

# MONKFIELD PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Curriculum Booklet  
**2015**

# CURRICULUM

The curriculum of the school reflects the requirements of the National Curriculum and also takes into account Local Authority policies. The Headteacher and the governors of the school determine its content.

## CURRICULUM, ORGANISATION AND TEACHING METHODS

The school's concern is the development of the whole child and the realisation of each individual's potential in every sphere of growth and learning.

The staff encourage the development of good learning attitudes, curiosity, originality, co-operation, perseverance, open-mindedness, self-evaluation, responsibility and independence. Our curriculum is designed to develop these characteristics as the child progresses through the school and provides the widest range of resources to meet individual needs.

The areas of the curriculum may be taught separately or may be integrated in a topic or project. We believe it is important to be flexible in our management of the learning environment. There are times when children work individually, in groups or as a whole class. A wide range of teaching methods is employed to ensure that each individual child's needs are addressed through a differentiated curriculum across the class or in sets.

## KEY STAGES

Children's age bands have been grouped into the following:

Early Years Foundation Stage	2 - 5 years
Key Stage 1	5 - 7 years
Key Stage 2	8 - 11 years

The National Curriculum consists of:

- **Core subjects:** English, Mathematics, Science and Computing.
- **Foundation subjects:** Art and Design, Design Technology, Geography, History, Languages, Music, Physical Education.

In addition, Personal, Social and Health Education (P.S.H.E.) and Religious Education are taught.

Within the Early Years Foundation Stage, of which Reception is the last year, we provide a broad, relevant challenging and, above all, practical curriculum with opportunities for your child to reach her/his full potential.

First and foremost, we aim to ensure your child feels secure, happy and valued in their new environment by providing a supportive and stimulating introduction to all aspects of school life.

Children entering school have very diverse needs. The children in the Early Years Foundation Stage follow a learning programme that is designed to take into account their individuality and to develop them according to their own needs and skills. This "Early Years" curriculum lays the solid foundations young children need in order to make a smooth transition from pre-school to Key Stage One, and for future progression through school.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum is organised into seven Areas of Learning and Development. These are then divided into:-

three Prime Areas which are fundamental, work together and are necessary to support development in all other areas:

- Personal, social and emotional development
- Physical development
- Communication and Language

and

four Specific Areas which include essential skills and knowledge for children to participate fully in society:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum is based around the achievement of 'Early Learning Goals' which are Government targets towards which all children of this age will work. Following an initial baseline assessment, your child's progress will be constantly monitored and assessed using the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile, which uses informal observation of independent and adult led activities to enable us to plan effectively for each child's requirements and 'next steps'. Children will progress towards the carefully structured Early Learning Goals, which enable us to identify both the strengths and needs of each child. If your child has a Special Educational Need or disability, s/he will be assessed and supported in accordance with their individual need, and the curriculum will be adapted to support your child.

Personal, social and emotional development is a crucial part of the Early Years curriculum as it is a pre-requisite for success in all other areas of learning. We aim to provide an environment that will enable your child to develop a positive sense of her/himself and of others. We support children's emotional well-being, helping them to know themselves and what they can do. We build on children's confidence, independence and individuality through praise and encouragement and we encourage children to have respect for themselves and others, social skills and a positive disposition to learn.

## NATIONAL CURRICULUM

The new National Curriculum was implemented in September 2014. Each pair of classes send out a curriculum letter at the beginning of each half term. This outlines what the teachers will be covering so that parents/carers can support their children's learning at home.

## ART AND DESIGN

Our curriculum is designed to develop skills of appreciation and understanding of the work of different artists, to inspire children in their own artwork. We teach children to look carefully, sensitively and use a variety of tools and media with skill and confidence including paints, pastels, clay and textiles. They are encouraged to express opinions about their own work and that of other artists, drawing on a developing knowledge of colour, pattern, texture, shape, form, line and tone.

## COMPUTING

The computing curriculum includes teaching children how to use and stay safe on the internet, how to use technology to create and share work, as well as how to program. All children and parents/carers are required to sign an Internet Use Agreement before accessing the Internet in school; this activity is always supervised in the classroom. All class teachers have wireless enabled laptops and no matter where they are in school, they can access the Internet and the school's network. Within the school a mix of technologies including iPads, PCs, laptops and interactive whiteboards support children's learning.

