

Abbey School

Curriculum Policy

Abbey School curriculum is underpinned by the principles of the National Curriculum and incorporates regular assessment and evaluation of progress for all our pupils.

We endeavour to create a broad and balanced curriculum through our dynamic programmes of study. In addition, we aim to stimulate the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical opportunities of our children with a view to preparing them for a fulfilling and rewarding adult life in Britain, with British values, and as citizens of a global world.

Our School Endeavours to:

- Ensure that our children develop the essential literacy and numeracy skills.
- Provide children with a full and balanced entitlement to learning.
- Foster children's creativity and develop essential skills (including learning skills).
- Ensure that children are happy in their learning.
- Promote a healthy lifestyle.
- Inspire our children towards life-long learning.
- Promote high standards in all teaching and learning.
- Ensure that all children have access and opportunity to make progress.
- Provide education in accordance with the principles of 'Every Child Matters'.
- Incorporate British values into learning experiences including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and respect and tolerance for others and their beliefs and faiths

Abbey School curriculum incorporates an EYFS curriculum for under 2s and an EYFS curriculum from 2 years to pre-school, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

Early Year Foundation Stage

The EYFS Department manage two curricular within their planning and assessing.

We have a statutory obligation to report on the children's progress through the EYFS and so all assessments, observations and progression is carried out with the Development Matter document, which details the development of the children through various age bands.

Children who are younger than two year of age are working exclusively with EYFS. Our continuous provision is very much planned using the EYFS and differentiated between our younger children and our preschool age children. The age bands provide a flexible assessment of the children's needs and some children will be working at a higher or lower level than their exact chronological age and so our assessment is flexible.

Preschool and Reception children are part of the EYFS curriculum with a combination of child led and adult led activities. We incorporate the Read Write Inc system of learning phonics and this leads into learning to read and write. The preschool and Reception children take part in the EYFS assessments.

Primary Years Programme

At Abbey our curriculum is delivered by class teachers, in collaboration with specialist teachers.

1. All teaching within Junior School lessons is ultimately directed towards the development of the whole child within the attributes of a broad curriculum and becoming independent learners.

2. The content of the curriculum is divided into subjects: English including Drama, Mathematics including Reasoning, Science, PE, Humanities (Geography and History), RE, PHSE, Art and Design Technology, ICT including touch typing, Spanish and for year 6, Debating and Service to Others (Civic Award). Planning documents and assessments of work and achievements, plus examples of children's work, indicate that successful learning has taken place.

3. Abbey has developed its own APP and for each half term teachers indicate on our recording system, Insight Tracker, which 'I can' statements the children have attempted, completed or exceeded. This year we are converting to use only Insight Tracker to prevent duplication of time and effort in recording the pupil's achievements. Twice each year a written report is sent home to parents outlining content covered in various subjects and the progress made by the children.

4. In addition to the main subjects learned, teachers incorporate British Values into lessons; children work towards an annual Art and Craft Faire in which they learn to handle money and understand profit and loss; children contribute to exhibited work in an annual Science Fair what depends on scientific thinking and collaborative work with others; all enjoy participating in various dramatic productions and have opportunities to perform, all of which support children as their confidence develops.

Equal Opportunities in the Curriculum

Delivery and enjoyment of the Curriculum at Abbey is always supplied regardless of gender, race, language, culture, disability, religion or belief.

Disabilities

In accordance with the statutory requirements, the School aims to make the Curriculum accessible to all children as far as is reasonably practicable. To this end there are children in school who have Health Care Plans and consequently have the support of a 1:1 helper paid for by the local authority.

Religious Studies

Our Religious Studies programme covers some of the major world religions and belief systems including Christianity.

Whole School Assemblies

During the school year, each form leads an assembly. These assemblies are designed to encourage pupils to perform, to broaden their experiences and enable them to explore moral themes and values from a pupil perspective. There are opportunities for Year 6 to be mentors to younger children, all being part of their Civic award.

Hymn practices are designed to extend the range of hymns/songs that the pupils can sing. They are led by the Principal and may include some guidance on moral issues that rise from the hymns/songs. A wide variety of music is sung and listened to, from medieval hymns to twenty-first century songs.

Secular Assemblies

Secular assemblies also take place. The purpose of these assemblies is to issue notices, give match reports, award certificates, celebrate birthdays and achievements and attend to general school business.

Sex Education

The School does not normally provide sex education in the Curriculum, but parents may consult with members of staff about how best to present age appropriate matters within this subject to their children if they so wish. In accordance with the law, the biological aspects of human reproduction are presented, but parents may withdraw their children from any part of the sex education provided without stating their reasons. Full details can be found in the "Sex Education and Relationships" Policy. Age appropriateness is important. Johnny asked his Dad where he came from and after what Dad considered to be a very full presentation of the facts of life, Johnny said, "Thanks Dad. That's interesting, but Joe next door said he comes from Manchester and I wondered where I came from."

Political Education

The promotion of political views in the teaching of any subject in the school is forbidden by law. Political issues are often introduced in a number of lessons and are presented in an objective and balanced way. Children learn about democracy by voting on different matters and by presenting considered arguments for and against various subjects, whilst respecting that others may hold different views.

PE and Games

All children are expected to take part in the School's Physical Education, Swimming and Games Programmes. Children can only be excused from PE, Swimming and Games lessons for medical reasons, for which a note from a parent will suffice, or other good reasons agreed beforehand with the school.

Extra-Curricular Activities

The School offers a wide and varied programme of sporting, artistic, musical and other activities that take place outside the normal Curriculum. All children are encouraged to take part in these programmes.

Prep (Homework)

It is school policy that from Year 3 all pupils have regular prep set each day with Wednesdays being "Curl up with a book" night (plus spellings and any tables being learned). This is to encourage children to read for a prolonged period of time, rather than the usual few minutes. Prolonged periods of reading have been shown to enthuse children to want to read more. Teachers of pupils in Year 2 or below may give pupils work to be carried out at home each day (e.g. their daily reading and learning of spellings etc.) or tasks that may assist future lessons (e.g. collection of items from home).

As far as possible, each subject (with the exception of Music, Drama, PE and Art) will have at least one 20 to 30 minute session of homework a week.

Further details of the School Prep (Homework) Policy can be found in the Staff Handbook.

Learning Support (SEND)

The School SEND Policy outlines the provision made where appropriate for children with particular needs. The School determines strategies in consultation with children, staff and parents.

Gifted and Talented

A Gifted and Talented programme operates to provide an opportunity for extension work for children deemed as able and talented in a variety of areas.

Further details can be found in the “Gifted and Talented” policy.

Concerns and Complaints

Parents who have concerns about any aspect of the curriculum should discuss these in the first instance with children’s Form Tutors and Subject Teachers.

Ultimately, if an issue is not resolved, parents should make an official complaint in writing to an Assistant Head.

The School has a Complaints Procedure in place, which can be obtained upon request.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be monitored by the Assistant Heads, who will report to the Head on its implementation on a regular basis. The Head will recommend any amendments. END