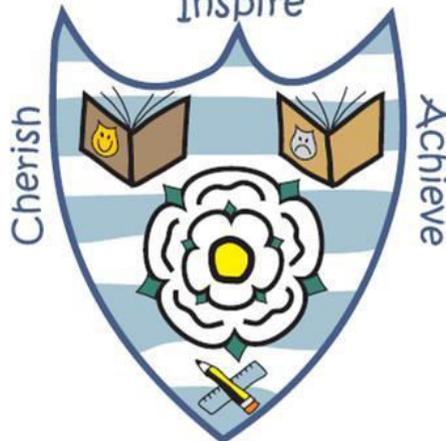


Birkwood Primary

Inspire



Cherish

Achieve

Together

School

CREATIVE CURRICULUM POLICY

UPDATED DECEMBER 2019

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 21st 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.

Intent

We believe that our children are entitled to a broad, balanced and curriculum which is inspiring, engaging and which provides a range of learning opportunities that help to develop children's life-long love of learning as well as developing their life skills. Our intent is to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of children which prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences in later life.

The creative curriculum we provide gives children a sense of purpose and develops an understanding of the world around them including local, national and global issues. By combining engaging, practical and personalised topics within the learning environment, children have access to a wide range of contexts, which enable independent learning and promote the development of life skills and disciplinary and substantive knowledge.

Implementation

Our Creative Curriculum has been organised through a "topic based" approach which incorporates the key skills set out in the National Curriculum. Our approach enables teachers to plan learning experiences around topics which raise attainment in literacy, numeracy, science, technology and the arts. It allows all learners to engage and contribute positively to the classroom, the school and the wider community.

Links are made with most subjects, however, the following subjects are taught as dedicated, discrete sessions:

- Maths – Focus
- RE – Barnsley Local Agreed Syllabus
- MFL - French
- Science
- Computing – Purple Mash

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 believes 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.

The Open Futures curriculum aims to:

- raise attainment in Literacy, Numeracy, Science and ICT by working in context on work appropriate to children of all abilities
- ensure children have appropriate skills, attitudes and confidence to become active independent learners
- involve and support parents/carers 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

As well as the overarching aims of the project, there are some teaching and learning aims specific to each strand:

Grow It is about helping children to plant, nurture and harvest vegetables and fruit, thus developing their levels of appreciation and understanding of plants, produce and the seasons. The children use proper tools under the guidance of fully trained staff. School employs a part-time gardener who works with the children 4 afternoons per week and leads 2 after-school clubs for KS1 and 2.

Cook It engages children with the hands-on experience of preparing produce to eat and so providing a good culinary understanding of how the fruit and vegetables they grow, relate to their own physical development and wellbeing. It increases pupils' knowledge of nutrition, healthy eating, food chain principles, food hygiene and safety. They are taught to use proper equipment and correct knife techniques for slicing tomatoes, onions etc under the guidance of trained staff. Many children do not regularly share food with families and a lack of awareness of a healthy diet. The more children are given ownership of the food they eat and the opportunity to engage with the actual growing of fruit and vegetables, preparing and cooking their produce, the more adventurous they become with what they are prepared to actually taste and eat.

Ask It, also referred to as Philosophy for Children (P4C) focuses on thinking skills and communal dialogue ('philosophising'). It contributes towards Literacy, Citizenship, RE, PSHE, Science and the Humanities. It aims to build 'Communities of Enquiry' where children develop creative, critical, caring and collaborative thinking skills. Ask it sessions provide opportunities to discuss issues that are meaningful, as the children practice skills of negotiation, seeing things from another perspective and making decisions together.

Film It offers children a new way to express themselves and showcase their learning, it has the potential for a wide range of applications across the school curriculum. It helps children communicate with each other and to share educational experiences using video. By combining video production with internet sharing, Film It is exciting and relevant for children. For teachers it offers a way to work with new technologies to find new forms of literacy and new ways to document their pupils' work.

Planning

In-depth planning meetings are held in the Summer to prepare for the year ahead. Topics are chosen to inspire children whilst meeting the requirements of the National Curriculum. Within each topic the objectives covered in each subject will be evidenced in the long, medium and short term plans. Subject Leaders have a responsibility to ensure their subject is planned across the year and taught appropriately in each class.

- **Long Term Plans:** These take the form of Curriculum Maps which are broken down into year groups and provide an overview of what will be taught in each subject area throughout the year.
- **Medium Term Plans:** Take the form of a Topic Overview and a Knowledge Organiser, they provide an overview of what will be taught and when. They also detail aspirational language that will be taught during each topic.
- **Short term Plans:** Take the form of weekly lesson plans. National Curriculum objectives are incorporated into planning and how learning is applied.

Resources

Resources are located in topic boxes. The coordinator reviews resource needs annually and orders as necessary.

