

Greasby Infant School

Curriculum Rationale



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At Greasby Infant School we encourage all learners to be the best they can be by reviewing and assessing our practice to provide exciting learning opportunities and experiences within a broad and balanced curriculum. We provide a safe, caring and motivating learning environment where high quality teaching experiences ensure a culture of success and achievement. We are passionate about promoting self-motivated learners who love the challenge and adventure of learning.

Our school has developed an excellent Early Years Foundation Stage which is child led with continual 'in the moment' learning. This helps build positive attitudes towards learning, building confidence and resilience where children's natural instincts to discover and explore are not stifled.

In KS1 our curriculum is carefully planned in line with the National Curriculum and is based on what we know engages our children, is relevant to their lives and exposes them to the arts, sport, adventure, creativity and challenge. We have a strong community identity and develop this through work with local churches, local schools and businesses. We ensure our children develop respect and pride for their local environment through curriculum themes and Eco Schools work. We use outdoor learning to help support our children's learning in all areas. We have extensive grounds that include our Enchanted Wood, a large field, a wildlife pond, an aviary and a quad where we keep rabbits. The children access these areas throughout the year. We use Eco Schools to help our children

understand the effects humans have on the environment and how they can help support change.

We promote global learning through themed days and multicultural topics that help our children better understand where they fit within the rich and diverse cultures of the world. We believe our curriculum encourages children to have respect for other people beliefs and religions as well as understand and develop their own. We teach three different languages at Greasby Infant School which include Mandarin, French and Spanish. Although there is no requirement to teach MFL in an Infant school we feel that it not only allows all children to develop linguistic skills but it enables young children to begin to understand that there are different countries other than the UK in the world and that it is important we learn about them. We have also found that when children learn a foreign language it supports their phonic knowledge in English. We have an MFL room that is rich in language, display and fun. The children are taught Mandarin and French in F1/2 and Mandarin and Spanish in KS1. We worked hard to become the first Infant School to be awarded Confucius Classroom status in May 2013. Hanban pay for school to have a fulltime Chinese teacher who not only works with our children but also supports within the local community.

At Greasby Infants we work hard to promote good social, emotional, spiritual and mental health and we achieved the Equalities Award in January 2018. We follow a scheme called Jigsaw that teaches children how to respect themselves and one another. F1/2 children have a 30 minutes session weekly with KS1 having an hour's session. The children's success in these sessions is celebrated in our weekly Celebration Assembly. We also take part in national anti-bullying, world mental health and health weeks to ensure our children are aware of how to be a mentally healthy person as well as physically. KS1 classes take part in weekly yoga and mindfulness activities. We also offer a mindfulness school club that works with vulnerable children. We currently offer support for individuals that may be struggling with bereavement, anxiety or SEN difficulties through Positive Resolutions.

Mathematics is taught through Maths No Problem which is a mastery approach to teaching. We use this scheme as we feel it enables our children to have a deep understanding of mathematics. Maths No Problem works on Bruner's research on how children learn through the concrete/pictorial/abstract model.

We have found this approach to be highly effective for our children and believe it enables all children to succeed with curriculum.

At Greasby Infants we have chosen to teach phonics using Ruth Miskin's Read Write Inc. Scheme. Read Write Inc. is a fast paced, rigorous and structured phonics programme that helps get every child reading and gives our teachers and TA's the confidence and skills to deliver high quality phonic teaching every day. Children work in ability groups across the school, this means that they are being taught at the correct level enabling them to make excellent progress. Read Write Inc. works for our children because they enjoy working with different children and teachers and the repetitive nature of the lessons means they know what to expect and how to succeed.

We have recently implemented the Read to Write scheme to support effective writing skill development across the school. The units are based on high quality texts, which are used to set the scene and inspire the children to write through a structured approach to teaching vocabulary, text analysis and modelling.

The following principles guide our curriculum provision.

We start from the children: we ask them what they like and what they enjoy and we observe them playing and learning

Practical first hand experiences, initiated by children's interests, lend themselves to the richest learning opportunities

Enabling Environments with quality resources and sensitive adult support that is responsive to children's needs and helps children to become independent learners.

Learning through play and exploration is most meaningful to children and leads to deeper learning and;

Curriculum provision reflects the rich and varied cultures in our local community and beyond.

Curriculum Intent

Develop a sense of self through opportunities for personal social and emotional learning, including the most effective ways of living and learning collaboratively within the wider world.

Promoting emotional and physical education alongside knowledge of how to stay safe and make healthy life choices.

Mastery skills teaching of English and Maths with practice and application.

Developing an understanding of the digital world and computing including how to stay safe online and understand the impact of technology in the world we live.

Encouraging creativity through the arts and by thinking critically and taking sensible risks.

Personalisation from class topics to individuals

Environmental education including growing food, cooking and the effect we have on the environment locally and worldwide.

Curriculum Enrichment - We provide a wide range of opportunities for children to learn through new experiences and these include:

Community visits including places of worship, local library and shops

Visitors including local Clergy, RNLI, Local Councillor, Mayor, Bird Keeper, Reptile Keepers

Partnership including Music Festivals with local schools, Inter school sports festivals, Infant School Proms

Themed weeks including Literacy week, Science week, Book week, Creative Week, Sports week, Health week etc

Extra-Curricular activities including tennis, football, Zumba, multi sports, cookery, Mad Science, art, Music, Brixmania etc.

Curriculum Impact - When trying to measure the impact of our school curriculum, we firstly ask the children and families about their learning. This is done both informally through Golden Table, class visits and at parent-teacher meetings and formally through the School Council and parental questionnaires. We also compare our school against national and local benchmarks as well as with similar schools. Our strengths and areas for development are identified in order to strive for improvement in all we do.

We believe that our children possess unique skills, talents and qualities and as such have the right to succeed, recognising their potential and understanding how they can make a difference in our community and the wider world.