



Wood End Park Academy

Curriculum Statement

The Curriculum at Wood End Park Academy

Wood End Park Academy is proud of the broad and balanced curriculum that we offer to all of our pupils. We are committed to ensuring that our children master the skills required to be successful in English and Mathematics, as well as all other subjects, which we believe are just as important. Through careful planning and monitoring of curriculum overviews, we make sure that we provide opportunity for pupils to acquire the appropriate knowledge, understanding and skills needed in all subjects and that the children are always inspired to continue learning.

We promote English and Maths across a range of subjects to encourage children to apply skills from these subjects (and IT) in many different contexts. **Opening Minds** competences are embedded into our curriculum to ensure children develop key skills for a successful future including emotional intelligence, managing feelings, the ability to coach and reflect and entrepreneurship. If you were to visit the academy, you would see these competencies in practice, as well as a range of ICT tools being used across lessons and links to local and current issues. These give our children the opportunity to keep up to date with the world around them. We believe that these are all fundamental qualities for them to have to prepare for life beyond the school.

All of our staff work hard to ensure that our curriculum is designed to meet the needs of every child in the school; through year group themes, thorough differentiation and external opportunities, every child is able to access learning. We recognise greater expertise externally and offer clubs and classes within those subjects. Our biggest successes have been in music and PE, with QPR coaches and instrument teachers. We use themed weeks, days and exhibitions (see appendix 1) to celebrate subjects and to deepen and embed key skills, especially for our greater depth learners. We promote success in the curriculum by rewarding certain characteristics in each subject (see curriculum characters: appendix 2). These characters engage and inspire our pupils to work to their best ability.

We are committed to ensuring that the curriculum is delivered to at least a good standard in all classrooms.

Opening Minds

As mentioned previously, we develop life skills using the Opening Minds competencies. The aim of Opening Minds is to provide the children with the richest learning experience possible and to equip them with the life skills they will need to succeed in secondary school, higher education and life in today's rapidly changing world. Competency teaching will help give pupils the opportunity to put their curriculum learning into a meaningful context, enriched with memorable experiences. The children will acquire:

- Practical knowledge – learning how to do things;
- Social knowledge – learning the values and practices of groups and communities;
- Self-knowledge – understanding themselves as learners and extending their ability to learn;
- Experiential learning – relating their knowledge and its uses to their lives and environments.

The National Curriculum

We follow the National Curriculum at Wood End Park Academy. The Foundation stage (Nursery and Reception) follows the Early Years Framework; more details on this can be found:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework>

Key stage 1 (Year 1 and 2) and Key stage 2 (Years 3-6) follow the Primary National Curriculum. A new Curriculum was launched in 2014 and is now embedded in our school.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england-primary-curriculum>. In both key stages we teach the following subjects:

- English, Mathematics, Science, Computing, Design and Technology, History, Geography, Music, Art, PSHE, Physical Education, and Religious Education.
- In Key Stage 2, French and swimming are also taught.

English

At Wood End Park Academy, Reading and Writing have a very high priority. Language is at the centre of all of our learning. In the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 we follow a rigorous Phonics Programme. This supports our children with the initial skills needed to read words and eventually books and to write. Year 1 sit a Phonics Screening Check in June. This assesses their ability to use Phonic Strategies to aid their reading.

In Year 2 and Key Stage 2, Grammar is taught within the English lessons and as stand-alone lessons. It is essential that children understand the rules of grammar to be successful in their reading and writing. At the end of Years 2 and 6 children sit a Grammar assessment to determine their knowledge and application of Grammar.

The new Curriculum has re-introduced key skills for improving writing. These include planning, drafting, proof-reading and editing. At Wood End Park Academy, we have a clear English unit structure that allows pupils to learn and develop these skills weekly. Once a fortnight, children produce a published piece of writing, after completing the planning, drafting, proof-reading and editing. This is then assessed by the teacher and a well-structured writing target is given to support each individual's progress.

As a school we promote reading. We believe that, not only should children develop the ability to read and comprehend texts, but they should also have a 'love of reading'. We encourage our children to read a range of books in a range of contexts to broaden their understanding and that 'love of reading'. We also question the children on the language used, which may be unfamiliar to them, and the author's intention. For us, reading is enjoyable and a useful learning tool.

