

Curriculum Overview

July 2019

At KSA Primary, we offer a curriculum which is broad and balanced and which builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills of all children, whatever their starting points, as they progress through each Key Stage. The curriculum incorporates the statutory requirements of the new National Curriculum 2014 and other experiences and opportunities which best meet the learning and developmental needs of the pupils in our schools. The aim of our curriculum is for pupils to have the requisite skills to be successful, independent and motivated learners in readiness for their next stage of education.

Our high expectation of children begins in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). Children begin KSA Primary in Reception and are regularly assessed throughout the year using Development Matters, with the aim of meeting the Early Learning Goals by the end of the Reception year. These assessments are used to identify key subject areas to inform planning and focus children who need to be targeted for specific activities. Pupils begin phonics lessons in Reception, and these continue through into Key Stage 1 (KS1) and sometimes KS2. There is a focus on exploratory play in Reception based around topics and core texts, which children access both on a morning and an afternoon. In the morning all pupils take part in a Maths and a Phonic lesson as well as guided reading from Autumn 2. English is taught through topic on an afternoon.

In KS1, children continue their learning journey, taking part in: Maths, reading and writing lessons every morning. In Year 1 (Yr1), children continue to have daily phonics lessons whilst in Yr2, children access daily Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPAG) lessons, which are linked to their learning in writing, to allow them to apply and deepen their basic skills. In the afternoon, children access the wider curriculum through carefully planned topics: Science, Religious Education (RE), Topic, Computing, Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Music are delivered as timetabled discrete lessons.

Speaking and listening skills are also enhanced in Reception and Yr1 through the 'PE Partner's' Performing Arts Programme. This is linked to the current topic being taught.

In KS2, children continue to receive quality first teaching taking part in: Maths, reading and writing lessons every morning. In Year 6, focus gradually shifts to the end of Key Stage assessments as children are prepared for these tests and the transition into Yr7. In the afternoon, children access the wider curriculum through carefully planned topics: Science, Topic, RE, Computing, PSHE, PE and Music are delivered as timetabled discrete lessons.

AREAS OF THE CURRICULUM

Reading

Teaching a child to read is vital. We use a range of strategies, in addition to phonics, such as a variety of decoding methods, teaching high frequency words through sight recognition and discussion through picture books.

Our school is continuing to develop relationships with external partnerships to improve and enhance our resources and inspire our pupils to love reading. Leeds Beckett students regularly run reading sessions as part of the 'Let Leeds Read' Programme. Authors are also invited into school to promote the love of reading.

From Year 1 to Year 6's, reading is taught through a whole class approach. This is either done using a Retrieval, Inference & choice (RIC) questions, a focussed lesson on a particular reading skill or through a longer reading lesson to promote children's love of reading. One to one reading occurs in Reception and vulnerable readers are identified in each class to ensure reading progression and a love of reading. During the reading sessions, there is an emphasis on vocabulary, the retrieval of facts and inference. Reception also complete a love of reading session, in addition to a daily story time. Novels are used to teach reading as well as a range of non-fiction texts. These texts are carefully chosen to ensure that there is progression and challenge across the school. At KSA Primary, we aim to develop a love of reading, so children are encouraged to read for pleasure at home and school. Teachers read a variety of high-quality texts to the children on a regular basis.

We currently use a range of different reading schemes to meet the interests and individual need of each and every child.

Writing

Our school is committed to using work with external advisers and experts who have proven records in developing pupils' learning in writing. We use this valuable resource to finely tune our provision, share good practice and offer whole school staff continuing professional development (CPD). Children are encouraged to use their knowledge of texts to write for a variety of purposes such as: explanations, instructions, reports, balanced arguments, stories and poems. They learn to plan, draft, revise, edit and present their work, before evaluating the success of their writing. From Reception, our children are taught letter formation using the Twinkl handwriting scheme. As they progress through school, the children are encouraged to write in a neat, legible style using a cursive script. All of their writing is inspired by a stimulus: Often a novel, video clip or poetry. Our writing is enhanced by using resources from The Literacy Shed Plus, Pobble 365 and The Literacy Tree Curriculum.

