

# Policy for the School Curriculum

"Achieving Excellence Together in a Caring Community"



## Introduction

Our curriculum is defined as all the planned experiences, both formal and discrete which promote learning, personal growth and development. It includes the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum as well as the range of planned additional activities which are stimulating and memorable that the school organises in order to enrich the experience of the children. It also includes that which the children learn from the school ethos and the way they are treated and expected to behave. We aim to teach children how to grow into positive, responsible people, who can work and co-operate with others while developing knowledge and skills, so that they achieve their true potential.

## Strategic Vision

This policy evolves from our strategic plan as adopted by the governing body in Autumn 2014 which will be reviewed annually.

## Values

Our school curriculum is underpinned by the values that we hold. The curriculum is the means by which the school achieves its objective of educating children in the knowledge, skills and understanding that they need in order to lead fulfilling lives.

These are the main values of our school, upon which we have based our curriculum:

- We value the way in which all children are unique, and our curriculum promotes respect for the views of each individual child, as well as for people of all cultures.
- We value the spiritual and moral development of every person, as well as their intellectual and physical growth.

- We value the importance of each person in our community. We organise our curriculum so that we promote co-operation and understanding between all members of our community.
- We value the rights enjoyed by each person in our society. We respect each child in our school for who they are, and we treat them with fairness and honesty. We aim to enable each person to be successful, and we provide equal opportunities for all the children in our school.
- We value our environment, and we aim, through our curriculum, to teach respect for our world, and how we should care for it for future generations, as well as our own.

## Aims

Our school curriculum aims to

- enable the children to develop lively and enquiring minds
- help children become independent learners through reference to the 5 R's; reflectiveness, resourcefulness, readiness, resilience and responsibility
- develop in children a positive, confident attitude towards their learning
- develop awareness and understanding of spiritual, moral and cultural issues
- promote physical development and a healthy lifestyle for all pupils
- teach to a high standard which will enable all children to reach their personal best.
- promote a positive attitude towards learning, so that children enjoy coming to school, and acquire a solid basis for lifelong learning.
- teach children the basic skills of English, mathematics and computing
- enable children to be positive citizens and make positive contributions to the community within which they live.
- fulfil all the requirements of the National Curriculum and the Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education;
- enable children to have respect for themselves and high self-esteem, and to be able to live and work co-operatively with others.

## Organisation and planning

We plan our curriculum in three phases. We agree a long-term plan for each key stage. This indicates what topics are to be taught in each term, and to which groups of children. We review our long-term plan on an annual basis.

***Refer to the school website for documents.***

It is the medium term planning which makes our curriculum outstanding. The memorable experiences and our ability to respond to current events are developed at this level of planning.

The medium term planning details the programme of study and learning outcomes which are expected in each subject area. To ensure that the children have ownership of their learning the medium term topic based work will take account of the pupils' previous learning and be planned from what they want to know and investigate.

Medium term planning for English and mathematics is robust and rigorous ensuring that every child makes excellent progress. Assertive mentoring assessments and target setting underpin these plans.

Our short-term plans are those that our teachers write on a weekly or daily basis. We use these to set out the learning objectives for each session, and to identify what resources and activities we are going to use in the lesson.

In the Foundation Stage, at Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 we adopt an inter-disciplinary topic approach to curriculum planning. We plan the curriculum carefully, so that there is coherence and full coverage of all aspects of the National Curriculum and early learning goals, and there is planned progression in all curriculum areas.

We try to plan exciting topics including school trips to a variety of different places to enhance the curriculum. We organise themed weeks and special events to bring the curriculum alive.

The school provides the 23 hours 45 minutes teaching time in Key Stage 2 and 21 hours 15 minutes in Key Stage 1 and reception classes. Each child in the nursery experiences 15 hours a week.

## Personalisation

The curriculum in our school is designed to provide access and opportunity for all children who attend the school. Within each class the short term planning is personalised to accommodate the interests, age and learning styles of the children.

We differentiate the curriculum carefully and we will adapt it to meet the needs of individual children when appropriate.

If a child has a special need, our school does all it can to meet these individual needs. We comply with the requirements set out in the SEND Code of Practice in providing for children with special needs. If a child displays signs of having special needs, his/her teacher makes an assessment of this need. In most instances the teacher is able to provide resources and educational opportunities which meet the child's needs within the normal class organisation. If a child's need has more complex needs, we if necessary, use the support provided by Learning Support Assistants, and we involve the appropriate external agencies

## The Foundation Stage

The curriculum that we teach in the nursery and reception classes meet the requirements set out in the revised National Curriculum at Foundation Stage. Our curriculum planning focuses on the Early Learning Goals and on developing children's skills and experiences, as set out in this document.

Our school fully supports the principle that young children learn through play, and by engaging in well-planned structured activities. Teaching in the nursery and reception classes build on the experiences of the children in their pre-school learning. We do all we can to build positive partnerships with the pre-school providers in the area.

During the children's first term in the nursery and reception classes, their teacher begins to record the skills of each child on entry to the school. This assessment forms an important part of the future curriculum planning for each child. The Foundation Stage Profile is used to assess children's progress termly and at the end of the year.

We are well aware that all children need the support of parents and teachers to make good progress in school. We strive to build positive links with the parents of each child by keeping them informed about the way in which the children are being taught and how well each child is progressing.

## Key skills

We acknowledge that the following key skills are crucial to our children

- communication, both oral and written;
- application of number;
- computing;
- creativity;
- independence;
- working with others;
- improving own learning and performance;
- investigation;
- problem-solving.

In our curriculum planning we plan to help children develop these skills, so that the children's progress can be identified and monitored. All subject areas contribute to a child's progress in these skills. Our school believes that all children need to make outstanding progress in these skill areas in order to develop to their true potential.

## The role of the subject leader

The role of the subject leader is to:

- provide a strategic lead and direction for the subject;
- support and offer advice to colleagues on issues related to the subject;
- monitor progress in that subject area;
- provide efficient resource management for the subject.

It is the role of each subject leader to keep up to date with developments in their subject, at both national and local level. They review the way the subject is taught in the school and plan for improvement. This development planning links to whole-school objectives. Each subject leader reviews the curriculum plans for their subject, ensures that there is full coverage of the National Curriculum and that progression is planned into schemes of work. The subject leader may also keep a portfolio of children's work, which s/he uses to show the achievements of children at each key stage and to give examples of expectations of attainment.

## Monitoring and review

Strategic Policy and Direction Committee is responsible for monitoring the way the school curriculum is implemented. This committee reviews each subject area according to the policy review timetable.

The head teacher is responsible for the day to day organisation of the curriculum. The head teacher monitors the lesson plans for all teachers, ensuring that all classes are taught the full requirements of the National Curriculum.

Subject leaders monitor the way their subject is taught throughout the school. They examine long-term and medium-term planning, and ensure that appropriate teaching strategies are used. Subject leaders also have responsibility for monitoring the way in which resources are stored and managed.

## Home/School Partnership

Teachers set homework weekly for all pupils. Parents will be expected to support their child with their learning by supporting, encouraging and praising their completed work.

They will be encouraged to participate in family learning tasks each term.

## Equal Opportunities

All pupils will have access to the full curriculum irrespective of age, gender, race, disability, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, religion or belief.

Individual different opinions and ideas will be respected and valued.

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## Monitoring of this policy

Members of the Strategic Policy and Direction Committee will oversee the implementation of this policy.

Signed: .....

Ian Murray

*Chair of Strategic Policy and Direction Committee*

4th September 2014