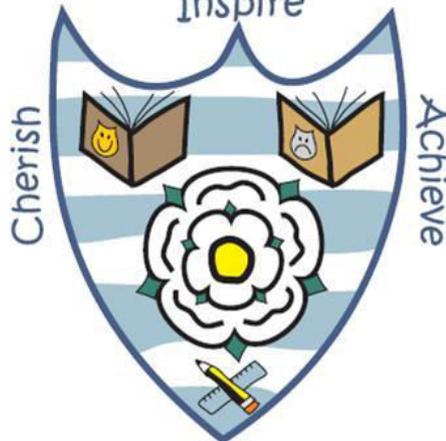


Birkwood Primary

Inspire



Together  
School

# **CREATIVE CURRICULUM POLICY**

**UPDATED OCTOBER 2015**

## OUR VISION AND AIMS:

- To **INSPIRE** our children by providing a curriculum that is creative, that responds and enables children to lead their own learning, that equips them with the skills required for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, for example problem solving, higher order thinking skills, team work and cooperation.
- To **CHERISH** our children by trying to look after and respect each other at all times. We aim to provide a caring environment, where all children are inspired and empowered to achieve their true potential as unique and valued individuals.
- We aim for our children to **ACHIEVE** the best they can, by challenging and supporting them. The progress in all key stages will reflect the commitment of our teaching and support staff, who work hard to achieve high standards in behaviour and achievement in all areas of the curriculum.

## AIMS

At Birkwood Primary School, we believe that all children are entitled to a broad and balanced curriculum which is interesting, engaging and which provides a range of learning opportunities that help to develop children's life- long love of learning.

The Creative Curriculum aims to:

- Encourage an enquiry based approach to learning through Open Futures thereby 'Raising attainment through bringing learning to life'
- Provide meaningful contexts that are age appropriate
- Increase children's motivation, enthusiasm and engagement in their learning
- Support the raising of standards in both teaching and learning
- Involve our children in decision-making about their learning, allowing them choice and independence
- Ensure that children have essential learning skills in Literacy, ICT and Well Being
- Establish strong cross-curricular links to ensure a broader understanding and an exciting context to stimulate and enthuse children
- Embed key skills in order to prepare children for real-life and everyday situations
- Provide an exciting and stimulating environment
- Use a wealth of relevant resources - in classrooms, outdoors, in the local community and the wider area, including visits and visitors
- Allow children to demonstrate their learning in different ways – for example, through photographs, posters, products, presentations, performances, ICT including ipads, etc.

## CURRICULUM

The Creative Curriculum has been organised through a "topic based" approach which incorporates the key skills set out in the National Curriculum. Links are made with all subjects, however the following subjects are taught as dedicated, discrete sessions:

- English grammar, spelling and vocabulary sessions ~ this includes Letters and Sounds, Guided Reading, and Handwriting
- RE – Discovery RE
- MFL French
- Science – 'Switched On'

## **OPEN FUTURES**

Through Open Futures, which is a skills and enquiry based curriculum, we aim to better equip our children to ask questions, discuss options and make decisions.

Birkwood Primary School believe that children need a context in which to see the value of skills and to practise and develop them. Open Futures makes sense of skills by providing a context and a framework.

There are 4 strands to the project: Askit, Growit, Cookit and Filmit.

### **The Open Futures curriculum aims to:**

- raise attainment in Literacy, Numeracy, Science and ICT by working in context on work appropriate to pupils of all abilities
- ensure children have appropriate skills, attitudes and confidence to become active independent learners
- involve and support parents in strategies to promote healthy eating
- increase motivation and thereby improve attendance and behaviour
- help children make a positive economic contribution to society
- provide a rich and broad curriculum which includes a wide range of practical activities in and out of school
- provide opportunities for children to explore the natural world
- revitalise teachers as creative learners themselves

## **CREATIVE CURRICULUM PLANNING**

**Long Term Plans:** These take the form of a Curriculum Overview, this provides an overview of what will be taught and when.

**Medium Term Plans:** These take the form of Curriculum Maps which are broken down into Year groups and give an overview of what will be taught in each subject area.

**Short term Plans:** These take the form of weekly lesson plans. National Curriculum objectives are incorporated into planning.

## **RESOURCES**

Resources are located in Topic boxes which are found in classes/ stock rooms. The coordinator reviews resource needs annually and orders as necessary.

We value experiences and people as resources and use them as frequently as possible in often to launch topics and enthuse the children. This takes the form of school trips, workshops and special visitors.

## **INCLUSION**

It is expected that all children at Birkwood will be given the opportunity to learn in a creative and encouraging learning environment which encompasses a range of learning and teaching styles. All children will have equal access to the curriculum and will be treated fairly regardless of race, religion or abilities.

## MONITORING AND REVIEW

The SLT monitor the progression, continuity and effectiveness of the Creative Curriculum, together with the governing body. The Curriculum is reviewed each year to ensure that it responds to the children's needs.

The coordinator is responsible for monitoring and reviewing. This process is reflected in the action plan, and is achieved through:

- Monitoring the coverage of Knowledge, Skills and Understanding by cross referencing with planning and ensuring progression from one class to the next.
- Monitoring of medium term planning
- A yearly curriculum planner to ensure that all the statutory breadth of study is included
- Collating data from pupil questionnaires
- Regularly reviewing topic themes and making changes where necessary
- All outcomes are fed back to the Governing Body.

The Governing Body reviews this policy every two years. The governors may, however, review the policy earlier than this, if the government introduces new regulations, or if the governing body receives recommendations on how the policy might be improved.

This policy will be reviewed in September 2017.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Headteacher

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Chair of Governors

Date \_\_\_\_\_