



Cherish, Nurture, Achieve

Curriculum Policy

Policy Date	September 2016
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Approved by Governors	C Wynn
Review Date	September 2019

Review: S James/D Murphy	Date: September 2017
Review:	Date:
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Curriculum Policy

Becket Primary School believes that each pupil is entitled to receive the best education possible to achieve the highest standards. Our curriculum is based on the National Curriculum outlined by the DFE, further details of which can be found at www.dfe.gov.uk. The provision of resources needed to achieve the delivery of the curriculum is under constant review.

We want children to develop a positive attitude to learning and achievement. Our aim is to produce well-adjusted, aware, respectful and independent young people, able to thrive in today's changing environment. To support the development of British values the main drivers in our curriculum are children's development in personal well-being, spiritual, moral and social areas of learning

Becket Primary School is proud of its diverse community and committed to meeting the needs of pupils from all nationalities in preparation for life in a multi-cultural society.

Physical as well as academic skills are nurtured to encourage the development of knowledge, skills, understanding, self-esteem and confidence to enable pupils to make a successful transition to secondary education.

Early Years Education

The children in Foundation stage (Nursery and Reception classes) follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. The areas covered include the prime areas of: Communication and Language, Physical Development and Personal, Social and Emotional Development. The children also develop their understanding of the specific areas of literacy, maths, the World around them and Expressive art and Design. The curriculum is taught through a play based environment with a planned balance between children exploring their environment through continuous provision for play and focused teaching inputs.

National Curriculum

The children in years 1-6 follow the 2014 National Curriculum. This includes English, Maths, Science, Computing, Geography, History, Music, Art, Design Technology (DT), Physical Education (P.E) and Religious Education (R.E). The school also teaches Personal, Social and Health Education in which Sex and relationship education is a part.

The following give an overview of what is covered in each curriculum subject:

English

The school follows the National Curriculum for English which unites the important skills of speaking and listening, reading and writing. From the Foundation stage there is a systematic approach to teaching reading through using a mainly phonic approach. All children in Reception and KS1 are taught phonic skills using the 'Letters and sounds' programme. This is taught daily in

smaller, ability groupings. Children are regularly assessed and may move groups throughout the year. Children who have not attained the necessary phonics skills will continue to receive additional support in phonics as they transfer into year 3. For reading the school uses the Oxford Reading Tree and other phonics based books including the 'Read, Write, Inc' scheme. This is heavily supplemented by other reading material to develop the children's enjoyment of reading a variety of books. Guided reading groups and whole class sessions teach the children comprehension skills and teachers often use quality children's literature as a starting point for their English lessons. Children's progress in reading is monitored regularly through the book banding scheme and regular assessments. All children have the opportunity of producing extended pieces of writing and these are often connected to the topic they are learning about. Each year group will cover a range of different genres. Children will have opportunities to draft, edit and improve their writing following teacher and peer feedback. The children are taught how to use more complex punctuation and grammar in their writing as they move through the school and this is taught using the Rainbow Grammar Scheme. Children from year 2 upwards will develop their spelling skills through the 'Read, Write, Inc' programme. All children are taught to use a joined handwriting style and the correct formation of letters for this is taught from reception class upwards.

Drama lessons enhance the children's speaking skills and link to other areas of the curriculum being taught.

Maths

The school follows the National Curriculum for maths. We teach this curriculum through the 'Maths No Problem' scheme of work. In this scheme children are encouraged to apply maths to real life situations and make strong connections by learning through the use of concrete apparatus and representing maths through pictorial form before learning the abstract concepts. Children learn about the number system, calculation skills, shapes space and measures and how to represent and interpret data. The children will develop logic, reasoning and problem solving skills and are encouraged to use all their mathematical skills in other curriculum areas. They are expected to have good mental strategies as well as being able to set out calculations on paper. Fluency in times tables is encouraged through the use of TT RockStars which the children can access online.

Science

Through the science curriculum we aim to increase our pupils' knowledge and understanding of the natural world, properties of materials and how things work. The practical aspect of science is very important and the children develop skills in planning, conducting experiments and evaluating the results. They develop skills in observing, reasoning and communicating their findings.

Computing

We aim to prepare children to participate in a rapidly changing world that is being transformed by new technologies. The children have access to PC's, laptops and ipads in their classroom to research information to support their

learning in other curriculum areas. We expect children to use a wide range of software so that they develop a level of competence in using word processing, data handling and graphics. We help the children to learn about Internet safety and expect them to use all their ICT skills across the curriculum to add an extra dimension to their work. The children are also taught 'coding'; writing simple programmes.

History

In Years 1 to 6 the children will learn about different eras of history and how the past has influenced the present. They will learn about significant historical events and people from ancient times to more recent history. They will develop a chronological framework and use a variety of sources to begin their research.

