



# Curriculum

Our pupils are taught in mixed ability classes and groups and our approach to learning is based upon meeting the needs of the individual child. The curriculum for our KS1 and KS2 pupils meets the requirements of the National Curriculum ([click here for more information](#)) and further information is set out below. The curriculum for Nursery and Reception children meets the standards set out in the Early Years Foundation Stage framework ([click here for more information](#)).

## **English**

We aim to encourage each child to develop a love and appreciation of language and reading, and to acquire the necessary skills to become an effective communicator.

### **Speaking and Listening**

Great emphasis is given to each child's ability to listen with understanding and to respond to what they have heard. The school provides a stimulating environment in which children are motivated to think about their experiences, and those of others, and to express themselves as clearly as possible.

### **Phonics**

A daily 20 minute phonics session is planned across the school. Each child is allocated to a group depending on their stage of development. The school follows the Phonics International and Letters and Sounds Phonics Programme.

### **Reading**

From the first day in school your child will be introduced to a variety of print. We ask parents and carers to support and extend their child's reading skills through such activities as reading to their child, listening to their child read, helping them learn letter sounds and key words. We also issue a home-school reading record to be used to record your child's progress. Children are encouraged from early on to be responsible for choosing and choosing their own reading books from our graded reading scheme. We are fortunate to have a trained Every Child a Reader (ECAR) teacher at the school. This is a nationally recognised programme, proven to have a positive impact on children's progression in reading and writing. The principles of ECAR are embedded in school and provide the building blocks to Literacy.

### **Writing**

Each child is encouraged to express and communicate their thoughts and ideas by writing stories, recording events, writing letters and poetry, and creating lists, pamphlets and posters. Writing is linked to most areas of the curriculum and there is ample opportunity to develop skills to meet a wide variety of situations, purposes and audiences.

### **Spelling**

All children are encouraged to spell correctly those words in everyday use. We encourage children to attempt their own spellings by listening carefully to the sounds in words, as well as the use of word books and dictionaries. At some stage your child will be given spellings to take home and learn which will have been specially chosen to support his or her own level of spelling ability.



### **Handwriting**

All pupils are encouraged to write neatly and legibly with control over the formation, the size and the shape of letters. From the beginning of Key Stage 1, the children will practise joining some letters and will be competent in using a fluent joined handwriting style by the time of transfer to middle school at the end of Year 4.

Although the specific teaching of the above skills is delivered through Literacy sessions, children will also have plenty of opportunity to apply their skills throughout the curriculum.

### **Mathematics**

Our aim is to encourage each child to work with confidence, understanding and enjoyment in this area of the curriculum. We use a variety of practical apparatus, problem solving activities, games and computer programmes to develop the skills needed to carry out mathematical investigations. We are fortunate to have a trained Numbers Count teacher at the school. This is a nationally recognised programme, proven to have a positive impact on children's progression in numbers and counting. The principles of numbers count are embedded in school and provide the building blocks to Numeracy.

### **Number**

Through various activities your child will have the opportunity to use and understand our number system, to estimate and approximate, to use symbols and patterns and to become confident in the use of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Numicon plays a big part in the early development of number understanding, moving to more formal methods as the children progress through school.

### **Shape, Space and Measures**

Our work with shape and space is complemented by supportive programmes in Art, PE, Geography and Information Technology. We believe developing skills and understanding relating to measure is best taught through practical activities so that your child can relate his or her learning to real life situations. For this reason links with other subject areas such as Science, Technology and PE are encouraged wherever possible.

### **Handling Data**

From the earliest days in school your child will be introduced to collecting and sorting objects and information. Gradually he or she will learn to process and interpret the data using a number of different methods including the use of computer programmes. Estimating chance and consideration of the probability of events will be addressed through practical activities and situations during Key Stage 2.

### **Science**

The purpose of science education in the National Curriculum is to provide the foundations for understanding the world through biology, chemistry and physics. Children should be encouraged to understand how science can be used to explain what is occurring, predict how things will behave, and analyse causes. The aims of the National Curriculum are that all pupils develop scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding, develop understanding of the nature, processes and methods of science and that they are equipped with the scientific knowledge required to understand the uses



and implications of science, today and for the future.

In order to increase our ability to improve the Science curriculum for the pupils at Red Row one of our teachers has undertaken the Primary Science Specialist training. This is a nationally recognised body that has given the school access to range of fantastic resources as well as the opportunity to have other science specialists visit our school ([for further information click here](#)).

### **Design Technology**

Technology is taught in half-termly units and is often linked to other curricular areas. Each child has the opportunity to work with food, textiles, graphics and construction kits. There are numerous opportunities to design and make a wide range of articles using a variety of materials and tools.

