

ANNUAL ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

The Sixth Form Bolton

2023/2024 Academic Year



**EXCELLENCE
IN EVERYTHING**

College Mission and Purpose

Vision

To be an outstanding College and pursue excellence in everything we do.

Mission

To provide educational excellence which releases potential and promotes individual achievement in an environment where diversity is valued and students and staff are led, supported, challenged and encouraged to reach for their best in everything they do.

Values

- Value and respect every student, their unique talent, ability and personal values, whilst encouraging a culture of self-respect and personal responsibility.
- Create and nurture a culture whereby all staff and students feel fully supported and valued in an atmosphere of mutual respect and tolerance.
- Value hard work and endeavour.
- Champion the concepts of inclusion, equality and fairness in all that we do.
- A commitment to the continued professional development personal growth of all staff.

The Sixth Form's defining features and characteristics are:

- All students are aged 16 – 19 and full time.
- There is a strong focus on maximising student, achievement, raising aspirations and ambition and on the quality of teaching and learning.
- The curriculum focus is on Advanced level with a wide range of A levels and BTEC Extended Diplomas and Extended Certificates on offer.
- Student support and specialist support for individuals is outstanding.
- Parents are supported and guided to equip them with the knowledge to fully engage in the process of educating their children and onward progressions throughout their learner journey.
- There is a strong focus on destinations progression to Higher Education, Degree Apprenticeships, Apprenticeships or meaningful employment with training.
- Employability Skills are embedded throughout the curriculum together with a dedicated 'Professional Growth Programme' that all students follow.
- Access to excellent high quality careers advice and guidance, meeting every individual student's need.
- The College culture and ethos is one of developing the whole student not just the academic.
- The admissions policy is inclusive and seeks not to place barriers to participation, whilst recognising the demands of study at advanced level.

- Student safeguarding is afforded extremely high priority.
- High quality and bespoke professional development opportunities for all staff.
- Mental Health and wellbeing for staff and learners are a priority

Context and Place

The Sixth Form was originally created to provide a post 16 academic pathway for those students coming from Bolton Secondary Schools that did not possess a post 16 option. It originally consisted of mainly A level programmes with the progression intention for the majority of students to move on to Higher Education.

The vocational needs of students are well served by a large choice of FE colleges

- Bolton College
- Bury College
- Wigan and Leigh College
- Salford City College
- Manchester College

The College currently plans a curriculum offer that suits the needs of local learners and the regional and national economy. Provision is largely at Level 3, with a small cohort of Level 2, designed to provide a 3-year pathway for the right learner. The Sixth Form College provides a curriculum offer that is responsive to change, especially given that the majority of learners will only study with us for a two-year period. This requires the College to review its curriculum offer frequently, ensuring what is on offer is fit for purpose.

The College is an open access Sixth Form College. Whilst it does have entry requirements on some courses commensurate with their demands, in general it is not selective and so addresses the social disadvantage prevalent in the town. It remains the intent of the College to provide high quality and unbiased advice and guidance at every encounter with our prospective and enrolled learners in order that they are guided to the right course for them and a course that delivers the success they seek and genuine progression options to their chosen career path.