End of Day reading

To help to promote the 'love of reading', every class will share a book at the end of the day. They will be able to see the text and follow as the teacher or another child reads to them. The books are chosen by the teachers, and provide a bit of challenge. We use this time to develop key reading and comprehension skills even further and also show how much pleasure reading can provide.

Home Reading

Sharing books with your child is one of the most useful things you can do and although they will have the opportunity to bring home a variety of books from school, encourage your child to read anything and everything: shop signs, comics, poems, jokes, online books and articles even the cereal box!

Your child will bring home books including 'colour-coded books', 'reading scheme books', 'library books' and 'non-fiction books'. Sometimes your child may choose the books. Please respect this choice, even if you don't think the book is suitable. Depending on your child's reading ability and the type of book taken home, decide together which of the following activities is most appropriate:

- You read and discuss the book with your child.
- You and the child read the book at the same time (paired reading).
- Your child reads the book to you.
- Your child reads the book alone.

Make reading at home a daily activity and:

- Talk about the book before you start (title, cover, pictures, expectations, etc.);
- Give lots of praise and encouragement;
- Talk about what you have read;
- Ask questions;
- Read fairly slowly so that the child has time to ask questions.

Every child should have a reading diary. Please feel free to make any written comments about your reading sessions at home.

Mathematics

Mathematics is also a high priority at Wood End Park Academy. We expect our children to be competent in the basic concepts of Mathematics to prepare them for the outside world: the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division), telling the time and working with money. Included in our lessons, are opportunities to apply maths skills to a range of contexts, deepen and embed the skill, practise maths at greater depth and answer reasoning questions (explaining how and why).

We develop the children's arithmetic skills by teaching them structured methods (from our calculation policy) and encouraging them to select the one that they feel most comfortable using. We promote the use of mental calculation to speed up their arithmetic and revise and develop this at every opportunity. Some year groups have a separate Arithmetic lesson in order to secure these key skills.

We aim to develop confidence in Mathematics, show our children that Mathematics is of everyday importance to them and that it can be fun. To achieve these aims we use a variety of methods from practical activities, investigations and whole class teaching. We have created opportunities for children to revise their basic maths skills across the curriculum including Science, History and Art (i.e. Number skills in History when converting old money).

Children are set homework in Mathematics. You can also help your child by practicing basic Mathematical skills with them, such as learning their tables or practicing the four rules of number. (Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.)

Science

We present Science as a core subject. We are promoting the use of Scientific Enquiry skills in all of the lessons that we teach and our 'Super Scientist' checklist encourages children to use these independently. Our Science units help to build a wider picture of Science and how it influences the world and beliefs of others.

In Science lessons at both Key Stages 1 and 2 children are given the opportunity to:

- develop scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding through the specific disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics
- develop understanding of the nature, processes and methods of science through different types of science enquiries that help them to answer scientific questions about the world around them
- are equipped with the scientific knowledge required to understand the uses and implications of science, today and for the future.

In the summer term Wood End Park Academy transforms into a school of Science for a day, where children learn about Scientific Phenomena, use enquiry skills to conduct their own experiments and explore Science in a creative and enjoyable way.

Computing

The Computing Curriculum includes Computer Science, Digital Literacy and Information Technology. Wood End Park Academy also covers e-safety in all of these areas, as we see at as a key life lesson. Computing lessons are taught by our specialist computing team, who carefully plan and teach the objectives required. We want to ensure that pupils:

- can understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, including abstraction, logic, algorithms and data representation
- can analyse problems in computational terms, and have repeated practical experience of writing computer programs in order to solve such problems
- can evaluate and apply information technology, including new or unfamiliar technologies, analytically to solve problems
- are responsible, competent, confident and creative users of information and communication technology.

These skills (as well as many other computing skills) are then developed in other curriculum areas. We use ICT as a learning tool in many curriculum subjects and encourage the children to select these tools to support their understanding of a subject.

Art

In art, throughout the school, we look at a range of artists and techniques. Each year the children develop art skills in their sketch books using a variety of tools to support them; finally producing a good quality piece of art.

In Art we aim for children to:

- produce creative work, exploring their ideas and recording their experiences
- become proficient in drawing, painting, sculpture and other art, craft and design techniques
- evaluate and analyse creative works using the language of art, craft and design
- know about great artists, craft makers and designers, and understand the historical and cultural development of their art forms.

