



The Water Orton Primary Curriculum – Curriculum Intent



The children at Water Orton Primary are lively, interested and keen to learn. They come to us from a range of backgrounds and with varying experiences before starting school. Oracy levels on entry to Water Orton are varied – whilst we have highly articulate pupils on entry, we have as many with very limited or delayed speech and others who present with confidence and self-esteem issues which impact on oracy. As such, exposure to language and opportunities for talk are rich across our EYFS to ensure that on entry to KS1, children have strong foundations for discussion. Our curriculum across the school is rich in vocabulary and exposure to new language is encouraged by ensuring we use high quality texts to support delivery. Reading is a strength in our school and we believe in promoting a love of books within our curriculum offer as we see this as an essential skill that all pupils should master.

What we do:

At Water Orton, we teach the statutory and some non-statutory elements of the National Curriculum as well as knowledge and skills that we believe are essential for a full, broad and rounded education.

We ensure that our learners gain knowledge in stimulating lessons and activities; that they are able to generate real and relevant links in their knowledge in order to apply it independently and that they build webs of transferrable knowledge in order to ensure deep learning in all subjects. At Water Orton we know that developing children's language and vocabulary is key to ensuring success. As a result, vocabulary development is a high priority in all subjects and themes.

At Water Orton, we mainly organise our teaching of subjects through themes or topics. However, some subjects are taught discretely most of the time, either because we believe they are important subjects that need a specific focus (e.g. Mathematics) or because we wish to teach in meaningful linked lessons rather than make tenuous links to themes or topics. Throughout the year, we also teach subjects through themed days or weeks where there is a more intense focus on a subject discipline or on specific knowledge or skills.

The curriculum is enhanced with wider learning opportunities such as the use of clubs, visits, visitors and residential trips.

For some pupils, we may tailor the curriculum to individual needs – either through differentiation of provision or support; through challenge opportunities or through timely intervention to address slower progress or gaps in knowledge or understanding.

We use a range of resources to teach and support the curriculum including technology, written materials, collaboration workshops, tournaments and events, visitors, outside professionals - sports coaches for example - and visits to suitable learning environments linked to the topics taught. All pupils are given homework tasks, suitable to age and/or need, in order to continue their learning at home.

Our curriculum is monitored by governors and staff, in order that there is a constant focus on the quality of learning and teaching and on the impact that this has on outcomes for groups and individuals. The curriculum is not static but is constantly changing and adapting in order to meet the current needs of the learners at Water Orton in order to secure best outcomes for them.

Why we do it

Our curriculum has been designed in order to promote the development of pupils' knowledge, understanding and skills through teaching of the Early Years Foundation Stage and National Curricula and teaching that is specific and special to the context of our school. We also use our curriculum to continually develop and promote our school values.

Our curriculum aims to encourage pupils to engage in a journey of life-long learning. We ensure that pupils embark on a clear pathway of progression of knowledge and skills for each subject which is taught through high quality, stimulating teaching activities and assessed for impact.

Our curriculum, with its focus on academic learning, practical skills and personal and social opportunities helps our pupils become well rounded individuals who are knowledgeable across subjects, who show their talents and who, at times, shine.

We aim to develop independent and confident learners who are motivated to learn, have a thirst for knowledge, are creative and resilient when needed and willing to take risks. The curriculum will help to engender high personal expectations and ambitions and this will be evident in our subject outcomes.

Our pupils learn to be sociable, caring and understanding of each other, demonstrate and develop good relationships with others and are prepared to contribute to society.

Our curriculum will be broad and balanced but we believe that some skills are important for success in future life, in learning and in the world of work. For this reason, the basic skills in reading, writing and mathematics are given priority in our curriculum. Every child will be as well prepared as possible for the next stage of their education in these subjects and these core subjects will be extensively used to support or to demonstrate learning in other subjects.

Every child will have full access to the curriculum, regardless of need. Every child matters, and we have high expectations for them all, so our pupils will be challenged to master the curriculum at their own level and will be encouraged to achieve well and attain success from individual starting points.

Subjects that we teach

These subjects will be extensively used to support or to demonstrate learning in other subjects. They may be taught through integrated topics or discretely:

- Reading
- Writing
- Mathematics
- Computing

These subjects will be taught mainly through topics where knowledge is integrated into one theme in order to allow for strong links to be made across subjects:

- History
- Geography
- Art and Design
- Design and Technology

These subjects are mainly taught discretely, although they may be included into the topics if there is a strong enough link to do so:

- Science
- Physical Education and Sport
- Religious Education (Using the Coventry and Warwickshire agreed Syllabus)
- Music (Using the Charanga scheme)
- Foreign Languages (We teach French using the scheme Language Angels)

Personal, Social, Emotional and Health Education (PSHE) is a vital part of the curriculum offer at Water Orton Primary and great emphasis is put on developing children's skill in this area. We use the Jigsaw scheme to achieve this and make clear links with assemblies, whole school values and other curriculum areas where this is appropriate. We deliver Relationships and Sex education to all year groups through this scheme also.

Other additional activities to support learning:

In order to ensure that our curriculum is broad and allows for personal learning and development, we teach additional activities and lessons outside of the usual lessons in the classroom. Examples of these are:

- After school clubs
- Use of visits to other environments or places more suited to learning about a subject such as a church, a country park, the zoo, a castle or a gallery
- Use of visitors who are experts in their subject
- Use of outside professionals such as coaches or music teachers eg. Evolution Gym Club, Dazzlers Dance, peripatetic music teachers, MDD first aid.

- Residential trips in years 5 and 6
- Collaboration events, workshops and tournaments