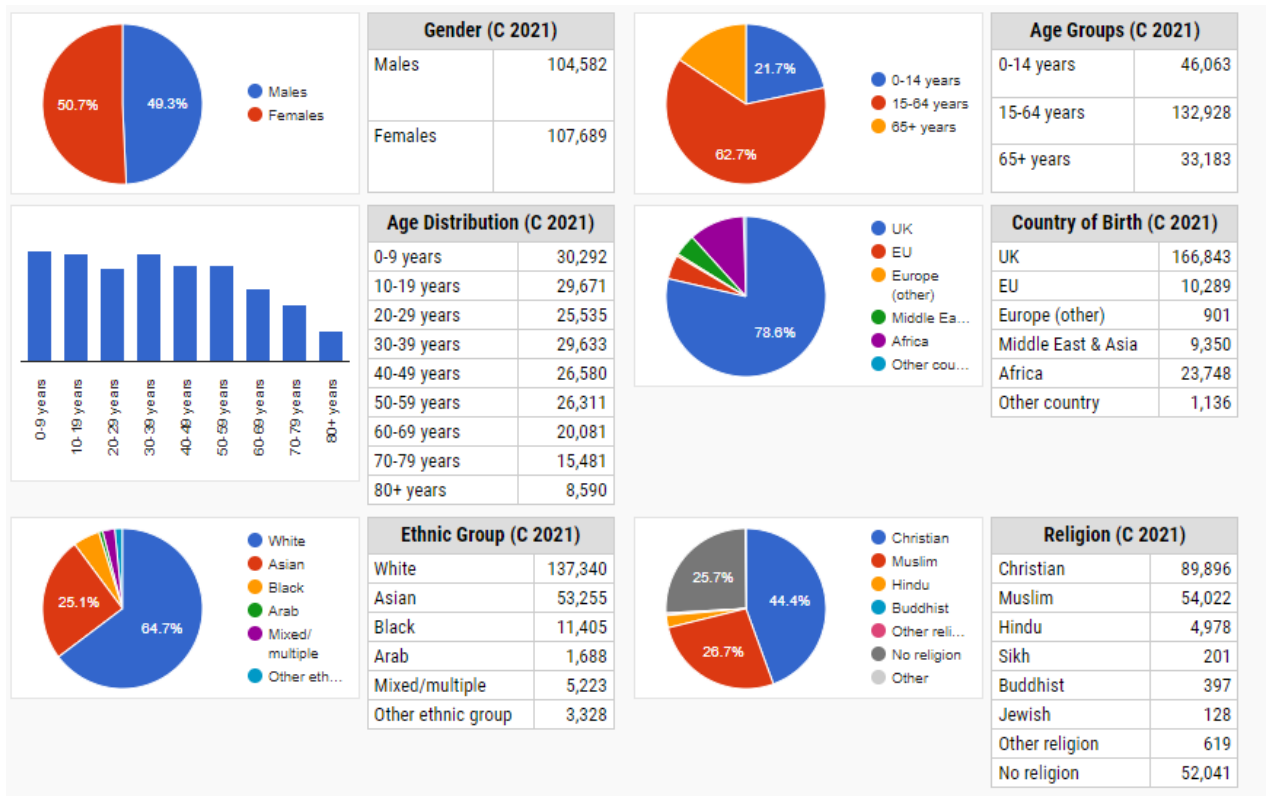
The curriculum is planned to provide a number of routes to suit learners' needs and provide a breadth of choice. It offers a traditional academic route of 3 or 4 A levels, a mixed programme option whereby students can choose a course that blends A level and vocational subjects and a traditional vocational route

of Extended Diplomas. The Curriculum offer is very much tailored to learner demand as it is they who choose their course at the application stage and this drives the provision by the College. The level 3 provision enables students to consider a wide range of possible course options, something that mirrors the 20,000 typical course combinations taken up nationally. The sixth form sector and Bolton Sixth Form are therefore compelled in their intent to provide the quality and breadth of provision which serves a diverse and motivated 16 – 19 cohort and prepares them for future progression into higher education, apprenticeships or employment. The leaders of the College have selected relevant courses that make learners secure in their skills, knowledge and personal behaviours. Leaders recognise local and national employment needs as well as learner preference and ambition and adjusts its provision accordingly.

The Community We Serve

The town of Bolton is a diverse Borough although, mainly it is a relatively deprived area with some areas experiencing significant levels of poverty and deprivation, which predate the current 'Cost of Living Crisis', such as lower household incomes and earnings, long-run health deprivation, and poor housing stock.