## CULTURAL ACTIVITY

Monkfield Park Primary School is committed to delivering Cambridgeshire County Council's culture guarantee. We believe all children should have opportunities to experience and participate in a range of high quality cultural experiences. These will include experiences such as the opportunity to learn an instrument in certain year groups, participation in school performances, taking part in competitive sport, watching and listening to visiting performers, and visiting culturally significant places.

## DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

Children are given the opportunity to develop their design and technology skills through focused practical activities involving working with a range of materials and tools. These skills include developing and communicating their own ideas, planning a product, refining the plan and making a product, as well as evaluating their own and others' work. Products made might include miniature chairs, model houses and controllable vehicles. Food Technology is an important part of this curriculum area and at Monkfield Park Primary School all children have the advantage of enjoying working in a fully equipped Food Technology room, in a context of hygiene and safety designing and making products such as a variety of bread rolls, salad, sandwiches, vegetable soup and biscuits. The children also get the chance to experience horticulture where they learn how to grow flowers and vegetables.

## ENGLISH

We promote the enjoyment of English and help children to develop a confident and positive attitude towards language and literacy. Children are actively encouraged to use their literacy skills across the curriculum as an effective means of communication and we view these skills as integral in supporting children's understanding and ability to access a wide range of topic areas.

From Reception onward we use the Read Write Inc scheme to teach phonics. This continues throughout Year 1, where 'Big Writing' experiences support children's development of extended writing. From Year 2 onwards, the 'Language and Literacy' scheme is used alongside teachers' own planning to introduce the children to many types of genre.

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Children will be introduced to many types of literature including fiction, non-fiction and poetry, as well as audio books and on-line and interactive texts. As part of developing their reading skills, children will work on building upon their comprehension of a range of text types. Children are also encouraged to become reflective readers, giving opinions about a text and making their own choices of reading material. Children will be encouraged to read widely. We place great emphasis on reading for pleasure and aim to develop enthusiastic and confident readers.

Children are taught to write for a variety of purposes and audiences and to write in different styles and genres. We use a wide variety of teaching methods to teach writing. Children will have opportunities to explore and investigate the organisation of texts, sentence structure, spelling rules and patterns and punctuation. Children are given many opportunities to apply their writing skills across the curriculum. Joined cursive handwriting is taught throughout the school. Re-drafting and editing skills are encouraged and children will have opportunities to produce final drafts of some pieces of their work, either handwritten or using word processing skills.

## GEOGRAPHY

We all make a mark on where we live, and where we live leaves its mark on us. Learning about the links between our lives and the environment around us is central to the study of geography at Monkfield Park. In lessons the children learn about real places and how the people living there are influenced by and affect their environment. They are encouraged to carry out research and make comparisons with areas (local, regional and national) in the UK and other countries in the world. We aim to develop children's natural skills of enquiry by investigating the physical and human features of their surroundings through topics on rivers, weather, settlement and environmental change.

Practical activities involve map reading, map making, fieldwork, data collection, using photographs and computers – all transferable skills which prove useful in other subjects too.

## HISTORY

The History curriculum aims to help pupils develop a sense of identity through learning about the development of the locality, Britain, Europe and the World and introduces pupils to what is involved in understanding and interpreting the past. The children's knowledge of History is developed through topics in both Key Stages. Their understanding of chronological history is built up through research, studies and personal projects about Ancient Civilisations, Romans, Anglo Saxons and Vikings in Britain, the Tudor period, Victorian England and the World Wars. Wherever possible, visits or guest speakers will be arranged to enhance the learning in class. The study of History helps pupils develop their skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing, and provides opportunities to develop their use of information technology.

## LIBRARY

The school has a dedicated library with a wide selection of texts for home and class reading. The library has a large collection of books which can be used by pupils and staff for classroom topics. We consider the library as an important way of promoting reading for pleasure.

## MATHEMATICS

At Monkfield Park Primary School we celebrate mathematics and place great importance on the enjoyment of the subject by promoting mathematical enquiry. The school is guided by the EYFS curriculum for Reception children and uses the Abacus scheme as a framework in KS1 and KS2. Children study the core strands of mathematics namely: number and place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, fractions, ratios and proportion, algebra, measurement, geometry, and statistics. Children have frequent opportunities in all year groups to carry out mathematical reasoning and skills such as logic, sorting, classifying and comparing. Mental mathematics is seen as an essential part of mathematical development and a variety of strategies are taught throughout the school. All children have access to a wide range of apparatus and are able to independently select and use appropriate materials to scaffold their learning.

## MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Monkfield Park is committed to providing every child with a sound foundation in modern foreign languages whilst recognising the crucial part international language plays in every aspect of today's society. We aim to develop confidence in basic language skills through a fun and creative environment, which concentrates on learning through communication, games and activities. We are passionate about developing an understanding of languages and cultures that is inclusive and which encourages an international outlook in all our pupils. Across the school a mixture of languages are taught: French in Reception and Key Stage 1; Spanish in KS2, which is the entry language for Cambourne Village College. The Modern Foreign Languages curriculum for the school is shaped through close partnership working with Cambourne Village College and independent schools, and is enriched by the delivery of clubs or sessions in other languages.

## MUSIC

Music is a very important part of our school life. The children are involved in music throughout their school life, from singing in assemblies to learning in the classroom. The music curriculum is delivered in different ways; at times, it may be taught weekly, or embedded within a cross-curricular topic. Our curriculum includes learning about world music, participating in class performances, creating own musical compositions using voices and instruments, and understanding aspects of their own and other people's performance. All children have opportunities to play our school musical instruments in class music, either individually or in a group and are encouraged to refine their musical performance through developing their evaluating skills. In addition to the above, Cambridgeshire Music provide specialist teachers in Woodwind, Guitar, Keyboard, Cello and Violin. Children have the opportunity to learn in groups or individually and come together as an orchestra, or to perform for each other for specific occasions. There is a charge for these lessons, although children receiving Free School Meals are entitled to free lessons.

## PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION

PSHE is an integral part of the curriculum as it promotes British values and prepares children for life in Britain today. The skills taught underpin much of the work the children will undertake throughout their school life. Topics covered include friends and family, healthy lifestyles, democracy, anti-bullying, managing risk, financial competencies, managing emotions, drugs education, and sex and relationships education. Through the teaching of PSHE we develop each child's self-esteem, confidence and independence, as well as embedding the values of social responsibility, mutual respect and tolerance. In addition the strategies we employ foster an atmosphere of trust and safety within the class and school. "Circle Time" is used regularly to discuss current issues in both individual classes and the whole school, for example, maintaining friendships and dealing with emotions. In addition, "Circle Time" provides each class with time to praise and celebrate success.

In addition to the PSHE curriculum the school also uses the SEAL programme (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning). The programme aims to promote positive behaviour and effective learning. It focuses on five aspects of learning: self-awareness, managing feelings, motivation, empathy and social skills. Each theme is taught using a whole-school approach, including assemblies and activities for each year group.

At Monkfield Park we have a School Council and Class Councils. These are run by the children, for the children, and during these meetings they discuss issues that they feel are important to them and the future development of the school. This is invaluable and the children enjoy making a difference to the development of their school.

## YEAR 6 RESPONSIBILITIES

Children in Year 6 are encouraged to develop their sense of responsibility by undertaking various jobs around the school. They play a key part in the preparation for Assembly each day, assist Midday Supervisors with the lunch hall duty in the halls and help with the organisation of playtime equipment at break times. Year 6 also co-ordinate the "Walking Bus", which escorts Reception children between the lunch hall and the playground.

## PLANNING, PREPARATION AND ASSESSMENT (PPA) TIME

It is a legal requirement that schools must provide each class teacher with 10% of their teaching week as non-contact time, so that they can plan or prepare lessons or assess the children's work. At Monkfield Park, teachers of the same year group have their PPA time together to plan the curriculum. During this time, the children are taught in their own class by a highly qualified Teacher Assistant, who has planned the work in consultation with the teacher. PPA time for each class takes place at the same time each week to provide continuity for the children.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education plays an important role in the children's development at Monkfield Park. Studies have shown that as well as the obvious health benefits associated with physical exercise, the subject also contributes towards raising standards by building self-esteem, teamwork and leadership skills as well as helping to build an inclusive society. Therefore the school is committed to ensuring that each child has access to an entitlement of two hours of high quality Physical Education every week.

In order to deliver this, the school has invested in a wide range of resources. Facilities include two halls and a large grass covered outside playing area which are used to provide activities including gymnastics, dance, games and athletics. Swimming takes place for Year 4 children and outdoor adventure and activities take place at outside venues for Year 6.

