



Pebbles

Care | Education | Therapy



Education Prospectus

2023





4	Welcome
6	Pebbles Academy – more than just a School
7	Vision, Values, Aims
10	Provisions at Pebbles Academy
12	Bespoke Curriculum
14	What our pupils say about their experience of Pebbles Academy
15	What Education Scotland say about Pebbles Academy
16	Curriculum Content
18	Learner Case Study – David's story
20	Our Schools
22	Referral Procedure

Pebbles Care offer fully registered and well-established day schools, providing a broad individualised education within therapeutic environments, leading to outstanding outcomes for young people.

Welcome

Welcome to the Pebbles Education Prospectus, we hope it fully expresses our passion for delivering a therapeutic education experience for pupils. Through our Adapt Learning model, we offer a bespoke curriculum for each pupil through a blend of 5-key learning pathways.

The Adapt Learning protocol is founded from the 6 Principles of Nurture, incorporating therapeutic parenting approaches, and seeks to breakdown traditionalist views whereby young people conform to a fixed programme of schooling. Adapt Learning advocates that Education should be developed around the individual needs, experiences, and skills of the learner and that this experience is not predefined.

As the pupils we support may have experienced barriers to their learning and suffered trauma that has impeded their opportunities to learn, Adapt Learning offers innovative learning pathways in addition to classroom learning that seeks to create a therapeutic space for each pupil to achieve.

Pebbles Academy offers a range of qualifications (Scottish and English) to equip young people for their future. As well as offering academic opportunities through classroom based, remote and online learning, we offer vocational opportunities through practical work at our Skills Hub, which is based within the school.

Whether you are a pupil, parent, local authority, or a care provider this prospectus is intended to give an overview of our Adapt Learning model, which we advocate offers a world class therapeutic Education experience. We are proud to have a 100% success in gaining positive destinations for pupils over the last four years.

For more information on the support we can offer, please contact us.

We look forward to hearing from you.



Glenn Gibson
Head of Education Scotland

The logo for ADAPT Learning. It features the word "ADAPT" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, with three horizontal blue lines to its left. Below "ADAPT" is the word "Learning." in a yellow, sans-serif font, with three horizontal blue lines to its left.

ADAPT
Learning.

Pebbles Academy - more than just a School



The schools form one part of the Adapt Learning model, which offers five bespoke pathways for learners:



Classroom Learning



Remote Learning



Therapeutic Approach



Vocational Development



Outdoor Education

Pebbles Academy are established independent special schools registered with Education Scotland. Our Ayrshire based provision is registered for 20 pupils and our Fife campus is registered for 16 and both have a positive reputation for supporting pupils to attain literacy and STEM subjects.

Nurture and the practice of therapeutic parenting are also vital components to our provision. The Adapt Learning model derives from 'The Six Principles of Nurture' and insists upon a Therapeutic Education experience for every pupil. To achieve this, an innovative curriculum is developed according to the needs of each learner using the appropriate blend of the five bespoke pathways.

Adapt Learning ensures young people develop their skills specific to their needs. They include wider achievement, vocational skills development, outdoor education, practical skills, therapeutic art, and social skills interventions. Our teachers and classroom assistants are invested in the Adapt Learning principle and support pupils both in the classroom and within additional learning pathways.

The Pebbles Academy Skills Hub offers tangible vocational learning and training for young people who may wish to engage in apprenticeships and career training. We also offer qualifications through our affiliation with accredited curriculum programmes including ASDAN and Playback ICE.

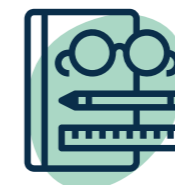
Our Vision



Welcome every pupil to the Pebbles community and nurture them to ensure they settle to learning. We are specialist practitioners of trauma informed practice and design our experiences to deliver Therapeutic Education.



Every individual is a valued and listened to member of our learning community, and every member of the community has a voice.



Our tenacious approach means we never give up and every young person receives their entitlement, even if they have had multiple education and care placements previously.