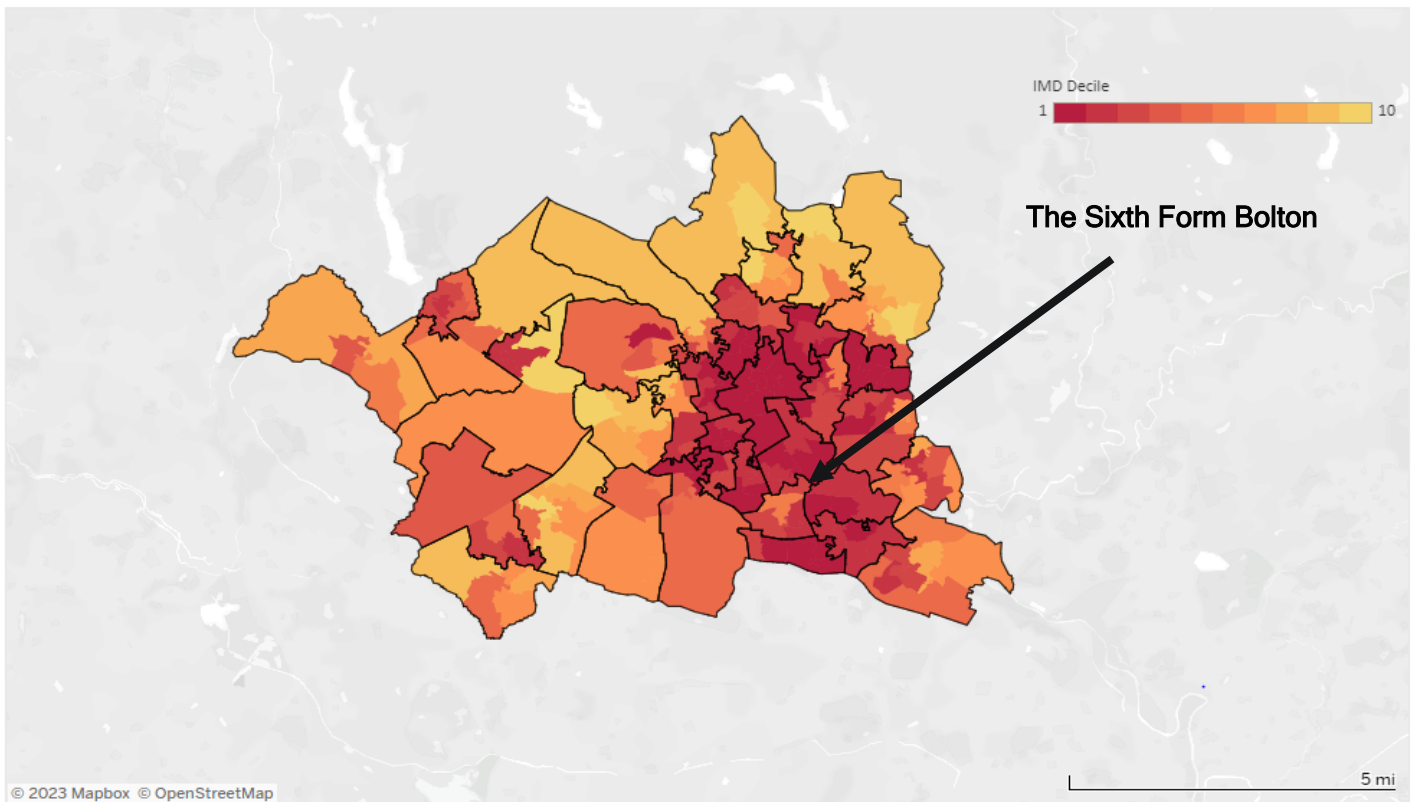
Bolton Population Structure (2021 Census)



In socio-economic terms, the College's intake is well below average. Using the English indices of deprivation 2019 measure which looks at the income context of the communities from which students are drawn, 64% of students are drawn from the bottom 50% of districts nationally.

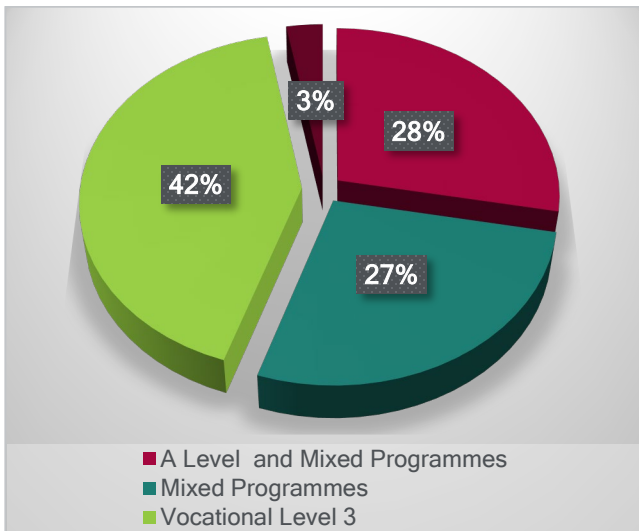
IMD 2019 across LSOA's in Bolton compared to the highest levels of deprivation in England

