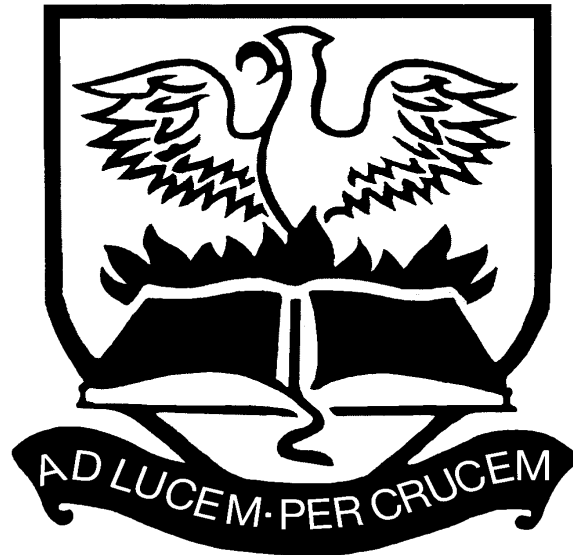


ARCHBISHOP BLANCH SCHOOL



AIM HIGHER POLICY

POLICY WRITTEN BY:	Miss E Jones (<i>adopted from LEA</i>)
DATE POLICY PREPARED:	16/10/08
RATIFIED BY GOVERNING BODY:	
DATE POLICY TO BE REVIEWED:	Autumn 2011

POLICY FOR AIMHIGHER

AIMS

The aim of the Aimhigher Programme is to:

- Build upon the Aimhigher programme initiatives of:
- Raising attainment
- Raising aspiration
- High standard of Information Advice and Guidance (IAG)
- Smooth transitions
- Appropriate progression
- Staff development

in order to increase the proportion of young people entering higher education from disadvantaged backgrounds, if they have the ability to do so.

- 1 To improve the links between institutions, colleges and higher education institutions (HEIs) in order to support young people at key transition points.
- 2 To provide enrichment activities and extension of provision through enhancing students' access to facilities, resources and expertise across institutions.
- 3 Pupil prior knowledge will be taken into account particularly at the interface between each key stage.

OBJECTIVES

- 1 To promote the development, implementation and evaluation of policy principles and practice.
- 2 To provide appropriate support, resources and materials for the education of the Aimhigher cohort.
- 3 To provide methods of identification and support.
- 4 To provide and facilitate staff training.
- 5 To ensure the use of monitoring and evaluation procedures.

DEFINITION

Aimhigher Cohort

- 1 Pupils who have limited knowledge of what Higher Education has to offer. Particular focus is given to pupils who have no family role models who have experienced higher education.
- 2 Students with disadvantaged circumstances who have potential to succeed in HE.

IDENTIFICATION

The criteria used to select the cohort are:

- Postcodes.
- Pupils with no family background in Higher Education.
- Teacher and pastoral nomination.
- Exam/test scores if this helps identify underachievers.
- Children in Public Care
- Students who may be disadvantaged on the basis of gender, racial, cultural or socio-economic backgrounds, physical or sensory disability or geographic location.

PROVISION

For provision to be meaningful, the following context is essential: a stimulating and interactive environment; an acceptance of individual differences and potential; a willingness to provide appropriate teaching methods to match those differences; flexibility of organisation.

Suggested support for Aimhigher cohort

- Learning Mentors / shadowing/ e-mentoring/ graduate mentoring/ student mentoring/ peer mentoring etc.
- Funding for travel to HEI Open Days
- Access to better information for students, staff and parents re: HE issues
- HEFCE Summer Schools
- Visits to FE and HE
- Taster days at FE/ HE
- AEA Masterclasses
- Clarification of financial implications
- Opportunities Bursaries
- Study support
- Revision sessions
- Oxbridge awareness

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- Communication channels, Assistant Head (Citizenship) will line manage the school co-ordinator. The school steering group will support agreed initiatives and raising of awareness. Aimhigher is a standing item on the following: Leadership Group meetings, Curriculum Co-ordinators' meetings, Pastoral and Governors' meetings.
- Evaluation of activities.
- Finances scrutinised.
- Students participating to be primarily from the named cohort.
- Agreed Aimhigher targets reviewed against performance through Aimhigher annual action plans.
- National monitoring and evaluation guidelines (DCSF) adhered to.