

WREN PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL



NATIONAL CURRICULUM POLICY STATEMENTS

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All children from Year 1 upwards follow the National Curriculum which was last revised in 2014.

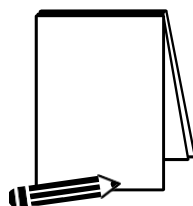
CORE SUBJECTS

Maths
Science
English

FOUNDATION SUBJECTS

History
Geography
Design Technology
Computing
Art
P.E.
Music
RE (Not part of the National Curriculum)
PSHE (Not part of National Curriculum)

The National Curriculum is not the whole curriculum and so by implementing an integrated approach, we believe that we maintain good primary practice, meet the Attainment Targets of the National Curriculum and include other aspects such as Community Education and Personal, Social and Health Education and Citizenship. All aspects of the curriculum are available to all pupils regardless of their age, sex, ability or background. The children are grouped in English and Mathematics within some year groups so that the school can match work to children of different abilities. The children experience a range of teaching and learning styles, sometimes working individually, sometimes in groups and sometimes as a whole class. Often children undertake specific learning activities in small groups outside the classroom environment and within the school grounds.



ENGLISH

English (reading, writing, speaking and listening) is a vital area of the children's learning. We encourage children to read a variety of material including picture books and we allow children to bring books home to foster a love and respect for books.

We use a whole variety of reading strategies to broaden the children's interests, phonic expertise and vocabulary, but all children start learning to read at school using the Oxford Reading Tree as a Core Scheme. Other Reading material quickly follows.

The children are encouraged to write for different reasons. By the time they leave us they should be able to argue a point of view, describe, tell a story, write a letter, write facts, poetry, follow instructions, explain and draw conclusions. They must be able to use clear correctly formed handwriting as well as be familiar with dictionaries, encyclopaedia, atlases, non-fiction books as well as fiction and poetry. All our primary children do Literacy work every day where they concentrate on Reading and Writing activities in an intense way, but other aspects of Literacy are taught at other times in the week and both reading and writing are also practised in other subjects when the children write for different purposes. We also incorporate drama into other subjects. We believe that all aspects of English – reading, writing, speaking and listening are effectively supported in a cross-curricular approach as well as in pure literacy lessons. All aspects of English are very well supported by the provision in the school. The children are able to borrow books from the library.

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics may seem very different now to the subject you studied at school. We aim to show children that it is a subject which surrounds us every day of our lives. They will estimate, classify, use money, measure, weigh, work with liquids and face a variety of different practical tasks.

The children should be able to add, subtract, multiply and divide numbers and should know tables by the time they leave Year 6. The children are taught to extend their mental and investigational skills. As with English the children do regular Mathematics work each day, which follows a structured format. Mental calculations and problem solving are given a high priority. Children are taught new concepts through practical exploration and then progress on to informal and formal methods of calculations, reasoning and problem solving.

SCIENCE

Science enables children to explore the natural and man-made world, with increasing understanding, through their own investigation and observation. As well as developing skills and knowledge, we aim to show children that all science has an effect locally and globally and that this effect can be beneficial and sometimes harmful. We are fortunate enough to have a variety of outdoor areas that enable us to teach about the natural world. Our science work is also enhanced by the use of visits and visiting experts. We aim to develop Knowledge and Understanding of scientific concepts and also the process skills of Scientific investigation.



TOPIC

When we look at our aims in education, we believe that we can no longer look at separate subjects, but look at the skills which people learn. We know that competence in Language, Mathematics and Science are improved if the pupils are involved in a wide programme of work and the skills are applied in a variety of context. And so history, geography, some science, technology, art and craft, music, health education and ICT, are all covered in elements of topics as well as separately by all children each year. These are enhanced in our different theme weeks.

Class teachers plan carefully to present learning programmes in this way. It is common practice for our children to be taken on educational visits connected with their topic work and

we have numerous visitors who bring their own expertise into school. We have a nature garden adjacent to the school grounds which forms the basis for much environmental studies work. In topic work, we believe that children learn best from first-hand experience and we use every opportunity to use the wealth of knowledge, expertise and experiences which are part of the children's home lives. We value the expertise which parents may offer to the different aspects that children are learning.



COMPUTING

Pupils use a range of ICT programmes to support their learning. We have laptops and iPads that are used throughout the school. The children learn ICT skills such as word processing, manipulating data and research skills. This equipment is used to support learning in all areas of the curriculum. We aim to develop our children's computing and logic skills for the future and encourage the use and understanding of hardware and software and web based applications. ICT is now an integral part of our lives. The safe and healthy interaction is encouraged through promoting E:Safety awareness.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

P.E. activities, games and swimming (Year 4 children) are part of our curriculum and all children are expected to take part unless there is a medical reason why this should not happen. Please inform us in writing if this should be the case. All children undertake all activities, both indoors and out and there is no separation of boys and girls for P.E. Our school environment is a good place for children to experience P.E. and it helps greatly in nurturing children's talents. Please note that children are not allowed to wear ear-rings/jewellery during P.E. lessons because of safety reasons. We make use of outside providers to coach and support children on occasions if we feel this will enhance children's experience and attitudes towards health and exercise. Within PE traditional sports and games are introduced as well as dance, gymnastics. Outdoor adventurous activities are also important aspects of the curriculum. As with other subjects if your child displays a particular skill, interest or talent in school we will share this with you at parents evening. Physical activity helps the children develop self-esteem as well as positive attitudes to healthy lifestyles. It is also a lot of fun.



CREATIVE ARTS

Children are given opportunities to express themselves in different ways. They will therefore paint, model, collage, construct, sew, work with clay, dance, sing, act, cook and experiment. We believe the children enjoy the work they produce and take pride in seeing it displayed around school and parents are welcome to look at the work produced. These creative activities are important for the all-round development of the "whole" child. Like all other activities at our school, creative activities are undertaken by girls and boys. We are anxious that all our children receive equal opportunities.

We feel that the work the children produce is outstanding. You are always welcome to look at the displays which represent all ages and are in the hall.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP / RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The school assemblies or Collective Worship are broadly Christian but non-denominational and we expect that most children will attend them. We educate children in sound moral values through stories from a wide range of books. However, parents have the right to withdraw their children from assembly and Religious Education if they so wish.

Collective worship is a time to celebrate, reflect and feel part of the school community, this can take place within a whole school / Key Stage assembly or within class. The religious education scheme focuses on the five major religions of the world covering aspects such as special places and books. We follow the Derby City agreed syllabus for RE.



P.S.H.E./CITIZENSHIP

We believe that PSHE/Citizenship (which includes Sex Education, Drugs Education and Road Safety) should be positive, well-planned and relevant to different children's needs. It is integrated into the curriculum and not isolated. As parents you have the right to withdraw your child from Sex Education and we would be most happy to discuss your child's involvement if you are in doubt. The children are all encouraged to have responsibilities in school, according to their ages. We have an active and lively School Council which consists of children who are elected by their peers. The School Council regularly meets with the teacher responsible for the School Council.

We also have an ECO –Council with representatives from each class (Reception join in the summer term) educating children and making them aware of environmental issues; they then discuss with their class and implement actions around the environment and sustainability.