Geography

Our pupils explore and investigate the area in which they live as well as learning about communities further afield that they can compare and contrast. They learn about a variety of physical forms on the Earth's surface and how humans interact with their environment. The children learn about the impact of environmental issues and how this can affect them. They take part in field work skills and develop their understanding of map skills

DT

We provide opportunities for the children to handle materials and tools safely. They develop processes where they plan, design and make models; sometimes working on their own or as part of a collaborative team. They evaluate what they have done and suggest improvements. They will develop skills in cooking, mechanics, sewing and construction.

Art and Design

The children will have the opportunity to learn different skills of drawing, painting, modelling, sculpting and design. They are encouraged to express their own understanding and feelings through using different stimuli and media. They will learn about the work and influence of different artists in different cultures.

Music

The children will have the opportunity to listen to a variety of music and apply their knowledge and understanding. They will develop skills in singing and learning how to play a musical instrument. They will create and develop musical ideas, composing music in groups and have the opportunity to record this using ICT. The children in Year 3 learn how to play the Hand Bells and Year 4 learn how to play the violin as part of the Wider Opportunities scheme Children in Year 5 and Year 6 develop their music skills by learning a brass or woodwind instrument and take part in collaborative music making in the school wind band.

Physical Education

All children are expected to take part in physical activity and we aim for this to be for two hours per week. Physical education provides opportunities for pupils to be creative, competitive and to face up to different challenges as individuals and in groups and teams. It also promotes positive attitudes towards active and healthy lifestyles. The children will develop their skills, knowledge and understanding in games, gymnastics, dance, swimming and adventurous activities. All children in year 3 will take part in swimming lessons and this provision may continue into year 4 for some children who have not met the required standard. We encourage all children in year 6 to take part in our residential trip where they have the opportunity to take part in adventurous activities which cannot be offered in the school environment. The school is affiliated to 'Cycle Derby' as a 'Bike It' school and the children have the opportunity of developing their skills and safety in riding scooters in key stage one progressing to formal cycle training and safety in key stage 2. We have strong links with Deda dance company and pupils have the opportunity of learning and performing dance routines at the Deda dance venue.

PSHE

PSHE helps to give pupils the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to lead confident, healthy independent lives and become informed, active and responsible citizens. The school follows the 'Cambridge' scheme for PSHE. Pupils are encouraged to take part in a wide range of activities and experiences beyond the curriculum so that they begin to contribute to the life of their school and community. This includes being involved in our school council, ECO group and Cycle crew. As part of the wider topic of Health education we teach the children about the bodily and emotional changes they will encounter as they reach puberty.

Religious Education

In Derby City religious education is taught according to the locally agreed syllabus. This is non-denominational and multi-cultural. A committee representing many faiths drew up the syllabus. We are pleased to have pupils from a number of different faiths and try to enhance all beliefs in some way. Full assemblies are held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and daily acts of worship bring children together. Assemblies are mainly Christian, but the beliefs of other faiths are taught and discussed and festivals of many faiths are celebrated. We have stories, discussions or talks that sometimes include members of the community from different faiths. We aim to try to meet the spiritual needs of all children. The content of some assemblies may also support other aspects of the curriculum. Parents are very welcome to attend assemblies that involve their child.

Parents who do not wish their child to be taught the City's agreed R.E. syllabus or to take part in the daily acts of worship, are asked to write to the

Headteacher and arrange an appointment to discuss the alternative arrangements which the school can make.

Modern Foreign Languages

There are many nationalities in our school community and currently 24 different languages are spoken. The children are exposed to a rich language culture but in order to prepare them for secondary school the children in key stage 2 focus on learning French.

Curriculum Organisation

The subjects in the curriculum are taught using a combination of discrete lessons and through topic work. This helps the children to make natural connections between the subjects they are learning. When planning topic themes the subjects are grouped into the following areas of learning:

Historical, Geographical and Social Understanding	History, Geography, R.E, MFL
Understanding the Arts	Art and Design, Music
Understanding Science and Technology	Science, DT, Computing
Understanding Physical Development, Health and Well Being	P.E, PSHE

Starting points for topics are based around questions which will prompt the curiosity of the children and there are opportunities in topic work for the children to research their own line of enquiry either independently, with partners or small groups.

The topics will also include visits and trips which enable the children to have first-hand learning experiences. This will include local places of interest including the library and local museums, visits to different places of worship, day visits and a residential trip.

Review

As part of our self-evaluation process, the curriculum is always being reviewed so that we can provide the best possible learning experiences for the children. We also review our curriculum in line with Government recommendations and local priorities.

Concerns /Complaints

Any complaints or concerns regarding the curriculum and any related matters should be made to the Headteacher.