

The Grove School

Curriculum Policy

Pupils study all subjects in the National Curriculum 2014. This includes mathematics, English, biology, chemistry, physics, computing, history, geography, art, music, design technology, physical education, modern foreign languages (in Key Stage 2), social, moral, spiritual and cultural education, personal, social and health education combined with citizenship and religious studies. Basic skills are covered in a cross curricular way in all lessons, we use a cross curricular theme each term and all pupils in the school study this theme at a level appropriate to their needs.

We have ensured that we are aware of the changes that have taken place to the curriculum; each staff member has copies of the new curriculum to inform planning, as well as Chris Quigley's essentials material as a further support package.

All our classes develop their basic skills through all lessons planned as part of the curriculum, they also develop these skills through being part of an enterprise group, of which each class is one.

English

The development of English skills is a crucial element in a child's overall success. Our aim is to develop language skills through speaking and listening, reading, writing, spelling, handwriting and presentation. Emphasis is placed on the development of communication that is appropriate to the pupil's needs, as well as developing reading skills and writing skills, encouraging creativity as well as spelling, grammar and handwriting.

Our English programme and reading schemes can be seen on our website.

Mathematics

The programme of mathematics covered in the school is based on the National Curriculum guidelines. We aim to develop the concepts of number, time, shape, space, measure as well as data handling. We ensure that the pupils are given the skills to be able to apply these skills to everyday situations and that they can

use the skills they have developed to solve problems and develop a deep understanding of the concepts that they have learnt.

Biology, Chemistry and Physics

Our aim is to develop an importance of these subjects in everyday life including its relevance to personal health and safety.

Pupils use a variety of domestic and environmental setting as a starting point for investigating these subjects; through this we develop both oral and written communication skills. We also encourage the pupils to develop a deep understanding of the subject, using their knowledge to express their ideas in a variety of ways including report writing, drawings, charts and models.

Computing

We aim to create a learning environment where pupils are supported and encouraged to develop as individuals and as members of a small group. The development of computing facilities in school is a central part of this philosophy. We have I-pads, lap tops and PC's using these at appropriate times to enhance and develop learning, all pupils have access to these resources at different times and in different locations around school. The use of the internet is safely monitored and controlled to ensure that all pupils use this resource safely. Each classroom either has an interactive white board or a plasma screen to ensure that group, individual and class learning can be lead using these technologies. We also have different resources that enable our pupils to access the 2014 computing curriculum which include programmable toys and other resources.

Design and Technology

Technology combines work involved in design, food technology, and information technology. In design technology, pupils investigate, make and modify models using their practical knowledge and experience. They use these skills to develop goods to be sold as part of our Business and Enterprise ethos that means pupils decide on a product to be made, plan what they need, develop the product and sell these goods for profit.

History

History is taught throughout the school, in the early years the subject is approached through general themes such as families, homes, transport and occupations, these themes are linked to the whole school planning of themes that will cover all areas of the new 2014 curriculum, the list of these themes is also shown on our website. These themes include local studies and famous people who have influenced British history. Where ever possible the subject is approached in a practical way and a way in which our learners can engage.

Geography

During the early years an emphasis is placed on the child's immediate surroundings, this would also be the case for our pupils with the most complex needs. The surroundings would be places such as home, school, local parks, shops and their local church. Environmental visits take place on a weekly basis this enable the pupils to experience their surroundings and to learn from these experiences.

Art and Craft

Art is a subject that is nurtured within school, many of our pupils have a real flare for art and we constantly look for ways to develop our curriculum, including applying for and receiving the Arts Mark through the development of a sensory art curriculum that is inclusive for all pupils. A wide range of skills and techniques are covered. Pupils have the opportunity to work with a variety of materials and cover areas such as; drawing, painting, photography, printing, ceramics, sewing, weaving and construction activities.

Physical Education

PE is taught throughout school. Pupil's experience gymnastics, dance, drama, games and athletics. Pupils either swim at The Swan Centre ones a week, or access Hydrotherapy in our Hydrotherapy pool, this enables all pupils to benefit from exercise in water. We have many different visiting coaches including cricket and football, these coaches are provided by our Sports Partnership. The pupils also access Riding through the Etal Riding for the Disabled group, this is an excellent opportunity to improve core muscles, co-ordination and confidence

whilst enjoying the riding experience. The school also offers Zumba lessons and yoga to encourage the pupils to exercise in different and motivational ways.

Music

Music is encouraged as an integral part of the curriculum and in the provision of extra-curricular activities. All pupils have the opportunity to join the school choir which rehearses once a week and contributes to events throughout the year. A weekly school music session is supported by a music teacher and is planned to enhance the music lessons that take place in each class during the week, these lessons include the use of instruments, as well as the development of musicality and musical knowledge. Our 6th form pupils have the opportunity to learn to play the drums and the guitar. We offer sensory music for those pupils that it is appropriate for, this has been further enhanced through the use of the Sound Beam equipment, and we have staff members trained to use this equipment.

Religious Education

We ensure that all our pupils' religious beliefs are respected, as part of this we ensure that the pupils learn about different faiths and religions. We learn about significant dates in each religious calendar, that includes Christian festivals, traditions and significant events. As part of this we celebrate these festivals in school at different times throughout the year.

Worship

We have class assemblies every day with different focuses, these focuses would be reflective of the time of year and the Faith that is being studied at the time. The school comes together regularly to worship and celebrate, these assemblies are developed to be reflective of the needs of the pupils so that the pupils can access the worship and be part of the assembly. We also try and visit different places of worship so that our pupils can experience the different ways in which people worship.

Sex Education

The school follows our Sex and Relationship policy, which is available from school. We ensure that all our pupils who should receive formal lessons on this subject do so at a level that is appropriate and accessible to them, ensuring

that the understand about relationships and how most importantly to make informed and safe decisions regarding themselves now and in the future.