ages and levels to be able to confidently demonstrate the practical skills needed in real-life situations.

Science:

International GCSE Combined Science builds an understanding of the basic principles of each subject through a mix of theoretical and practical studies, while also developing an understanding of the scientific skills essential for further study.

International GCSE Biology An exciting and comprehensive course that delves into the wonders of life, from the structure of cells to ecosystems and human biology. The course covers essential topics like genetics, evolution, health, and the environment. With a focus on practical skills and scientific inquiry, this course encourages learners to think

critically, understand the natural world, and can help to prepare them for future studies in science or healthcare-related fields.

International GCSE Chemistry A dynamic and engaging course that explores the fundamental principles of chemistry, from the structure of atoms to chemical reactions and energy changes. The course covers key topics like the periodic table, bonding, acids, and materials, whilst discussing the relevant practical laboratory skills. This qualification fosters critical thinking and problem-solving abilities, preparing learners for further studies in science or related fields.

International GCSE Physics

A fascinating exploration of the physical world, covering key topics like forces, energy, waves, electricity, and magnetism. This course encourages problem-solving and critical thinking through theoretical discussion and study of scientific experiments. It provides a strong foundation for students interested in pursuing further studies in science, engineering, or technology, while fostering a deeper understanding of the forces that shape our universe.

Entry Level Certificate in Science develops a basic scientific knowledge and an understanding of some important scientific ideas, leading to further study at a higher level.

Business studies equips learners with the skills and confidence to explore how different business situations affect decision-making.

International GCSE Economics introduces learners to basic economic concepts and helps them develop the appropriate range of analytical, critical and reasoning skills to enable them to think as economists.

Psychology introduces learners to psychological concepts and methodologies in the context of real-life issues, focusing on key questions, the work of renowned psychologists and the research learners can undertake themselves.

Sociology helps learners gain a knowledge and understanding of key social structures, processes and issues through the study of families, education, crime and social stratification.

Citizenship helps learners understand how people participate in democratic politics and work together for a better society at local, national, and global levels. Through active citizenship, they develop the skills and knowledge needed to make a real difference in the world around them.

Functional Skills & Other:

Digital Skills equipping learners with the knowledge and understanding to use digital technology effectively in a range of workplace environments. For learners who want to develop their skills for progression into or within employment. Portfolio-based Qualification (Level 1 & 2) Learners need to achieve a minimum amount of credits to be able to achieve the relevant qualification.

Employability assists learners in being able to engage in written and spoken communication within a real-life setting, allowing them to effectively become part of their community.

Functional Skills in English assists learners in being able to engage in written and spoken communication within a real-life setting, allowing them to effectively become part of their community.

Functional Skills in Mathematics assists learners with the development of mathematical skills which are beneficial within a real-life setting. This will ensure that they can work independently during employment, study and within the home.

Key Stage 5 AS/A Levels:

English:

AS and A Level English Language encourages learners to respond critically to a wide variety of texts in a range of forms, styles, and contexts, and to promote skills of communication, reading, research and analysis.

AS and A Level English Literature supports learners in developing skills of reading and analysis of texts and encourages them to undertake wider reading to aid understanding of the texts studied. They will learn skills of effective and appropriate communication including the ability to discuss the critical context of texts.

Mathematics:

AS and A Level Mathematics will develop the skill of working with mathematical information, as well as the ability to think logically and independently, consider accuracy, model situations mathematically, analyse results and reflect on findings.

Biology:

AS and A Level Biology encourages learners to develop relevant practical skills alongside essential knowledge and understanding of a range of biological concepts and scientific methods.

AS & A Level Psychology develops an appreciation of the subject by exploring the ways in which psychology is conducted. As part of their studies, learners also review important research; this provides an insight into the ways in which psychology has been applied, thereby leading to a better understanding of key approaches, research methods and issues and debates.

Business Studies:

AS and A Level Business Studies encourages learners to examine the process of decision-making in a dynamic and changing business environment and to develop critical understanding of business organisations. They will learn about business and its environment, human resource management, marketing, operations management and finance and accounting.

