

Our Curriculum

“The curriculum is exciting and provides memorable, inspirational experiences.” (Ofsted 2012)

Our pupils enjoy our outstanding, rich and exciting curriculum, which is strong on both basic skills and creativity, while preparing them for the world of work. In addition to the key areas of literacy and numeracy, pupils embark on a Creative Learning Journey of integrated topics, rich on the visual and performing arts, while developing physical fitness, thinking skills, and as responsible citizens of the future. Throughout the school, we follow government guidelines on what is taught ensuring a broadly based and balanced education.

Our curriculum includes:

- English / Literacy
- Mathematics / Numeracy
- Science
- Computing
- The Humanities – history, geography and religious education
- French (modern foreign language)
- Art and Design Technology
- Specialist Music including instrumental tuition
- Personal and Physical Education – personal, social, health and economic education; physical education and sports development.

Pupils particularly enjoy the many stimulating trips to places such as Environmental Centres, art galleries and museums; the inspiring visitors including musicians and actors; and our adventurous school journeys, helping increase their appetite for and deepen their learning.

“Educational visits often provide the most enjoyable experiences and enduring memories from school days” (DfE Guidelines)

Many pupils also enjoy the rich range of additional clubs, activities and booster classes we offer at lunchtimes, before and after school. These include sports clubs and activities run by professional coaches; opportunities to develop particular talents or interests e.g. art, choir or playing a musical instrument; and extra classes to help particular children with their learning.

Early Years Foundation Stage

“Children make rapid progress in the EYFS because adults plan activities which motivate and excite them. Routines for sharing and working co-operatively are quickly established. All adults play and work productively with the children.” (Ofsted 2012)

We provide children with an excellent start to school in our welcoming and well-resourced nursery and reception classes, taught by our team of fully qualified, skilled and experienced teachers and Early Years Practitioners. We offer the intensive tuition for those who need a boost with their language skills.

Children settle in quickly and make rapid progress through our carefully planned educational play activities which we combine with more structured sessions to develop their language skills, to learn their phonics, to read and write, and to count and do simple sums. We find our children want to learn these things and we are happy to teach them so they achieve excellent results and are ready for the more formal approaches in the Key Stage 1 classes.

Much of the learning takes place in our new, 'state-of-the art' nursery building, light and airy reception classes and attractive outdoor areas. The children particularly enjoy our 'Forest School' sessions where they learn through the natural world. We encourage parents to be involved and join our Practical Parenting groups.

The Early Years curriculum covers:

- Communication and language
- Literacy and mathematics
- Understanding the world, and expressive art and design
- Personal, social and emotional development, and physical development

English and Literacy across the school

"The school places the importance of reading and enjoying books at the heart of what it does. Older pupils enjoy reading, for example secondary texts such as Holes by Louis Sachar and War Horse by Michael Morpurgo, and explore themes from Shakespeare's plays in their writing." (Ofsted 2012)

We are very successful at teaching children to read and write while creating a love of books and literature through the carefully selected, high quality texts they study and the rich variety of books they take home to read. The walls are lined with displays of their excellent writing.

Our children love to perform and receive great praise for their productions, for example in the prestigious annual Shakespeare Festival, showcasing their work in the Greenwich Theatre.

We systematically teach children **phonics** (letter sounds) to help them learn to read and spell using the highly successful Jolly Phonics and Letters and Sounds programmes, supported by other fun resources such as interactive whiteboard games. We lead a National Phonics Hub helping other local schools teach phonics as well as we do.

Reading: Children make a great start with our attractive 'reading for pleasure' books both in the nursery and to take home to enjoy with their parents. They move on to reading Oxford Reading Tree and other scheme books every day in school and at home, and then a wide range of high quality 'free readers' from their well-stocked class libraries. All children also have small group 'guided' reading sessions in school e.g. using Kingscourt and Lighthouse books, to develop their understanding of what they read. In Key Stage 2 children also study key novels as a class so they are confidently reading Year 7 (secondary) books before they leave. Some even get on to GCSE texts. They are also encouraged to use books and the internet to research the topics they are studying in the wider curriculum.

