

BISHOP WOOD C OF E JUNIOR SCHOOL

CURRICULUM POLICY



1 Introduction

- 1.1 Our school's curriculum is all the planned activities that we organise in order to promote learning, and personal growth and development. It includes not only the formal requirements of the National Curriculum, but also the various extra-curricular activities that the school organises in order to enrich the children's experience. It also includes the 'hidden curriculum' – what the children learn from the way they are treated and expected to behave. We want children to grow into positive, responsible people, who can work and cooperate with others while at the same time developing their knowledge and skills, in order to achieve their true potential.
- 1.2 We endorse the aspirations concerning curriculum that are set out in the DfE documents *Excellence and Enjoyment* and *Every Child Matters*, and we seek the highest standards of attainment for all our children. We seek a balance between preparing children for the National Tests and providing a broad and enjoyable curriculum. We value the breadth of the curriculum that we provide. We aim to foster creativity in our children, and to help them become independent learners. Above all we believe in making learning fun.

2 Values

- 2.1 Our school curriculum is underpinned by the values that we hold dear at our school. The curriculum is the means by which the school achieves its objective of educating children in the knowledge, skills and understanding that they need in order to lead fulfilling lives.
- 2.2 Our school is in full agreement with the values statement included in the introduction to the National Curriculum Handbook for Primary Teachers in England. These are the main values of our school, upon which we have based our curriculum.

Bishop Wood Church of England Junior School seeks within its Christian community to teach children about the love of God.

- We value children's uniqueness, we listen to the views of individual children, and we promote respect for diverse cultures.
- We value the spiritual and moral development of each person, as well as their creative, aesthetic, intellectual and physical growth.
- We value the importance of each person in our community, and we organise our curriculum to promote inclusion, cooperation and understanding among all members of our community.
- We value the rights enjoyed by each person in our society. We respect each child in our school for who they are, and we treat them with fairness and honesty. We want to enable each person to be successful, and we provide equal opportunities for all our pupils.
- We will strive to meet the needs of all our children, and to ensure that we meet all statutory requirements regarding inclusion.

- We value our environment, and we want to teach our pupils, through our curriculum, how we should take care of the world, not only for ourselves, but also for future generations.

3 Aims

3.1 The aims of our school curriculum are:

- to enable all children to learn, and develop their skills, to the best of their ability
- to promote a positive attitude towards learning, so that children enjoy coming to school, and acquire a solid basis for lifelong learning
- to teach children the basic skills of literacy, numeracy and information and communication technology (ICT)
- to enable children to be creative and to develop their own thinking
- to teach children about the developing world, including how their environment and society have changed over time
- to appreciate and value the contribution made by all ethnic groups in our multi-cultural society
- to enable children to be positive citizens
- to fulfil all the requirements of the National Curriculum and the Hertfordshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education
- to teach children to have an awareness of their own spiritual development, and to distinguish right from wrong
- to help children understand the importance of truth and fairness, so that they grow up committed to equal opportunities for all
- to enable children to have respect for themselves, high self-esteem and to live and work cooperatively with others.

4 Organisation and planning

4.1 We plan our curriculum in three phases. We agree a long-term overview for each subject area. This indicates what topics are to be taught in each term, and to which groups of children. We review this long-term plan on an annual basis.

4.2 Through our medium-term plans we give clear guidance on the objectives and teaching strategies for each topic. We take our medium-term planning directly from the guidance documents for Literacy and Numeracy.

4.3 Our short-term plans are those that our teachers write on a weekly and daily basis. We use these to set out the learning objectives for each session, and to identify what resources and activities we are going to use in the lesson. We evaluate our lessons carefully and use this assessment to inform our future planning.

4.5 In Key Stage 2 we teach the foundation subjects separately. This means that, for example, a child may concentrate in one term on a history topic, then switch to a greater emphasis on geography in the next term. Thus, in due course, each child has the opportunity to experience the full range of National Curriculum subjects.

5 The curriculum and inclusion

5.1 The curriculum in our school is designed to be accessed by all children who attend the school. If we think it necessary to modify some children's access to

the curriculum, in order to meet their needs, then we do this after their parents have been consulted.

- 5.2** If children have special needs, our school does all it can to meet the individual needs, and we comply with the requirements set out in the SEND Code of Practice and the school SEND Policy. If a child displays signs of having special needs, then his/her teacher makes an assessment of this need. In most instances the teacher is able to provide the resources and educational opportunities that meet the child's needs, within normal class organisation with the guidance and assistance of the INCo. If a child's need is more severe, we consider the child for the local exceptional needs funding panel, or an Education and Healthcare Plan (EHCP) and we involve the appropriate external agencies in making an assessment. We always aim to provide additional resources and support for children with special needs.
- 5.3** Some children in our school have disabilities. We are committed to meeting the needs of these children, as we are to meeting the needs of all groups of children within our school. The school endeavours to comply fully with the requirements of the amended Disability Discrimination Act. All reasonable steps are taken to ensure that these children are not placed at a substantial disadvantage compared to non-disabled children. Teaching and learning is appropriately modified for children with disabilities. For example, they may be given additional time to complete certain activities, or the teaching materials may be adapted.

6 Key skills

6.1 The following skills have been deemed 'key skills' in the revised National Curriculum:

- communication;
- application of number;
- information technology;
- working with others;
- improving one's own learning and performance;
- problem-solving.

6.2 In our curriculum planning we include these skills, so that the children's progress in all of these areas can be identified and monitored. Teachers in all subject areas seek to contribute to a child's progress in these skills, because we believe that all children need to make good progress in these areas if they are to develop their true potential.

7 The role of the subject leader

7.1 The role of the subject leader is to:

- provide a strategic lead and direction for the subject;
- support and advise colleagues on issues related to the subject;
- monitor pupils' progress in that subject area;
- provide efficient resource management for the subject.

7.2 The school gives key subject leaders non-contact time so that they can carry out their duties. It is the role of each subject leader to keep up to date with developments in their subject, at both national and local level. They review the

way the subject is taught in the school, and plan for improvement. This development planning links to whole-school objectives. Each subject leader reviews the curriculum plans for the subject, ensures that there is full coverage of the National Curriculum, and sees that progression is planned into schemes of work.

8 Monitoring and review

- 8.1** Our governing body's Teaching and Learning Committee is responsible for monitoring the way the school curriculum is implemented.
- 8.2** Subject Leaders are expected to present updates and developments to the Teaching and Learning Committee when requested. There is also a named governor assigned to special needs, who liaises with the Inclusion Coordinator, and monitors the ways in which special needs are addressed. Other governors are assigned to evaluate the work of key areas of school development.
- 8.3** The headteacher is responsible for the day-to-day organisation of the curriculum. The headteacher monitors teaching and learning, ensuring that all classes are taught the full requirements of the National Curriculum, and that all lessons have appropriate learning objectives.
- 8.4** Subject leaders monitor the way their subject is taught throughout the school. They examine planning, children's work and ensure that appropriate teaching strategies are used. Subject leaders also have responsibility for monitoring the way in which resources are stored and managed, as well as planning and evaluating improvements to the subject area.