

Policy Statements and Procedures

CURRICULUM STATEMENT

At Brookside Primary, we are committed to delivering a curriculum which is broad and balanced, rich and varied, being flexible and responsive to each child's wider needs. To this end, the School meets the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and the National Curriculum at Key Stages 1 and 2. Equally, there is great emphasis on learning beyond the classroom, particularly in the Foundation Stage where the outdoor environment is an essential resource in planning curriculum activities. As the children get older, so the opportunities to offer first hand practical experiences within the wider community increase. This includes special visits, educational trips and residential.

At the Foundation Stage, the emphasis is on developing key learning skills, as these are the building blocks for future achievement. Speaking and listening are fundamental to all that we do, underpinning every child's learning. Other curriculum activities are designed to address the seven areas of learning which make up the Foundation Stage, namely:

Personal, social and emotional development

Communication and Language

Literacy

Mathematics

Physical development

Expressive arts and design

Understanding of the world.

Many activities are designed to develop some of the softer social skills such as the ability to concentrate and work quite independently. By contrast, there is also great emphasis placed on the ability to work effectively and cooperatively with others. Above all else, we aim to provide a stimulating environment where early learning goals can be achieved and recorded through structured learning and play; always instilling the importance of patience, persistence and resilience at every stage.

From the very outset, children are encouraged to read, communicate and develop mathematical skills. Reading is taught through a variety of structured activities, supplemented with a wide range of books and other resources. We teach Phonics using Read, Write, Inc. materials. The reading schemes we use in Key Stage 1 are Storyworld and Bug Club. Throughout Key Stage 1 (5-7 years) and Key Stage 2 (8-11 years) every pupil follows the National Curriculum which comprises English, Mathematics, Science and Information Communication Technology (ICT). Beyond these core subjects, there is also a range of foundation subjects which focus on the creative, cultural, spiritual and technological dimension of learning. This includes Art and Design, Design Technology, French, Geography, History, Physical Education, Religious Education together with Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE). As children get older, there is greater focus on extended written work, Mathematics and Science. In some instances, this will also be focused on preparing for assessment.

We regularly assess the development and learning needs of each child throughout the school year and routinely meet at the beginning of each term with parents, guardians and carers to provide up-to-date feedback. In so doing, it is possible to quickly determine which areas of learning need further development and where each child's particular strengths and future needs lie.

We have challenging ambitions for your child and a commitment to:

- Care for your child's safety and well-being; contacting you if there are any concerns; keeping you informed of your child's progress and how you can be active partners in your child's learning at home;
- Provide a balanced and appropriate curriculum to meet your child's individual needs, delivered through high quality teaching and learning;
- Promote high standards of work and behaviour so that your child may enjoy and achieve to their full potential;
- Promote the moral, cultural and social development as well as the academic skills of your child;
- Provide an organised, effective and well-resourced learning environment within which pupils feel valued and learn to respect and cooperate with one another;
- Be open and welcoming at all times.