

Our Curriculum

Structure and Progression

We recognise that the curriculum is the means by which we ensure that all our children get their fair share of the rich cultural inheritance our world affords, but that if children don't remember what we have taught them, then even the richest curriculum is pointless. Knowledge can't empower if it is forgotten.

Thinking deeply about a subject helps us remember it, which is why we set a high level of challenge in our curriculum. Each 'learning journey' contains explicit connections between and within subjects.

Our curriculum also has carefully structured links across terms and year groups with children revisiting key concepts and ideas. This revisiting is done in a deliberate, planned way. We have also carefully built in 'diagonal links' – joining concepts across both year groups and subjects. The aim of this being that each time a concept is encountered within a different context, not only is the concept more likely to be remembered, the understanding of that concept becomes more nuanced. These links form the bones of our curriculum ensuring there is progression.

Pedagogy and Culture

Our pedagogy is built around metacognition and self-regulation. We know that these approaches have consistently high levels of impact, with pupils making an average of seven months' additional progress in their learning. Our curriculum is structured in a way that aims to teach children how to think - rather than what to think.

We place huge value on peer to peer learning throughout the curriculum and collaborative approaches are employed wherever possible. Our children learn to co-operate, listen and, when necessary, challenge politely.

Our aim is that all relationships across our school community are warm and respectful – and our curriculum plays a key part in building a culture that encourages sensitive and mature thinking.

It is expected that our pupils have the opportunity to deepen their learning through first-hand experiences including the chance to attend trips and workshops, as well as develop discrete skills, where appropriate, in each subject. Every child will also experience outdoor learning as part of our Beach School.

You can see a breakdown of each year group's curriculum map on the website.

Intent

Learn Aspire Achieve

These drivers reflect the needs of our children and the values of our school. They underpin our curriculum and sit at the heart of everything we do.

Our curriculum is designed to be challenging and offer children opportunities to think deeply about complex ethical and moral issues. Each term's theme is built around a genuinely open key question - what then follows in terms of learning should help children to form their own conclusions and decide upon their own answer to the question. We want children to learn to research, reason, justify and evaluate.

The themes we have chosen as a school are intended to introduce our children to 'big ideas' and concepts. These are identified explicitly for each theme.

Higher level vocabulary is also explicitly taught so that children are able to communicate and articulate ideas in more precise, sophisticated and mature ways. Additionally each theme or learning journey has a number of texts associated with it to ensure that children are encountering high quality literature.

Implementation

Our curriculum is delivered through termly 'Learning Journeys' developed by dividing up the statutory skills and areas of coverage in the National Curriculum. This creative, cross-curricular approach gives a greater sense of purpose and context to learning, enabling pupils to gain a deeper and broader understanding of specific subject areas.

Impact

Our children are overwhelmingly positive about the school. Our curriculum makes them excited and enthusiastic about learning. They know and use the school values and are proud of the responsibilities that they have in school as junior governors, science ambassadors, librarians, sports leaders and being part of the newspaper team. Pupils and parents appreciate the wide range of after-school clubs which broaden pupils' experiences and enrich the curriculum.