

Reception are taught the last year of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum and this is outlined in a separate EYFS Reception document.

From **years 1 to 6** we teach all subjects as set out in the **National Curriculum**.

Our curriculum seeks to achieve a high level of equity, attainment and enjoyment for all children. It presumes that all children, regardless of their background or genetic make-up, are able to make progress in all areas of the curriculum and develop key knowledge and understanding that provides solid building blocks for future learning. Teachers will use the curriculum to achieve this by allowing the children time to develop their understanding of key concepts to sufficient depth.

The National Curriculum has a clear progression of key skills and key assessments for the core curriculum subjects (Reading, writing, maths and Grammar, punctuation & spelling). However the curriculum is far wider than the core subjects so Teachers will need to know the stage of development of all children in all subjects in order to teach what they need to understand next. Children must be assessed on the key concepts that they are taught. The curriculum should be sufficiently flexible to respond to the interests of the children and should enable teachers to promote a feeling that anything can happen in their class.

The school has devised a curriculum plan which sets out where & when the National Curriculum subjects will be taught. Each year group has a year-plan of topics, often based around a History, Geography or Science focus. The daily timetable includes daily Literacy and Mathematics lessons, which usually take place each morning, as well as regular phonics, reading, spelling and tables sessions. We have found that it is very important to embed opportunities for writing and maths within every topic. By providing these thematic links it gives a cross-curricular approach which helps children to make connections between subjects and provides real purposes for learning. For example when a pupil creates a leaflet on the rainforest they are practising their writing skills. It also makes the Literacy & Numeracy lessons interesting & relevant.

Beyond the National Curriculum.

Despite not being in the National Curriculum Burwell school believes that it is vital that we teach our children how to be confident, resilient and happy individuals who take responsibility for their actions and learn to face new challenges. They need to learn the importance of good relationships and respect for others. Learning the skills to interact with others and deal with friendship and bullying issues. Children also need to learn how to stay safe and the importance of a healthy lifestyle. Burwell School will continue to provide this through the Local Authority **Personal, Social and Health Education** (PSHE) curriculum. This curriculum includes **Sex and Relationships Education** (SRE) at an age appropriate level.

At Burwell, **Religious Education** is taught according to the Cambridgeshire Locally Agreed Syllabus. Throughout the curriculum equal opportunities, equality and diversity are a constant consideration.

The DfE have established a need for schools to “create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental **British Values** of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.” At Burwell these fundamental democratic values are promoted and embedded into all parts of school life. Our school ethos and policies such as SMSC, Community Cohesion & the School Council reflect these values, ensuring that all members of our school understand their importance and how they are essential to enable us to operate as a community. It is important that while the DfE use the term ‘British Values’, for some the term ‘Democratic Values’ better helps to demonstrate that these are values recognised and shared by many other nations outside Britain.

The Burwell Curriculum:

By the end of their time in the school, we aim to ensure that all children have the opportunity to experience the statutory coverage of the **National Curriculum**. However we feel that this does not offer our pupils a full and broad range of experiences. The **Burwell School Curriculum** seeks to offer our pupils a wider range of alternative experiences.

The Topics all have a **Big Question**. The key line of enquiry the topic will seek to answer: Were the Tudors Terrible? Were the Vikings Vicious? For many topics we arrange a special event to improve the children’s understanding and enjoyment. To start each topic there will often be a **Stimulating Start**. It may be a school trip or guest speaker. It may be a problem to solve or a classroom turned in to an aircraft, or Beowulf’s lair. Something to spark their imagination.

A topic may also have a **Fantastic finish**. This again can be a trip or it can be an opportunity for the children to demonstrate what they have learnt in their topic. It may be a presentation to the class; a play or assembly to parents; creating a French cafe; or having a day dressing up and living life as a Tudor.