The school also has a strong link with Cambourne and Comberton Village College who provide specialist coaches and Advanced Skills teachers to offer expertise in netball, cricket, hockey, rugby, football and tennis. Monkfield Park is also actively involved with competitive sport, taking part in a number of tournaments and fixtures with other schools. There are also several out of school clubs available for children to develop their skill in a variety of sports.

At Monkfield Park Primary School, all Year 6 children are able to change in different areas for boys and girls. This could be through working together with a paired class if classes change for Physical Education at the same time or through one group of children, on a rota basis, changing in the cloakroom area within the classroom.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Monkfield Park Primary School follows the Cambridgeshire Agreed Syllabus for RE in line with the National Framework for RE. We aim to ensure that children acquire a knowledge and understanding of the principal religions represented in Great Britain and to teach the children to understand and reflect upon the nature of their, and others' religion, beliefs and practices. Through these studies, we endeavour to develop sensitive, tolerant attitudes towards people of all faiths and a respect for the beliefs of others. As the main religion represented in Great Britain, Christianity is studied in greatest detail although other world religions and a secular world view are also taught.



## PERSONALISED LEARNING

Personalised learning enables the curriculum to be tailored to the needs and interests of the individual. At Monkfield Park, we take a cross-curricular approach to aspects of learning to make links between subjects and skills. This may involve, for example, learning how to write scientific reports in an English lesson. We feel it is important for children to see learning is connected, and that they can transfer skills from different areas. Other approaches may include teaching through drama. Technology and Computing is also increasingly used to personalise learning experiences for children, with increasing use of handheld devices to bridge the gap between home and school.

## SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION

The school's sex education policy is taught in a range of different subjects and is embodied in our Personal, Social and Health Education Policy. This is a planned and continuous programme of work, which takes place from the Early Years Foundation Stage to Year 6.

Most of the work is carried out by class teachers who know your child well and who know and understand their individual needs. At times we invite outside visitors such as the child & family nurse and parents with babies to support us in these sessions.

We use a variety of resources, which are evaluated by staff before being adopted for use and which have been recommended by the Local Authority. These will include storybooks, poems, leaflets and DVDs. All materials are available for parents to view, as appropriate, at occasional parent meetings.

Parents are welcome to talk to the staff about the programme we provide and about any concerns they may have. The legal framework which schools must follow regarding sex education gives parents the right to withdraw their children from all, or part of, the sex education which is not part of the National Curriculum. Parents who wish to exercise this right may like to discuss this with the Headteacher and will be asked to re-confirm this each year.

## SCIENCE

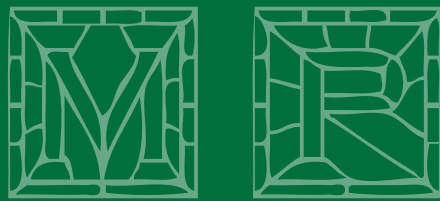
Through our Science curriculum we aim to give children the experience of a wide range of practical work as well as developing scientific skills and attitudes. Science helps children to understand more about the world around them and encourages them to question aspects that they do not understand. We promote critical questioning to develop children's confidence and speaking and listening skills. Children are given an awareness of the role and importance of science in everyday life, together with a consideration of the part that science plays in healthy eating and lifestyles.

The school is guided by the National Curriculum which covers biology, chemistry and physics. Areas of study include life processes, materials and their properties and physical science. Scientific skills are taught through practical investigation and experiment. Practical activities are supported by prediction, recording and reporting results through drawing, writing and talking. Results and findings are recorded in a variety of ways including written accounts, mathematical means and graphic representation using data-processing computer programs. We employ a variety of teaching methods which are stimulating and well resourced. Thus we aim to promote the enjoyment of learning about Science in children.

## TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Teaching Assistants are a very important part of our staff team. They work closely with class teachers both in and outside the classroom to support and extend children in groups or individually under the direction of the class teacher. All Teaching Assistants undergo training to improve their knowledge and skills. Many of our Teaching Assistants have additional skills, such as first aid, managing the library or communal areas of the school. Some Teaching Assistants carry out Cover Supervision: this means that if a teacher is absent, a Cover Supervisor may take charge of the class.

The children in the care of a Cover Supervisor will work on activities provided by the teacher beforehand.



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