Barriers to engagement are identified in partnership with our psychology team and approaches planned, implemented, and reviewed for pupils to ensure they are fully engaged in their own Adapt Learning pathway.



The Adapt Learning model derives from The Six Principles of Nurture and insists upon a Therapeutic Education experience for every pupil.

Our Core Values



Accountable

We accept responsibility for our own words, actions, and results, both individually and collectively.



Considerate

To be respectful in our relationships with colleagues, customers and children and young people in our care.



Collaborative

We work together to be more effective, efficient, and fulfilled.



Progressive

We give 100% in all that we do and approach everything with a 'can do' attitude.

Our core values are the fundamental beliefs of our organisation. These guiding principles dictate our organisation's behaviour and can help people understand the difference between right and wrong. Pebbles Academy's core values also help us and others to determine whether us/they are on the right path and fulfilling goals.

Our Aims

- Plan and deliver a bespoke education package for every young person to meet needs, engage in learning, and ensure progress
- Nurture and include every individual in our community.
- Provide a safe and supportive environment to support the growth of young people.
- Facilitate flexible experiences which allow young people to flourish in life after their time at school.
- Re-engage pupils in education and facilitate pride in their achievements, whatever they are.
- Ensure everyone in the community gets the support they need and feels safe in exploring their needs.
- Strive for excellence in our pedagogy (teaching), therapeutic support, enrichment activities, and skills development to give young people the best life chances.
- Develop skills for learning, life, and work to equip for a rewarding work life after school.
- Encourage responsibility for outcomes by listening to pupil voice about the curriculum, organisation of the school day, and individual learning planning.



Provision at Pebbles Academy



Classroom Learning

Pupils can engage in curriculum-based learning within one of our school campuses in Fife and Ayrshire. Our contemporary Fife school enjoys a culture of inclusion and achievement through the development of a therapeutic Education setting that boasts a sensory room alongside several classrooms.

Our Ayrshire school is in a rural setting with access to the Scottish countryside, and this is utilised for therapeutic connections with nature. Both schools have GTC qualified teachers and teaching assistants to ensure the highest calibre of Education is offered to learners. The Education team also collaborate with our Psychology team to ensure the practice of Therapeutic Parenting is continuous.

Remote Learning

Adapt Learning advocates that pupils learn in a therapeutic space that best supports them to achieve. Curriculum based learning is therefore not confined to the boundaries of the classroom.

Pupils are given the opportunity to learning from safe spaces, such as their home. Teachers and teaching assistants will continue to provide 1:1 support where required to ensure a sustained quality of tutelage. The Kinteract system offers

a plethora of resources that allow us to evidence learning from home. We can also offer online tutoring to pupils for more dedicated support in specified subjects.

Therapeutic Approach

Our unique Adapt Learning therapeutic approach is present in everything we do to nurture and develop our young people. In building our bespoke education packages we consider individual needs and plan interventions as an integral part of the curriculum. Our therapeutic parenting runs through all education, and packages could include CBT/ counselling, yoga for trauma, massage therapy, or art therapy as examples depending on need.

Vocational Development

Adjacent to the main school building in the Ayrshire campus is our Skills Hub, which comprise of a large Design and Technology suite and a 4G Multi Use Games Arena. Pupils have access to various courses and accreditations that support employment and further Education opportunities such as ASDAN.

Outdoor Education

Health and well-being is an important element of the Adapt Learning model and we can offer qualifications with the Princes Trust to promote Outdoor Education as a tangible means of achievement for pupils. We have relationships with local provisions near each campus, such as YipWorld which offers sports facilities to support sports and recreation engagement.



Pupils are given the opportunity to learn from safe spaces, such as their home.

Our Learners

We offer education to secondary school age children and young people. Most of our pupils are 11-19; older pupils can access vocational opportunities and catch up missed opportunities to gain qualifications.

