

CHERRY TREE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

“Upon the education of the people of this country, the fate of this country depends.”

(Benjamin Disraeli)

GENERAL CURRICULUM INFORMATION

In providing learning experiences for our children we are guided by the requirements of the National Curriculum (2014). The aim of the curriculum is to ensure that all pupils, regardless of background, have access to a curriculum offer that allows them to engage in society, politically, economically and socially. An ideal curriculum is one that combines two fundamental dimensions – social and individual:

“Equipping young people to understand themselves, both as individuals and as members of complex, rapidly changing societies, is, or should be, one of the most important of educational aims, and logically should be so for all future citizens in democratic countries.”

(Beck, 2013)

The provision at Cherry Tree Primary School and Nursery takes account of every aspect of a child’s development whilst ensuring their personal and social development. These latter elements were identified by UNESCO in their 2014 report as being as significantly important as developing learners’ intellectual capacity.

The curriculum gives children the opportunity to achieve the highest possible standards of numeracy and literacy whilst ensuring they can become confident in physical, artistic, practical and social skills. We provide a broad and balanced education allowing for the individual needs of each child to be met within well-planned learning experiences.

We do not like to ‘pigeon hole’ children and our curriculum is designed to allow children to develop their own specific interests whilst learning with and alongside others. We believe that every child is an individual and as an individual will learn differently with different rates of progress and achievement; they will respond to different teaching styles, they will acquire and retain knowledge in different ways and at different rates. Our aim is for each of our children to be able, in time, to take their place in society with their peers.

Areas of Learning include:

- English (Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation)
- Mathematics
- Science
- Religious Education
- Physical Education
- PSHE (including Relationships and Health Education)
- Computing
- Art and Design
- Design and Technology
- Geography
- History
- Music
- Modern Foreign Language (MfL)

Curriculum planning involves all members of the teaching staff to ensure there is progression and continuity in learning as children pass through the school and all our planning processes give due regard to the requirements of the National Curriculum programmes of study and our schemes of work.

FAMILIES AND THE CURRICULUM

Support and help from a child's family are essential building blocks in a child's education and this starts at home before a child has even begun school. Early experiences literally shape how a child's brain gets built e.g. children begin to learn language and literacy even before they speak their first words, by the age of three 50% of our language is in place and, by five, it's 85%, by the age of four, a child's brain is 90% of its adult size.

The delivery of our planned curriculum invites families to help/encourage children at home with such things as reading, number work, consolidation of acquired skills, etc. and at times delivery and support of remote digital learning. We also welcome parental help in school time for such things as reading, number facts, assisting children with their work etc. We aim to maximise the use of all available facilities and resources including staff/parent expertise. We look for high levels of achievement in every area of the curriculum. As success in all areas of learning depends on a child's understanding of the basics, it is essential that due emphasis is placed on building solid foundations and we strongly urge families to support their child in this with home learning advised by the school and activities and events that being part of a family can provide. We continue to review and refine the curriculum and our methods of delivery to ensure they remain appropriate in meeting the needs of the children.

CURRICULUM DELIVERY

There are two main ways in which to deliver the curriculum, one being the subject approach and the other the cross-curricular approach. The children at Cherry Tree Primary School and Nursery will experience both approaches as each has something valuable to contribute towards their education.

The subject approach, as it suggests, is the teaching of a particular subject more or less in isolation from other areas of the curriculum, for example, Mathematics, English and Science. Children will be taught the skills and knowledge of a particular subject and extend their conceptual levels accordingly.

The cross-curricular approach enables the teacher to provide a vehicle through which children can apply the skills and concepts gained from subject teaching whilst gaining additional knowledge. In addition, children become aware of how to use, develop and extend the many skills they are gaining, they see a purpose and value in having those skills.

TEACHING METHODS

Throughout your child's schooling various teaching methods will be used such as the whole class approach, small group work and individual learning. Each has its place in a balanced and well-developed curriculum.

Children are generally taught in mixed ability classes for all subjects. However, there may be times and circumstances when a child or children will benefit from a different approach.