Our teachers create a high standard outcome for all of their units, showcasing the skills and quality that we expect of the children. From painting to sketching to clay sculptures, the children will always see a fantastic example to work towards. Our newly introduced art ambassadors support the children and staff, using their expertise and passion for the subject.

Design and Technology

Our DT Curriculum allows children to be creative and understand the processes need to make specific items. We have a broad DT Curriculum looking at Cooking, Textiles, Mechanical systems, structures and electrical systems. In Design and Technology we aim for children to:

- develop the creative, technical and practical expertise needed to perform everyday tasks confidently and to participate successfully in an increasingly technological world
- build and apply a repertoire of knowledge, understanding and skills in order to design and make high-quality prototypes and products for a wide range of users
- critique, evaluate and test their ideas and products and the work of others
- understand and apply the principles of nutrition and learn how to cook

Again, our teachers create a final piece, that is of a high standard, to inspire our children.

Geography

Geography at Wood End Park Academy allows the children to explore the world beyond Hayes. Each year group uses Geography as a topic theme in Spring term, linking their English, Art and other lessons to it. We study a range of places, some similar and some very different to our own homes. There is an expectation for children to learn facts about the world, including continents, countries and capital cities. We explore these in lessons and introduce new topics by revising these.

In Geography we aim for children to:

- develop contextual knowledge of the location of globally significant places – both terrestrial and marine – including their defining physical and human characteristics and how these provide a geographical context for understanding the actions of processes
- understand the processes that give rise to key physical and human geographical features of the world, how these are interdependent and how they bring about spatial variation and change over time
- are competent in the geographical skills needed to:
 - collect, analyse and communicate with a range of data gathered through experiences of fieldwork that deepen their understanding of geographical processes
 - interpret a range of sources of geographical information, including maps, diagrams, globes, aerial photographs and Geographical Information Systems (GIS)
 - communicate geographical information in a variety of ways, including through maps, numerical and quantitative skills and writing at length.

In the Spring term, the children will be asked to complete a Geography Quest for home. This will be a project linked to the key knowledge that they need to know. Last year we received games, quizzes, PowerPoint presentations, globes and many more creative projects.

History

History is one of the children's favourite subjects as they love learning about the past. Each year group uses Geography as a topic theme in Autumn term, linking their English, Art and other lessons to it. We ensure that the History Curriculum is rich with knowledge of past periods and that we compare past to present life, taking particular interest in how the past has influenced our lives today. Wood End Park Academy encourages children to have an understanding of chronology and introduce all of our topics by broadening this and comparing to the time from previous learning.

We expect our children to:

- know and understand the history of these islands as a coherent, chronological narrative, from the earliest times to the present day: how people's lives have shaped this nation and how Britain has influenced and been influenced by the wider world
- know and understand significant aspects of the history of the wider world: the nature of ancient civilisations; the expansion and dissolution of empires; characteristic features of past non-European societies; achievements and follies of mankind
- gain and deploy a historically grounded understanding of abstract terms such as 'empire', 'civilisation', 'parliament' and 'peasantry'
- understand historical concepts such as continuity and change, cause and consequence, similarity, difference and significance, and use them to make connections, draw contrasts, analyse trends, frame historically-valid questions and create their own structured accounts, including written narratives and analyses
- understand the methods of historical enquiry, including how evidence is used rigorously to make historical claims, and discern how and why contrasting arguments and interpretations of the past have been constructed
- gain historical perspective by placing their growing knowledge into different contexts, understanding the connections between local, regional, national and international history; between cultural, economic, military, political, religious and social history; and between short- and long-term timescales.

We also have a History Day in the Autumn term where children dress up as someone from the period they are studying and spending the day learning about that time period. This is a great opportunity to make links across the curriculum, including Maths, English, Art etc. Something lots of us enjoy!

Languages

The language that we teach in Key Stage 2 at Wood End Park Academy is French. Children begin to explore the language using a variety of games, songs and fun activities, which they then develop into basic conversation.

We aim to provide children with experiences to

- understand and respond to spoken and written language from a variety of authentic sources
- speak with increasing confidence, fluency and spontaneity, finding ways of communicating what they want to say, including through discussion and asking questions, and continually improving the accuracy of their pronunciation and intonation
- can write at varying length, for different purposes and audiences, using the variety of grammatical structures that they have learnt
- discover and develop an appreciation of a range of writing in the language studied.