1 being most deprived
10 being least deprived

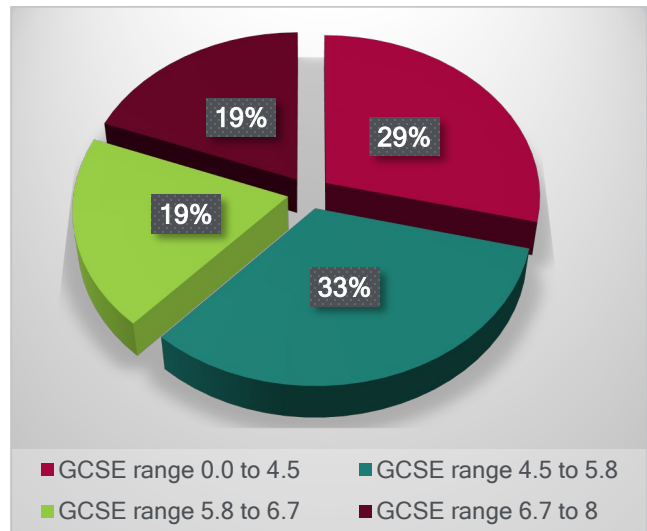


College Details:	
College name:	The Sixth Form Bolton
Rurality Category:	Predominantly Urban
Deprivation Category:	Quartile 1 - Most Deprived Colleges
Region:	NW

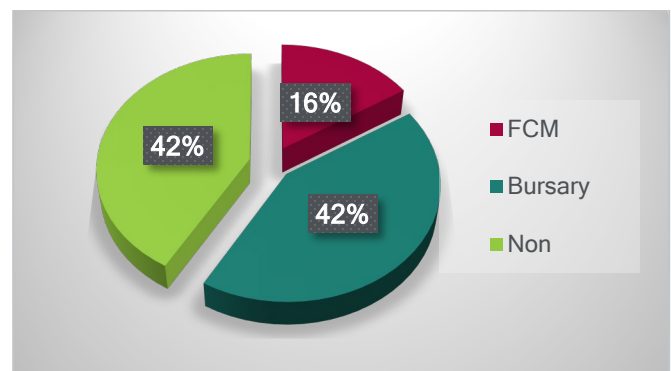
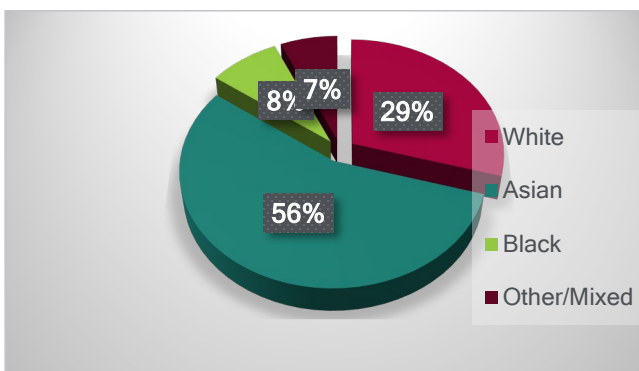
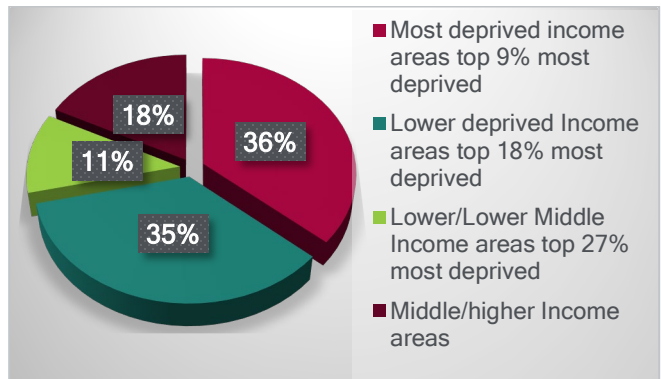
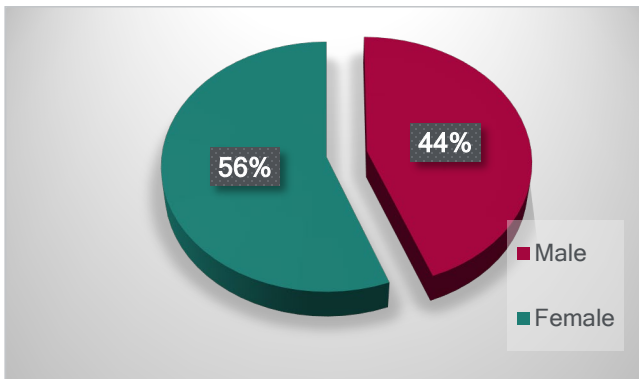
Programme Profile of Students 2021/22