Phonics

At KSA Primary we follow the Letters and Sounds scheme of phonics teaching. Each child in Reception and Yr1 has a daily, minimum 20-minute phonics lesson, following the teaching sequence of revisit/ review – teach – practise - apply. In Yr2, children access a balance of both phonic and spelling punctuation and grammar (SPAG) lessons based on their individual needs and attainment. Reception and KS1 children are taught as a whole class based on regular assessments so that children's learning needs are accurately matched to the correct provision. Small phonic sessions or interventions are delivered by teaching assistants and overseen by the class teacher, to provide complimentary teaching.

Sessions are lively, fast-paced and fun. In a session, children are taught either phonemes/ digraphs/ trigraphs, high frequency and/or tricky words and these are consolidated through reading and writing. There are lots of opportunities to speak and listen, as well as to read and write the sounds.

At the end of Year 1 children have to take the national *Phonics Test* which tests children's phonic knowledge. Here, they are required to read real and nonsense words, applying the skills they have learnt. Ideally children will have completed and consolidated Phase 5 during Year 1 and Phase 6 during Year 2, so that they can focus more on higher-level comprehension using increasingly challenging texts. Any child that does not complete the phonics programme will continue learning phonics throughout Year 3/4 during interventions.

Maths

At KSA Primary, we believe that mathematics should be engaging and inspiring for all children. As such we endeavour to make our lessons fun, interactive and inclusive for all. Years 1-6, starts their day with a Number of the Day activity. For fifteen minutes, we focus on ten arithmetic questions to reinforce and consolidate the arithmetic skills that have been previously taught. We believe that the early intervention of these skills is integral for children becoming fluent in the fundamentals of mathematics and develops the children's ability to recall and apply knowledge rapidly and accurately. This will inevitably contribute to our Maths success as a school and add to our children's growing confidence in all areas mathematics.

Our curriculum is mapped by the White Rose Maths Hub scheme of work. We focus on a progression from concrete resources, to pictorial representations and finally into the numerical abstract to aid our children's conceptual understanding. As a result, we are seeing a growth in confidence in all our learners, especially in areas of problem solving and reasoning.

TT Rockstars is used by children across school and continues to be an enjoyable approach to practising multiplication and division facts. Our belief is to ensure children have a solid foundation of X Tables knowledge by the time they reach Y4. We also subscribe to Mathletics to set homework tasks that complement the maths objectives children are covering within lessons. Every class has timetabled sessions to engage with these resources and children are regularly awarded for their achievements.

Science

We follow the National Curriculum for science ensuring all pupils develop their scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding through specific disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics. Science is hands on where possible; pupils are given the opportunities to experience science in the real world. We continue to work with STEM ambassadors, who bring expertise in their area and are able to teach the children about science in the real world, as well as supporting the school to add a wow element to our science themed days. All year groups will also attend a school trip within the year which is linked to one of their science topics. We are also part of the CREST award scheme, which is a nationally recognised award, through this each class completes eight different investigations to build on their ability to work scientifically.

Computing

Our Computing curriculum comprises a number of different strands: digital literacy, coding, data handling and using technology in the wider world. Each year group builds on the skills taught during the previous year, to ensure that by Year 6, students are confident using technology, including a range of different programs, apps and websites.

Apps on the iPads are utilised to teach skills such as animation, music creation and e-books. Microsoft Office (as well as a range of other software) are embedded in the curriculum.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) and Relationship and Sex Education (RSE)

Here at KSA Primary, we use the 'You, Me and PSHE' scheme throughout the school. This is divided into the following topics:

- careers, financial capability and economic well-being
- physical health and well-being
- keeping safe and managing risk
- identity, society and equality
- drug, alcohol and tobacco education
- mental health and emotional well-being
- sex and relationship education

We also cover safeguarding themes through the following:

- anti-bullying week takes place in the Autumn Term
- 'The Big Classroom' resources for hate crimes (Yrs 5 and 6)
- a yearly visit from D:side (drugs awareness for KS2 classes)
- the 'Alright Charlie?' resource for C.S.E (Yrs 5 and 6)
- five lessons on Extremism and Radicalisation (Yrs 5 and 6)
- Y6 also covers the issues surrounding FGM
- SRE is included in the scheme that we follow for Years 5 and 6

E Safety week and a constant reminder through weekly assemblies the importance of staying safe on line.