Writing: All children are taught to form their letters correctly and write neatly and fluently, showing pride in the way they present their work. They learn to compose extended pieces for a range of different purposes and audiences using a powerful combination of highly successful approaches starting with 'Storytelling for Writing' (learning stories with actions) so many leave reception able to write a coherent story. We build on this using 'Big Writing' and other strategies such as 'modelling' how to write well so the children learn the elements of good writing, spelling, punctuation and grammar, and how to write interestingly, at length and in many different styles, in their daily English lessons. They leave us confident writers.

Mathematics and Numeracy across the school

“The achievement of pupils in mathematics is exceptional. Pupils have good opportunities to apply their mathematical skills across the curriculum.” (Ofsted 2012)

Being a National Maths Hub school has helped us develop ‘cutting edge’ teaching methods combining the best of British approaches with the latest techniques from Singapore and Shanghai so children develop a deep understanding of maths and leave confident in calculating, solving problems, and using their maths competently in every day practical situations.

Number facts: From reception upwards, children start their daily maths lessons with a fun ‘Passport’ number activity which helps them learn number facts such as times tables off by heart as well as how to do increasingly complex mental maths. They love the exploding timers!

Arithmetic or sums: By focusing on a few, well-chosen methods, children rapidly learn to calculate accurately using larger and larger numbers and in increasingly complex ways. By the time they leave school they apply these skills to basic Algebra.

Problem-solving: Children are taught to effectively solve word problems applying their maths to practical situations using a systematic approach known as RUCSAC. We have recently introduced Fun Fridays using the STOPS interactive software to systematically teach the children the 8 different methods for solving maths problems and puzzles.

Geometry, Statistics and Measures: The children also learn about shapes, angles, perimeter and area; different graphs and how to read them; and about practical things such as length, weights and volume.

The Creative Learning Journey

“Very effective use is made of links between subjects such as history, science, and information communication technology. This deepens their understanding and makes learning meaningful and fun.” (Ofsted 2012)

Science

“Science has changed our lives and is vital to the world’s future prosperity.” (National Curriculum)

Through our high quality science curriculum pupils learn to *“recognise the power of rational explanation and develop a sense of excitement and curiosity about natural phenomena ... and how to explain what is occurring, predict how things will behave, and analyse causes”*.

Children are taught 2 lessons of science a week following the excellent Kent scheme. Much of the learning is based on practical work, experiments and investigations, as well as regular field work – just like adult scientists. No wonder they get such good science results.

Computing

We aim to teach our pupils to become digitally literate, responsible, competent, confident and creative users of information and communication technology including using social media and the internet in a safe, respectful and responsible way while protecting their own privacy and safety.

The school is exceptionally well-resourced with i-Pads, Apple Mac and ordinary PCs, and laptops as well as a ‘green screen’ for film-making. Children are taught how to use them for different real-life purposes following the innovative Switched-on Computing curriculum and

Espresso Coding (programming) and apply these skills throughout the curriculum. We have strong 'parental controls' filtering on-line content in school and teach the children how to keep themselves safe when using new technologies. We are developing the use of Fronter (our VLE) for pupils and parents. Lively teaching using interactive whiteboards and other ICT equipment inspires the children and makes learning interesting and fun.

The Humanities (History, Geography and Religious Education)

"History helps pupils to understand the complexity of people's lives, the process of change, the diversity of societies and relationships between different groups, as well as their own identity and the challenges of their time." (National Curriculum)

"Geography inspires in pupils a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people that will remain with them for the rest of their lives. It teaches them about diverse places, people, resources and natural and human environments, together with a deep understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes." (National Curriculum)

"Religious education provokes challenging questions about the ultimate meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about God, the self and the nature of reality, issues of right and wrong, and what it means to be human". (DfE Guidance)

Each term children study an integrated topic (please see [curriculum map](#)), carefully chosen to interest them and provide them with a rich and varied curriculum while teaching key things they need to know about Britain and the wider world. We have supplemented the topics required by the government with ones of local interest such as The Tudors, Victorian London and The Blitz to help inspire pupils' curiosity about the past and bring learning to life by taking them to places of historical interest such as Lullingstone Roman Villa, museums, and taking them on geography field trips. We teach our pupils to ask perceptive questions, think critically, weigh evidence, sift arguments, and develop perspective and judgement.