Education is offered to all young people while in a care placement with Pebbles Care; this offers an excellent solution to local authorities who are legally required to ensure their young people receive an appropriate education. We advocate there is no substitute for an established, registered school with skilled and qualified staff who practice therapeutic parenting.

Day Learners

Pebbles Academy offers education on a day placement basis. Referrals are welcome from other care providers who want their young people to attend Pebbles Academy.

We have a track record of success with day pupils from Scottish local authorities. Referrals are welcomed from local authorities where the young person has not been able to access mainstream education, inclusion hub/service, or another independent special school who cannot support a pupil's learning needs.















Bespoke Curriculum

Below is a sample timetable for a Year 10/S3 pupil who has experienced interrupted learning, having missed significant periods of time at school due to placement breakdown and school refusal.

Previous school placements have broken down or been ineffectual as the pupil has been unable to attend and, when attending, their significant level of trauma has not allowed them to fit into a traditional school model.

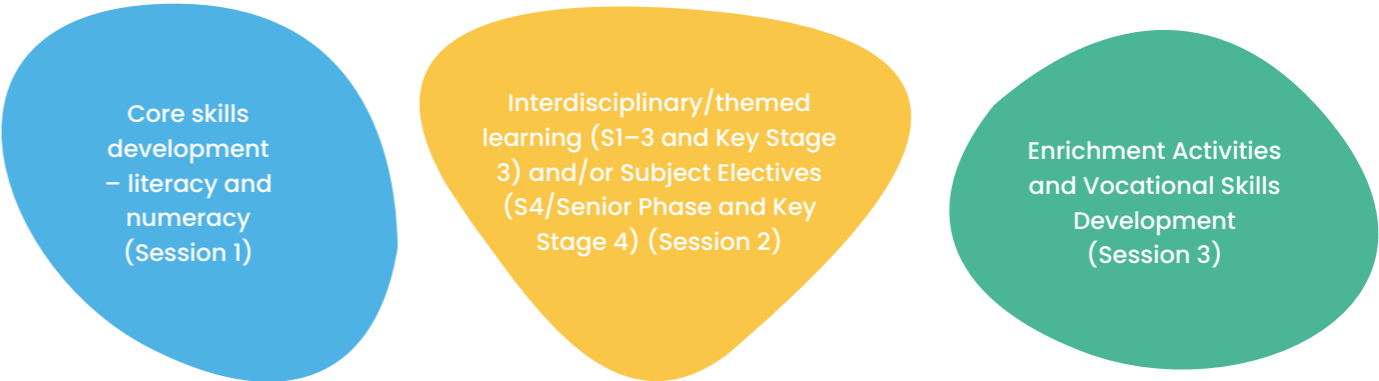
Our Adapt Learning will allow this pupil to access full time education through a combination of school learning, remote and online learning, vocational skills, and community engagement.

Core skills are developed while also allowing a focus on the enrichment and therapeutic activities to ensure engagement and progress.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
 HUMANITIES Remote Learning	 ENGLISH / MATHS Classroom Learning	 ENGLISH / MATHS Classroom Learning	 DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY Vocational Development Skills Hub	 ENGLISH / MATHS Classroom Learning
 PRINCE'S TRUST Outdoor Education	 DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY Vocational Development Skills Hub	 SCIENCE Classroom Learning	 PLAYBACK ICE Remote Learning	 YOGA FOR TRAUMA Therapeutic Approaches
 EQUINE THERAPY Outdoor Education	 SPEECH & LANGUAGE THERAPY Therapeutic Approaches	 HAIRDRESSING Vocational Development	 COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERING Vocational Development	 INDEPENDENCE SKILLS Remote Learning

Curriculum Content

Three sessions to each day



Core skills development

Literacy and Communication

English: Accreditation up to National 5/GCSE level, also Functional Skills levels 1 and 2.

Numeracy

Mathematics: Accreditation up to National 5/GCSE level, also Functional Skills levels 1 and 2.