Psychology:

AS and A Level Psychology develops an appreciation of the subject by exploring the ways in which psychology is conducted. As part of their studies, learners also review important research; thus, providing an insight into the ways in which psychology has been applied, leading to a better understanding of key approaches, research methods and issues and debates.

Additional Programmes:

Core Curriculum is a programme that is suitable for learners who, for whatever reason, need to continue studying on a short-term basis away from the mainstream classroom. Students can be registered for as many or as few sessions/days as required on a 10-week rolling programme.

English is designed to build essential language and literacy skills through engaging, stand-alone lessons. Across three progressive levels, suitable for students from Years 6–11. Students will explore reading, writing, and communication techniques, developing their ability to interpret texts and express ideas clearly. Each lesson focuses on a single skill or topic and includes an interactive quiz to check understanding.

Maths builds core mathematical understanding across three levels, suitable for Years 6–11. Each self-contained lesson introduces a single topic—such as fractions, algebra, or statistics—and helps students develop logical reasoning and problem-solving skills. Lessons are interactive and conclude with an online quiz to assess progress.

Science introduces students to key concepts in biology, chemistry, and physics through clear, stand-alone lessons. Suitable for Years 6–11, the course is split into three levels to match learners' stages. Each session builds scientific understanding and critical thinking using real-world examples and guided explanations. Students complete an online quiz at the end of every lesson.

Introduction to ICT offers a supportive introduction to essential ICT skills for learners with little or no digital experience. It focuses on building confidence in using computers, navigating the internet, and handling everyday tasks and digital wellbeing. Topics such as Internet Safety, Word Processing, Spreadsheets, Presentation Tools and the use of email are all included. Suitable for all ages, the course is delivered at a pace which makes it accessible for all learners.

Dealing With Strong Emotions (DWSE) helps learners gain more insight into emotions and feelings. They learn aspects of human nature, reflection techniques and a range of coping strategies.

N-HELPP brings together best practice of live teaching through the Nisai Virtual Academy in addition to the Units of Sound and WordQ software suites. Improvement in English supports progress across the full curriculum whilst providing greater opportunity in the workplace and beyond. Schools also have the option to deliver the live teaching element with access to Nisai's plans and resources if required.

Nisai Passport to Work supports the development of skills and knowledge for the workplace. Learners will build personal attributes for successful communication, relationships with others and vocational theory through studies relating to Functional Skills and employment preparation for their chosen sector.

Sustainability Projects is a skills-based programme which places academic study into a real-world context, focused around the Sustainable Development Goals 2030.

Young International Leaders focuses on developing communication for leadership throughout all its activities supporting learners' success and development across their learning and career journey.

Additional services

Mentoring:

Personalised Learning Support Programme (PLSP) specifically for young people who require the additional support of a Nisai mentor. Learners accessing this programme may need support in lessons, help with assignments, encouragement or to have additional support with any behavioural or emotional requirements facilitated by other professional organisations.

Virtual Mentoring specifically designed for learners accessing our standard academic provision who require a mentor to support them with non-academic skills. The virtual support is designed to offer encouragement, support and confidence building.

Units of Sound personalised development of reading, spelling, memory and dictation areas of English. This can be beneficial to any learner that struggles with processing sounds within their own use of the language.

WordQ software that helps users to read, write, and communicate with ease and independence. Including state-of-the-art word prediction, text-to-speech capability for better comprehension and effective proofreading, talk-to-type speech recognition (for PC only), and more.

Overall:

Nisai's curriculum is grounded in the principles of inclusion, personalisation, and academic excellence. By offering a flexible, level-based structure and embedding assessment into every stage of learning, we ensure that students receive the right support at the right time.

We are committed to continuously refining our curriculum and delivery in line with national guidance, student needs, and international developments. Our aim is to provide every learner with a meaningful and empowering educational experience, wherever they are in the world.

Related policies:

CM19 – SEN Policy
IM19 – Attendance Policy
TH2 – SOW Procedure
TH3 – Lesson Planning Procedures
TH7 – Procedure for Live Lessons
QA1 – Quality Assurance Policy

To be Reviewed: September 2026