Music

Our music curriculum links to the topics in each year group. We have a specialist music teacher for most year groups and a well-resourced music suite, in which children have the opportunity to explore a wide range of instruments and have access to acoustic environment that is ideal for teaching a large group.

We aim for the children to be able to:

- perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians
- learn to sing and to use their voices, to create and compose music on their own and with others, have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, use technology appropriately and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence
- understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the inter-related dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations.

Children have an opportunity to develop these music skills further in singing assemblies (led by our music teacher), clubs run after school and at lunchtime and singing/ music festivals across the federation. We welcome peripatetic teachers, who provide classes and private lessons in guitar, recorder and violin.

Physical Education

Physical Education (PE) is taught in school through six different aspects: Games, Athletics, Dance, Gymnastics, Outdoor/Adventurous Activities and Swimming (year 5 and 4). The children get two hours of PE per week and one hour of that is taught by our specialist PE team. We want to ensure that pupils:

- develop competence to excel in a broad range of physical activities
- are physically active for sustained periods of time
- engage in competitive sports and activities
- lead healthy, active lives

There are many clubs that promote these PE skills. Wood End Park Academy has been very successful over the years in sporting competitions, winning many trophies in the Federation and Borough. QPR coaches also provide clubs for pupils and are at hand to help us prepare for sporting events.

Religious Education

At Wood End Park Academy we are proud of the diverse community we serve and all its rich traditions, values and beliefs. To reflect this, we aim to provide an RE syllabus which celebrates all our cultural diversity, whilst remaining within the guidelines laid down by the Local Authority Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education.

Each year group will have the experience of visiting a place of worship:

Year 1 - Christian Church

Year 2 - Hindu Temple

Year 3 - Islamic Mosque

Year 4 - Jewish Synagogue

Year 5 - Sikh Gurdwara

Year 6 - Buddhist Temple

Each year group leads a whole school festival celebration for children, parents and our community to share together. We also welcome visits from parents who would enjoy sharing their faith with us. According to Section 25 of the 1944 education Act, parents have the right to withdraw their child from any acts of Religious Worship or instruction. Naturally we respect the wishes of parents in connection with these matters. However, we ask that parents inform the school in writing if they wish to withdraw their child from any aspect of our RE Teaching.

Personal, Social and Health Education and Citizenship

This is a vital area of the child's learning. One of our aims is to prepare the child for life as an adult and how to deal with issues that could upset them. Therefore as part of this programme we teach about such things as personal fitness, hygiene and the importance of correct diet as well as coping with changes, anti-bullying and adapting to different social situations. The role in the community is a theme which runs through many assemblies and lessons.

- **Sex Education:** We approach Sex Education as part of the normal curriculum, when such things as life cycles of animals are taught. The reproductive system and puberty are taught during Year five as part of a topic called "My Body". Sex Education is again covered in more detail as part of a topic called "Change" which is taught in Year six. Parents are invited to see the materials, including videos that we use as part of our Sex Education Programme. Parents also have the right to withdraw their child from certain parts of the programme if they wish. We ask that you discuss this with the Principal if you do wish to withdraw your child.

British Values

There is an expectation for schools to 'prepare pupils positively for life in modern Britain and promoting fundamental British Values'. At Wood End Park Academy, we encourage Democracy, voting for many things including class rewards and school councillors. Within the Curriculum we promote British Values by learning about how they were viewed in the past and the present, taking trips and pointing out key points and being positive and supportive to everything we learn about and everyone in the community.

Homework

In both Key Stage 1 and 2 children are given homework to do.

- Reception: Daily Reading and weekly tasks e.g. Talk Homework.
- Years 1 and 2: Reading, Spellings and other English and Numeracy work.
- Years 3 and 4: As for Years 1 and 2, with occasional assignments in other subjects.
- Years 5 and 6: Regular weekly schedule with continued emphasis on English and Numeracy but also ranging widely over the Curriculum.

There may be occasions when your child brings home additional homework that links to a topic or project that we are doing in school. We also encourage children to research for a new topic, or for a piece of writing we are going to be doing the following week.