

The Curriculum

The Early Years Foundation Stage

The pupils in Reception follow the curriculum for the Early Years Foundation Stage. This curriculum underpins all future learning by supporting and developing the pupils' skills in the three prime and four specific areas of learning, and the three characteristics of effective learning.

The prime areas of learning:

communication and language
physical development
personal, social and emotional development

The specific areas of learning:

literacy
mathematics
understanding the world
expressive arts and design

Characteristics of effective learning:

playing and exploring
active learning
creating and thinking critically

The National Curriculum

The National Curriculum, which is followed by pupils in years 1-6, identifies the core subjects that form a major part of the school's teaching programme. These are English, Maths, Science, Religious Education and Information and ICT. In addition, there are 'foundation' subjects of History, Geography, Art, Music, Design and Technology and Physical Education.

We follow the National Curriculum, but seek to educate more broadly and beyond its limits wherever possible we offer Personal, Social and Health Education, whole-class and individual instrumental tuition. In addition, we offer a rich variety of opportunities for sport, drama and presentation.

Careful long and medium term planning by staff ensures that there is continuity and progression in the children's learning and that work is appropriately differentiated for their needs.

The professional expertise of the staff is developed through reflection and professional development opportunities.

The Governors have highlighted the following areas as necessary requirements to fulfil our mission statement.

- | To establish a happy, positive, caring environment for learning and social development.
- | To help pupils to use language and number effectively.
- | To foster a general concern for people and their needs.
- | To develop in pupils a sense of self-respect and self-worth.
- | To help pupils acquire knowledge and skills relevant to adult life.
- | To encourage respect for religious beliefs and moral and spiritual values.
- | To help pupils to develop an awareness of the heritage around them and to prepare them for life in modern Britain.

English

Language is the principal means by which we think, define what we experience and feel and interpret the world in which we live. Our approach to language in the primary curriculum reflects acknowledgement of this.

We want to extend the language children acquired at home, by providing experience in a range of varieties of English, and we need to develop their understanding of, and knowledge about, the different ways in which meanings are conveyed through language.

We aim to encourage in a meaningful context:

- | Competence in reading and a natural desire to explore various kinds of reading materials;
- | Personal and imaginative writing;
- | Confidence in spelling and the use of vocabulary;
- | Lively discussion and attentive listening;
- | The development of good grammar and comprehension skills;

| High standards of handwriting and presentation

These key elements are applied across the curriculum.

Reading

We use a number of reading schemes-Oxford Reading Tree, Rigby Star, Glow-worm, Fireflies and Comic Phonics to name just a few. They are coloured coded into 13 bands and within each band there are a range of text types including fiction, non-fiction, comics, plays and poetry. This enables us to engage different interests, develop the pupils' reading skills and build their reading confidence.

In Years 3 – 6 reading books are carefully selected and organised into reading genres that broaden the pupils' reading experience and support age related expectations for each year group.

Guided Reading

In guided reading sessions we employ a number of different schemes to give the pupils' variety and depth to their reading experiences. All guided reading books are appropriately banded to support progress in reading.

Letters and Sounds

We use Letters and Sounds to teach phonics with additional resources from Jolly Phonics.

In the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1, phonics is taught daily at a discrete dedicated time. Children are grouped across Reception and Key Stage 1 according to the phase they are working at.

Maths

Mathematics is a body of knowledge, which provides a way of viewing and making sense of the world. It is used to analyse and communicate information and ideas and to tackle a range of practical tasks and real life problems. It equips pupils with a uniquely powerful set of tools to understand, modify, change or extend current ideas. These tools include logical reasoning, problem solving skills and the ability to think in abstract ways.

When children enter school, they will enjoy a wide range of mathematical experiences, involving much practical activity and cross-curricular discussion, before being confronted by number symbols or pencil and paper.

All Maths lessons are planned according to the national curriculum. Investigative and problem solving work is integrated into every topic for children of all abilities, challenging them to think for themselves, develop strategies and apply their knowledge to a wide range of situations.

Science

From the beginning stages of scientific exploration, pupils will undertake activities which promote first hand experiences.

Individual pieces of work will display a gradual and steady development of skills and understanding.

Evaluation of the success of science teaching will take into account skills such as identifying problems, observing, classifying, looking for patterns, measuring, evaluating information, communicating, predicting, hypothesising, devising investigations, experimenting and applying learning.

Religious Education

As a Church of England school, we believe that religious education has a vital part to play in developing the Christian tradition and heritage whilst ensuring that the diversity of beliefs and experiences of other faiths is acknowledged and valued.

Religious Education aims to enable pupils to understand the nature of religious beliefs and practices, and the importance and influence of these in the lives of believers, so that their own personal spiritual development will be promoted.

ICT

ICT equips pupils to use computational thinking and creativity to understand the world.

Computing has links with mathematics, science and design and technology. The pupils will be taught the principles of information and computation, how digital systems work and how to put this knowledge to use through programming.

Geography

This subject is concerned with the study of places, the human and physical processes, which shape them, and the people who live in them. An understanding of geography helps children to make sense of their surroundings and the wider world, and to become more aware of man's impact on his environment.

History

Through history, children develop a sense of identity by learning about the development of the community, Britain, Europe and the world. Pupils are given the opportunity to develop their skills of enquiry, research and information technology. They are encouraged to make judgements based on evidence and to give reasons for these judgements.

Design Technology

Design and technology is an inspiring, rigorous and practical subject. Using creativity and imagination, pupils design and make products that solve real and relevant problems within a variety of contexts, considering their own and others' needs, wants and values. Pupils learn how to take risks, becoming resourceful, innovative, enterprising and capable citizens.

Physical Education

Participation should be a positive experience for all our pupils, laying a foundation for purposeful use of leisure time, and giving scope for the growth of personal qualities such as confidence, courage, creativity, initiative and the development of attitudes and skills.

Swimming

Pupils in Willow and Oak 4 Classes have the opportunity to learn how to swim or develop their swimming skills. Sessions take place at the Cotswold Sports Centre in Cirencester.

Music

From their experience of the arts in general and music in particular, children develop the capacity to discover, create, learn, think and feel. Our school aims to provide a wide range of musical experience. Lessons are available for brass, piano, guitar and stringed instruments from professional music teachers.

French

We aim to develop an interest in and enthusiasm for language learning. The pupils will develop both confidence and competence so that they become increasingly independent learners and users of French. We aim to foster the pupils' progress in the four skill areas: reading, writing, speaking and listening.

Art

We believe that creativity is a vital part of education. We provide the pupils with opportunities for painting, drawing, and sculpture. Observational and practical skills are taught in more structured lessons but the pupils are given opportunities to experiment with new ideas while learning from the study of old and modern artists.

PHSCE

In Personal Health Social and Citizenship Education we aim to encourage our pupils to:

- | Develop mutual respect and understanding
- | Think about issues and make informed, responsible choices
- | Be aware of and care for others and the environment
- | Talk about feelings and be sensitive to the feelings of others
- | Be constructively critical and questioning
- | Consider citizenship