Information Technology

ICT: Developed as a thread running through the wider curriculum, accreditation for pupils with a particular interest.



What our pupils say about their experience of Pebbles Academy

“

The main difference between Pebbles Academy and other schools I have attended is one-to-one support throughout, group sessions with other young people and support from all teachers.

“

They understand you a lot as a person... and you get to know teachers better because there is less people around.

“

Activities such as abseiling, team building, get to go to museums... it's really varied.

“

I'm always buzzing to go to school in the mornings!

“

My favourite subjects are Maths and Music. I love learning new instruments.

“

I think one of my biggest achievements is learning to work with others.

“

My school is great because the teachers all know me and spend time with me, and the teachers make the lessons for me.

“

I love seeing the teachers and all my school friends. I love to meet all the different people from other homes.

What Education Scotland say about Pebbles Academy

“

Teaching approaches are underpinned by positive relationships and well considered interventions to support young people in their learning. Staff know young people well and understand when they need additional support and encouragement.

“

The development of young people's well-being is planned for throughout the curriculum. Community-based excursions support young people to develop their literacy and social skills in unfamiliar settings.

“

All staff have a good understanding of each young person's social and emotional needs. They are adept at developing positive relationships with young people and show them high levels of respect.



Curriculum content

Enrichment activities

Wider achievement

An opportunity to explore hobbies, interests, and normative experiences.

Vocational skills

Based on national guidance around 'Developing the Young Workforce', our vocational skills activities aim to ensure our young people leave school equipped to enter the workplace.

Therapeutic art

Exploring creativity, building self-esteem and confidence, and managing emotions.

PE/Outdoor education

Planned programmes (including skiing, horse riding, obstacles courses and team-building, John Muir award, etc.) to develop social and physical skills, and promote healthy lifestyles and well-being.

Team building and community activities

Building school and local community through the development of social skills.

Work based learning

Work experience and understanding the expectations of the workplace.

Leadership development

Opportunities to develop leadership capacity and improve confidence. School council once a week is run by pupils, further developing leadership skills.

All activities lead to accreditation in SQA, Pearson (BTEC), and/or ASDAN qualifications from enrichment activities.

Interventions

- Literacy boosters
- Numeracy boosters
- Well-being and social, emotional and mental health interventions



Subject electives

Pupils choose subjects from across the curriculum; the expectation is that all pupils reach school leaving age with qualifications in at least five areas of the curriculum (including English and Mathematics).

These will be accredited at the appropriate level for each pupil's ability and aptitude and could be SQA National Qualifications or Entry Level/GCSE level as appropriate.

Typically, three subjects are chosen from:

Social Studies/Humanities

- Technologies
- Modern Languages
- Physical Education
- Expressive Arts

Health and well-being

- Breakfast Club
- 'Drop everything and read' – developing reading for enjoyment
- Daily mile
- Circle time
- Trauma touch therapy
- Yoga for trauma
- Mindfulness and guided meditation
- Team building and games (normative experiences)
- Mental health awareness award at SCQF level 4



David's Story

Learner Case Study

David is in S2 and has not sustained an education placement since primary year 4.

He is a care experienced young person and is currently fostered local to our school.

David has disorganised attachment and suffered significant trauma, physical abuse, and neglect from a young age.

He had not coped in mainstream education and the inclusion support service he attended reported incidences of violence and aggression towards staff and peers.

Using our Adapt Learning Programme David initially only attended school. He attended Pebbles Academy initially for 30 minutes three days a week and has worked up to five morning sessions and two afternoons over a six week period. He will be full time soon.

David enjoys school and has responded very well to clear boundaries and expectations, positive role models, routine, and having a voice and control over his learning.

He is predicted to achieve a range of qualifications and is planning a career in barbering following work-based learning with a local barbers.

“

David enjoys school and has responded very well to clear boundaries and expectations, positive role models and routine.



Our Schools

Governance

Pebbles Academy is governed by the Board of Directors of Pebbles Care, its parent company. There is a wealth of expertise from childcare and education as well as from a range of other areas.