To further enhance the School Curriculum we also believe that the children must have an understanding of **Community and Social Responsibility**. Each class will establish a community link be it in the village, Cambridgeshire, nationally or internationally. Some will undertake local projects, others will sing with the local choir or visit the old peoples’ home, and some will establish links with schools around the world. Part of this will ensure our pupils actively engage in being **Socially Responsible**. This may take the form of arranging or taking part in whole school or class charity events; supporting an endangered animal; a litter pick in the village or raising money to support charity programmes such as Oxfam’s sponsoring a child through school.

Burwell School also has **Pupil Focus** and **Teacher Focus** lessons. These lessons are unique to the class and teacher and can happen at any point throughout the year. In the Pupil Focus lessons the teachers ask the children what they would like to experience or learn and then arrange a lesson or guest speaker. The Teacher Focus is an opportunity for teachers to teach their class something which they enjoy or are passionate about. They are opportunities for the class and teacher to have fun.

Burwell School also holds [Family Learning Cafés](#). These are lessons or workshops where parents and members of the wider family can join in a lesson and learn along side their child. We find that the last time a parent was in primary school was many years ago and these lessons are an ideal opportunity to see what current lessons, curriculum and teaching methods are like. The Burwell Cafés include a range of subjects from behaviour management to reading with your child.

Essential Experiences: To enhance the curriculum even further in each year group we plan that pupils should have the opportunity to extend their experiences by undertaking some of the following:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform to an audience as part of a production. • Take part in musical events and concerts. • Represent the school in sporting competitions. • Take part in competitive & non competitive sports events. • Represent the school in quizzes and competitions. • Stroke a snake or see an owl fly. • Being a school Council member and contributing to school decision making. • Take responsibility for younger children e.g. Play Leaders and Sports Leaders . • Hold positions of responsibility including class monitors, lunchtime monitors and Sports Ambassadors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement in whole school art and technology projects. • Organise as well as take part in charity events. • Stay away on a residential trip with opportunities to experience team and personal challenges. • Links with the local community including the Churches, care homes, local clubs & societies. • Take part in science and technology projects. • Take part in educational visits • Experience visitors to the school including artists, authors & athletes. • Safer cycling qualifications, scooter training, balance bike training. • Opportunities to participate in extra-curricular clubs.
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How teachers plan the curriculum:

Year:	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
<i>Topic Title & main subject</i>						
<i>Big Question / Enquiry</i>	The key enquiry or big question the topic will seek to answer: Were the Vikings all bad? Were the Tudors terrible?					
<i>Rich Texts to support topic</i>	A fantastic class book linked to the topic to excite, stimulate and aid discussion.					
<i>Stimulating Start or a Fantastic Finish</i>	The hook by which you capture the pupils’ imagination: speaker, trip, mystery, class event Or how the pupils will demonstrate what they have learnt : topic book, folder, presentation board, assembly, video, presentation to parents, Trip / events day / guest /					
<i>Essential Experiences Life skills</i>	The things specific to the year group which enhance their experiences and life skills.					
<i>Community & Social Responsibility</i>	The things we do in each year group which builds a child’s understanding of their place in the local, national & international community. Singing to OAPs, Parish Council litter pick, pen palls, sponsoring a child through school, meeting people from other faiths, cultures, and countries. The things we do as a year group to raise money or do things to improve the world around us: Sponsor an animal, litter pick, sponsor child through school, raise money for air ambulance, guide dog for blind,					
<i>Teacher Focus</i>	Several times a year there is the opportunity for teachers to teach their class something which they enjoy or are passionate about. They are often opportunities for the class and teacher to have fun. Something artistic, creative, sporty or fun.					
<i>Pupil Focus</i>	A couple of times a year the class teachers will ask the children what they would like to learn and then arrange a lesson, guest speaker, visit or activity etc. By their very nature they can not be planned a year in advance.					
<i>Café’s / Family Learning</i>	During the Year the Class Teachers arrange several training workshops or Café’s for parents aimed at helping you support your child’s Literacy or Numeracy skills.					