GCSE Points on Entry Profile 2021/22



Demographic Profile of Students 2021/22



Key Priorities

Local, regional and national data shows some clear skills priority areas that the Sixth Form is able to contribute to effectively. Recent papers show there are key skills areas where there are current shortages or there is increasing development and demand.

<https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/media/5802/gm-esap-local-skills-report-update-march-2022-final.pdf> shows 4 key 'frontiers' of skills development in GM and are seen as fundamental to the future economic wellbeing of the region. These include health innovation, Advanced materials and manufacturing, Digital Creative and Media and Clean Growth.

Data shows Manchester to be the fastest growing Tech Hub in Europe. One of the aims of the GMCA is to train and retain people into Tech and in particular reach out to FE and HE. As a sixth form we are addressing this via the courses on offer and also our wider pathways programme that gives all learners opportunities to develop their digital capabilities. There are currently 85000 vacancies in TECH in GM. This offers significant opportunities for our young people. The GMCA are seeking want to double the value to the economy from £5bn to £10bn by 2030.

Digital and tech companies are looking to recruit from diverse communities in order to develop their workforce with a strong desire to increase the number of females in their workforces to improve diversity and address the gender imbalance. The GMCA have an ambition to have a Tech Talent pipeline which is more inclusive. GCHQ have moved to the GM region because they seek a diverse pool of employees, which the region can provide, and they are set to employ 10,000 in the coming years.

As a Sixth Form this supports our ethos and diverse community. Our Women into Leadership Programme and our Pathways Programme fully support this direction of travel.

As a Sixth Form we already support and are supported by activity in the GMCA and the companies that have come together to develop talent pipelines into employment within the region.

The GMCA recognise that socioeconomic factors are the biggest barrier to the workforce in our region, people don't leave the region, they want to stay. This is supported by our own and national destinations data, data from UCAS and the SFCA, which shows the distances that learners are prepared to travel to access university courses are small in our region and particularly for ethnic minority groups.

At a GMCA Apprenticeship event in February 2023, Andy Burnham, mayor of the GM region stated the region is focussed on the development of digital skills and green skills, hence his carbon neutral approach. Their plan is if our region is skilled up in these areas, it can lead the way nationally and beyond. The region is committed to its own programme of levelling up and sees these as key priority areas to facilitate this.

Approach to Developing the Annual Accountability Statement

Much of the decision-making process around curriculum offer is driven by national intelligence about curriculum routes for 16–18 year olds derived from interaction with the Sixth Form College’s Association, the Association of Colleges, university offers and the Northwest Principals Group.

In order to identify the local/regional key priorities, our approach has been derived from a number of key documents in absence of a greater Manchester LSIP, including:

- Greater Manchester Local Skills Report and Labour Market Plan (March 2022)
- CBI Getting Young People ‘Work Ready’ (June 2022)
- The Bolton Economy Strategy for Growth 2016-2030
- Bolton Economic Growth and Resilience Plan

These documents allow us to take into consideration local, regional and national priorities and work towards developing our learners in these areas.