The Head of Education is a member of the Senior Management team and has overall responsibility for the operational and strategic leadership and management of the schools and reports directly to Michael Walsh, Chief Executive Officer. Weekly Head of Department updates, monthly Board reports/meetings, and monthly Senior Management Team meetings ensure the practice within our schools is monitored and accountability is maintained.

Monthly Operational Management Team meetings are held with the wider management team and care professionals, these give a further layer of governance and the opportunity to share good practice and support our wraparound culture and EduCare group.

Staff

Teachers are registered with the General Teaching Council for Scotland. Staff have a range of experience and are highly qualified and experienced in the field. All are dedicated and committed to making a difference to young people's lives in a pragmatic way; this requires creativity and innovation and a solution focused approach.



Each day is a new start and we always see the bigger picture.



The Pebbles Board of Directors has a wealth of expertise from childcare and education.

Partnerships

Partnerships enable us to deliver the breadth and variety of subjects, experiences, and opportunities we have built. We maintain partnerships and continue to forge new ones as the need for them arises. These include:

- Partnerships with local potential employers/businesses
- Fife College and Ayrshire College
- Local Community Councils and charities
- Local third sector organisations e.g. Yipworld, Cumnock, Ayrshire
- Providers of Outdoor Education e.g. Ecology Centre, Kinghorn, Fife; Five Sisters Zoo, Fife; Galloway Activity Centre
- Youth organisations e.g. Princes Foundation

Supporting Good Behaviour

We believe all behaviour is communication, usually of underlying trauma. Each day is a new start and we always see the bigger picture and the long term impacts of our therapeutic approaches and behaviour interventions.

Our practice is first and foremost relational in nature. This is supported by our company-wide Therapeutic Parenting model which encourages professionals to be curious and enquiring around behaviours and undertake regular CPD to develop their practice.

All staff are CALM trained with an emphasis on de-escalation. Physical interventions are extremely rare and would only be used as an absolute last resort.

Our positive approach to personalisation and choice and stimulating curriculum creates a supportive environment where young people feel safe to express their feelings. This results in a reduced number of incidents of distressed behaviour.

Our wraparound culture fosters multi-agency and parental support.



Referral Procedure

Referrals and admissions are welcomed throughout the year

Pebbles Care Referrals Department can be contacted through www.pebblescare.com or using the contact details found on the back page of this prospectus.

We undertake examinations of educational needs to ensure these needs can be met – Pebbles Academy has rarely not been able to meet needs. This is done through communication with stakeholders and previous provision if possible.

We liaise with parents and multi-agency professionals to plan for admission.

We accelerate the admissions process to ensure the pupil can be enrolled as quickly as possible.

Admissions

Most pupils attend part time for a period dictated by the pupil's needs. Most are attending full time soon after their admission, typically between two and four weeks. Sometimes pupils attend full time within two weeks where progress and engagement is positive.

Policies and procedures

All pertinent policies and documents pertaining to the schools are available at pebblescare.com/education

Transition

Pebbles Academy is extremely supportive of positive transitions for young people. Our pupils' wider needs often dictate that they need to move on from our schools. This might be to another provider, mainstream education, vocational training, college, or independent living.

Where transition is planned, we ensure we prepare them for the move and support them both emotionally and practically; liaise with multi-agency professionals to ensure consistency of message; update plans and records and provide to the destination service.

“

Where transition is planned, we ensure we prepare the pupil for the move and support them both emotionally and practically.





Pebbles

Care | Education | Therapy

Leading the way in bespoke therapeutic
care and education for young people

School Locations

Dunfermline, Fife
Muirkirk, East Ayrshire

Pebbles Care Head Office

Sovereign House, Crossgates Road, Halbeath,
Dunfermline, Fife KY11 7EG

Contact Us

T 0330 170 0111
E referrals.edu@pebblescare.com

Type of school

Independent Special