### **History**

The purpose of History in the national Curriculum is to help pupils gain knowledge and understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider world. The curriculum aims to ensure that pupils know and understand the history of the British Isles from the earliest times to the present day and how peoples' lives have shaped the nation. Other aims include the pupils being able to understand significant aspects of history of the wider world and to understand historical concepts such as continuity and change, cause and consequence, similarities, differences, connections and contrasts.

### **Geography**

The purpose of Geography in the National Curriculum is to inspire curiosity and fascination about the world and its people. The curriculum aims to ensure that pupils develop knowledge of location of globally significant places and understand the processes that give rise to physical and human geographical features. The curriculum aims for pupils to become competent at collecting, analysing and communicating data, interpreting a range of sources of information including through the use of maps.

### **Computing**

The purpose of computing in the national Curriculum is to equip pupils to use computational thinking and creativity to understand and change the world. The core of computing is computer science in which the children are taught how digital systems work and put this knowledge to use through programming to create programs, systems and content. Computing ensures that pupils become digitally literate and develop their ideas through information and communication technology to prepare them for the future workplace and as active participants in a digital world. The aims of computing in the National Curriculum include the children understanding and using algorithms, writing computer programs, and become responsible, competent, confident and creative users of ICT.

At Red Row First School pupils in Year 1 to Year 4 take part in a weekly discrete computing lesson which, wherever appropriate, is linked to the topic that the children are studying. Our pupils are strongly encouraged to use ICT to support their learning at all times; this may be through easy access to Ipads or Laptops in the classrooms. An important part of our curriculum is the teaching of E-Safety to ensure that pupils know how to stay safe online.



## **Music**

Children are given the opportunity to take part in a variety of musical activities, such as singing, composing and listening to music, and playing percussion and other instruments.

The range of music studied will include that of famous composers, music and dance forms from other lands and the development and variety of instruments.

Specialist music teachers are engaged to enhance the curriculum, such as the teaching of skills in playing drums and ukuleles.

## **Art**

By using different materials, tools and techniques, your child will be encouraged to investigate and experiment through such activities as drawing, painting, printing, dyeing, collage and sculpture.

We aim to inspire our pupils by encouraging them to make detailed observation of the surrounding environment, the studying of other cultures and the work of great artists.

## **Religious Education**

The school follows the County syllabus for the teaching of Religious Education which has been organised into a two-year programme of study at each Key Stage.

Through our studies, we will investigate the history of the Christian church, and the need to share with, care for and support our family, friends and others in the world around us. Your child will also be introduced to two other significant religions, for example Judaism and Islam.

## **Physical Education**

During PE lessons your child will have the opportunity to take part in a wide range of activities including dance, gymnastics, games and athletics.

Because of the area in which our pupils live, we believe that swimming is also an essential part of our curriculum and therefore pupils from Year 3 and 4 attend a local swimming pool for lessons for part of the year.

## **Languages**

The purpose of learning foreign languages is to provide an opening to other cultures and deepen pupils' understanding of the world. The curriculum aims to ensure that pupils understand and respond to spoken and written language from a variety of authentic sources.

## **PSHE**

PSHE Education offers learning opportunities and experiences which reflect the increasing independence and physical and social awareness of learner. They learn skills to develop effective relationships, assume greater personal responsibility and keep themselves safe. We use the



programme of study produced by the PSHE Association to support our teaching ([click here for further information](#)). These follow 3 core themes ('Health and Wellbeing', 'Relationships' and 'Living in the wider world')

At Red Row First School PHSE is interwoven throughout the curriculum and may be delivered specifically in response to situations that arise in school such as bereavement. Wherever possible PSHE teaching will be linked to the specific topic area being taught at that time and will be detailed in our medium term topic plans. Many aspects of PSHE are covered through our everyday work, acts of collective worship as well as within our taught curriculum.

### **Health and Safety**

Health and Safety is covered within the Personal Social and Health Education area of the curriculum. We teach each child about their personal development and hygiene; how to keep safe in the environment, including safe places to play; the dangers of drugs and how to protect themselves from unhealthy relationships.

Citizenship is also included as part of the teaching of PSHE.

The school holds the Healthy Schools Award to celebrate the good practice across all aspects of the school.

### **Extra Curricular Activities**

Children are given the opportunity to take part in a wide range of extra curricular activities, including sporting activities, dance, art and craft, and cooking. In Y4 children have opportunity to have a residential experience at the Robin Wood Activity Centre ([click here for more information](#)).

We are extremely fortunate at Red Row First school to have within easy walking distance, Druridge Bay Country Park (where we undertake kayaking, pond dipping, rock pooling and visit farm animals), the amazing Northumberland coastline, a forest school and an artisan Blacksmith. We access all of these to help enrich and bring to life our curriculum.