We have also engaged with a number of stakeholders including our learners, universities and local and national employers to identify skills gaps and consult on the construct of our curriculum offer.

These stakeholders include:

- Peel Holdings
- GM Fire Service
- University of Manchester
- Hewlett Packard
- Bolton Hospice
- She Inspires
- University of Liverpool
- Edgehill University
- Cisco
- Stateside Foods
- Barnardo’s
- Bolton Council
- University of Leeds
- Team Bolton Skills, Work and Aspiration Vision Steering Group (see Appendix 1 for list of members)
- GM Police
- Bolton College
- Asda
- Microsoft
- Urban Outreach
- Salford university
- BBC
- TalkTalk
- First Response Finance
- Chartered Institute of Building
- Beaumont Hospital
- KBL Solicitors
- University of Bristol
- Beever and Struthers
- RocketIT
- Suez
- RAF
- Bolton Council
- 88 Fitness
- University of Bolton
- HM Prison Service
- NW Ambulance Service
- British Army
- Leeds Trinity University
- University of Salford
- Northstone Housing

Contribution to National, Regional and Local Priorities

Aim and Objectives for the 2023-2024 academic year		Impact and/or Contribution towards National, Regional and Local Priorities for Learning and Skills
1	To maintain provision of exceptional pathways to higher education, ensuring more learners secure university positions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will continue to deliver and develop excellent teaching and learning to maintain an outstanding learner experience that will support learner progression. Continuous teacher development through educational development and relevant work experience. Our learning programmes will be developed in response to industry needs through information gathered via the stakeholder information sheets and through continues effective employer and industry engagement. Deliver a robust pastoral curriculum that supports learners in researching courses/employment opportunities and applying for places at university or for positions in industry. All of the above enables our learners to success in their chosen career pathway or education programme
2	To increase the number of learners securing places at Russell Group universities	<p>The following programmes in College help students to be aware of and gain access to more prestigious universities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raising Aspirations Programme Honours programme Departmental Raising Aspirations policies MCAT preparation course Coaching for Oxbridge candidates

<p>3</p>	<p>To plan the introduction of digital skills courses for all learners enhancing the delivery of digital skills across the college</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop the Microsoft Shared Goals Agreement to allow all students the opportunity to access Microsoft Learn packages and Microsoft professional qualifications as well as for some to participate in work experience addressing the need to develop digital skills for local, regional and national needs. • Use the Microsoft Shared Goals Agreement for all staff to develop their digital expertise and is embedded in our staff professional growth programme enabling all staff to effectively support student digital skills development. • We also aim to embed Microsoft Office Specialist qualifications into relevant key curriculum areas delivery plans in order that students gain professional MOS certifications whilst at Sixth Form. • The College also has in place several opportunities for mock assessment centre activities, work place safaris and live briefs set by industry. We intend to expand these offers. • All students as part of their first-year induction will undertake an introductory programme to basic uses and functions of PCs as many of them are not PC literate.
<p>4</p>	<p>To create a skills position paper both at college and course level to manage the delivery of world readiness cross college.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The papers are an evaluation of what we are doing as a college to create world ready young people. The papers highlight areas of successes and areas that we can develop and improve on at both college and course level. • This evaluation allows us to celebrate successes and the achievements of our young people whilst also ensuring we are also developing them to be able to meet the skills levels required at local, regional and national level, allowing them to move forward on their chosen path.

<p>5</p>	<p>To develop the pathway provision, to allow learners to develop skills directly relevant to their chosen career path.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This programme comprises 12 pathways and all learners will follow a pathway programme directly relevant to their chosen career/education path. • The pathways have been developed as a result of information gathered through LMI data, college destination and future career data and local needs. • Each pathway is in a strategic partnership with an industry relevant organisation (see list of stakeholders above), ensuring stakeholders have opportunity to invest in development and delivery of the pathway curriculum. • The current modules on the PGP are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Industry research 2 Microsoft Learn and LinkedIn 3 Employer-led brief 4 Recruitment techniques 5 Action planning
<p>6</p>	<p>To maintain and update the curriculum delivery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver a comprehensive A level programme and L3 BTEC Programme. • Investigate the introduction of A level Environmental Science to meet the local GM and national green agenda. • Investigate the introduction of A level Digital Technology to further enhance the College's digital offer for students. • The pastoral programme has a structured scheme of work created to support world readiness. The pastoral curriculum includes topics including mental health, drug and alcohol use, drive safe, revision techniques, personal statement writing, career planning, personal budgeting and nutrition. • To review and further develop enrichment offer to allow learners to further develop skills and behaviours expected as part of world readiness