Assemblies are delivered twice per week, covering elements of current topics in the news or celebrations. In addition, the teaching of the core British Values and School Rules outline how these are exemplified in our own school values.

Religious Education (RE)

At KSA Primary, we follow the Leeds agreed syllabus scheme throughout the school. This provides a broad and balanced programme of RE which reflects three key areas. It will:

- include a study of the key beliefs and practices of religions and other world views, including those represented in Leeds
- provide opportunities to explore key religious concepts and common human questions of meaning, purpose and value, often called 'ultimate' questions
- enable pupils to investigate how beliefs affect moral decisions and identity, exploring both diversity and shared human values. These three areas together will nurture pupils' religious literacy and may be called phenomenology, philosophy and ethics

They are reflected in the aims here:

The Local Agreed Syllabus for RE requires all pupils to investigate the beliefs and practices of religions and other world views, including:

- Beliefs and authority: core beliefs and concepts; sources of authority including written traditions and leaders
- Worship and spirituality: how individuals and communities express belief, commitment and emotion

How religions and other world views address questions of meaning, purpose and value, including:

- The nature of religion and belief and its key concepts
- Ultimate questions of belonging, meaning, purpose and truth

How religions and other world views influence morality, identity and diversity, including:

- Moral decisions: teachings of religions and other world views on moral and ethical questions, evaluation, reflection and critical responses
- Identity and diversity: diversity among and within religions and other world views; individual and community responses to difference and shared human values

History and Geography

History and Geography form an important part of our curriculum. We follow the National curriculum and embrace a broad-spectrum of stimulating topics. As a school we aim to wholly develop each child's geographical and historical skills, understanding and knowledge. Consequently, our lessons are well planned, highly engaging and challenge all abilities. Other curriculum areas are incorporated into learning to ensure high levels of motivation and interest from the children.

We teach a knowledge rich curriculum that is ambitious and designed to give all learners the skills needed to succeed in life. We teach through Topics (through English where links can be made) as opposed to themes. If a subject does not link it is taught as a standalone.

Subject Specialisms

The following subjects are taught by specific teachers across the school:

PE: taught twice weekly, by a class teacher and by a qualified P.E coach from P.E Partner. Year 4 attend a weekly swimming session all year.

MFL: languages are taught through weekly PPA sessions. A Spanish week is also incorporated into the school year.

Art and DT: as well as being taught through topics, these subjects are also celebrated through specific Art/DT weeks.

Music: pupils develop their rhythm and vocal control across the phases using Charanga Music School.

Extra-curricular

We enrich our pupils with a wide range of before school, lunchtime and after school clubs. These clubs celebrate a variety of sports and fitness; the arts – singing, dancing, drama, speaking and listening. Homework and ICT clubs including TT Rockstars and Mathletics. There are opportunities for all children.

For a full analysis of our curriculum and a breakdown of each year group's curriculum, please download our Curriculum Overview.

How do we deliver our curriculum?

A two-year cycle

The delivery of the curriculum is based on your child's own class: most subjects and skills are taught by the same class teacher. However, many of the topics we've planned are shared across two 'partner classes' in school – Years 1 and 2, Years 3 and 4 and Years 5 and 6. This means that teachers can share ideas and skills when planning and delivering topics, and sometimes means that classes swap teachers or combine to work with other children. To share topics and avoid repeating them each year, we operate a two-year rolling programme of topics, with some topics in 'Cycle 1, some in 'Cycle 2'.

Topic lengths

We prefer to set start and end dates for most of our topics, and we do this by planning topics with a specified length ('Big Topics' last for eight weeks, for example). This is so that we can ensure a broad and balanced curriculum, and so that our whole-school topics start at the same time – often with a launch assembly – and end at the same time – with some sort of reflective activity to share learning with others. It also means that we can embed whole-school themed days/weeks into the school year without these interrupting a topic.