<p>7</p>	<p>To ensure all learners undertake a work experience placement to develop world ready young people</p>	<p>All Year 1 Level 3 learners will undertake a 1-week work placement. For BTEC there are specific weeks throughout the year planned into the curriculum. A level learners will undertake their placement at the end of the academic year in the summer term. The Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care undertake 100 hours compulsory work placement within a social care environment and the BTEC Extended Diploma Children’s Play, Learning and Development have a compulsory 750 hours placement over the two-year programme with the Extended Cert in the same subject completing 50 hours.</p> <p>We have also developed links with employers to offer workplace safaris as an alternative way of gaining experience of the workplace, where a group of learners are given the opportunity to visit a workplace for the day and meet with a number of colleagues from across a range of teams/departments. This will allow learners to put into practise both the theoretical concepts and the skills they have developed through their academic subjects. The careers team also facilitate a variety of online work experience opportunities.</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Evidence that core transferable skills delivered to learners</p>	<p>We will deliver a digital skills session to all year 1 learners as part of a college wide induction process to ensure they have opportunity to develop world ready skills such as file creation, file storage, email, use of Microsoft teams.</p> <p>Each course will evidence skills developed in the skills position paper completed at course level, including information on relevant course specific key skills and stakeholder involvement.</p> <p>Subject schemes of work highlight the development of English, Maths and oracy skills as well as where work related learning is addressed.</p> <p>All Year 1 learners will take part in the college Level 3 Skills day working on digital, communication, team work and analytical skills.</p> <p>We will add a question to the learner voice survey in line with local, regional and national skills needs to measure whether we as a college are meeting those needs in the eyes of the learners.</p>

Corporation Statement

On behalf of the Sixth Form Bolton Corporation, it is hereby confirmed that the college plan as set out above reflects an agreed statement of purpose, aims and objectives as approved by the corporation at their meeting on 29th of March 2023.

The plan will be published on the college's website within three months of the start of the new academic year and can be accessed from the following link: <https://www.bolton-sfc.ac.uk/>

Chair of Governors



Principal



Dated:

29/3/2023

Supporting Documents:

- Greater Manchester Local Skills Report and Labour Market Plan (March 2022)
 - [gm-esap-local-skills-report-update-march-2022-final.pdf](#)
- The Sixth Form Bolton Skills Position paper
- Bolton Economic Growth and Resilience Plan (Feb 2023)
- CBI Getting Young People 'Work Ready' (June 2022)
- Quantifying the UK Data Skills gap
 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/quantifying-the-uk-data-skills-gap/quantifying-the-uk-data-skills-gap-full-report>

Appendix 1

Team Bolton Employment and Skills Partnership Steering Group (Spring 23)

Organisation
Alliance Learning
Alliance Learning
Bolton at Home, Employment, Skills and Enterprise
Bolton College
Bolton Council, Strategy & Partnerships Manager, Children's Services
Bolton Council, Corporate Manager - Performance and Partnerships
Bolton Council Deputy Director – Children's Services, LEA and Skills
Bolton Council, Start Well Integration Lead, Children's Services
Bolton Council Inclusive Economy Manager
Bolton Council Integration Work and Health Project Officer
Bolton Council Start Well (Family Hubs)
Bolton Council, The Workshop,
Bolton CVS
Bolton DES, Library and Museum Service
Bolton Solidarity Community Association (BSCA)
Connexions Careers Service
DWP Employer Advisor
DWP Skills and Work Partnerships
GMCA
Ingeus
The Sixth Form Bolton
Public Health
The University of Bolton