Religious education plays a key role in teaching our children to understand, appreciate and to be respectful of different cultures and societies to prepare them for life in modern, diverse British society. It makes an important contribution to their social, moral, spiritual and cultural development while supporting wider community cohesion and prevention of radicalisation. We teach RE through the common underlying values, themes and traditions of Christianity and other principal world religions following the Greenwich SACRE agreed syllabus, matching the units into the Creative Learning Journey topics where they fit. Where appropriate, we take the pupils to see local places of worship. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE lessons but this is extremely rare.

Modern Foreign Language

"Learning a foreign language is a liberation from insularity and provides an opening to other cultures". (National Curriculum)

We teach pupils French, through games and songs in the infants and more formal lessons in the juniors using the Rigolo and La Jolie Ronde schemes alongside Espresso resources.

Art and Design Technology

"Art, craft and design technology embody some of the highest forms of human creativity. They reflect and shape our history, and make an essential contribution to the culture, creativity and wealth and well-being of our nation". (National Curriculum)

We teach art and design technology linked to the Creative Learning Journey topic, inspiring and engaging pupils to experiment, invent and create their own works of art and to design

and make products that solve real and relevant problems. They learn to use their imagination to draw, paint, and sculpt using a wide range of materials while learning about and from the great artists and art of different cultures. The children particularly like it when we get professional artists in to work with them. In Design Technology pupils learn to use a range of tools and equipment, and to explore and use mechanisms, construction materials, textiles and ingredients, and electrical systems in their products. They apply their knowledge of healthy eating and where ingredients come from to prepare simple, savoury dishes.

Specialist Music and Instrumental Tuition

“Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity.” (National Curriculum)

“Music has the power of forming the character.” (Aristotle)

“Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, and life to everything.” (Plato)

We are proud to offer every pupil specialist music teaching which engages and inspires pupils to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians, and so increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement as well as their ability to collaborate with others through singing, playing and performing together. Pupils learn to listen to, appreciate, compose and perform music from the great composers from different periods in history, traditions and cultures, in a range of styles using their voices, a range of instruments and technology. While all pupils are taught the basics of playing at least 3 instruments, we foster particular talent through additional small group sessions.

Pupils particularly enjoy going to concerts or working in school with professional musicians e.g. from the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, singing in assembly and the school choir, performing in our many concerts and events, and show-casing their talent at Music Festivals. We use music in many lesson to help children learn better e.g. playing quiet classical while they write or learning facts through song.

Personal and Physical Education

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHCEE)

“In PSHEE children acquire the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to manage their lives now and in the future. It develops the qualities and attributes pupils need to thrive as individuals, family members and members of society.” (DfE Guidelines)

We have a whole-school approach to PSHCEE as an important part of promoting our pupils' physical, mental, social, emotional and economic well-being as part of preparing them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life. We teach them what they can do to keep themselves and others healthy and safe; how to make choices and real life decisions; and about how to judge and manage risk to protect themselves from harm.

It is taught formally in PSHCE lessons, especially our approved sex and relationships and drugs education, through programmes such as SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) and the Miss Dorothy personal safety programme, and informally through assemblies, anti-bullying weeks and workshops, and school journeys; pupils taking on responsibilities such as school councillors, peer mediators and prefects; and through the way we teach and guide the pupils. We teach in ways that develop work-related skills e.g. collaborative group work and presentations, and develop economic awareness through the innovative Micro-Society unit where pupils create their own society, learn about business

and banking, and make products to sell; and through our own version of The Apprentice where Year 6 compete to make the most money at the summer fair.

Physical Education and Sports Development – our Olympic Legacy

“Physical education inspires all pupils to succeed and excel as well as lead healthy, active lives. Competitive sport and other physically demanding activities builds character while team games help to embed key values such as fairness and respect.” (National Curriculum)

We are very proud to be in a 2012 Olympic borough and are committed to inspire and sustain the interest in sport this generated through a rich a varied PE curriculum supplemented by clubs and activities and many opportunities to compete at all levels, aspiring to be the best they can be. Our pupils regularly win or are placed in local tournaments and we have provided junior players for many local professional football clubs (one of our staff in an ex-Premier League player). We believe physical fitness helps pupils be alert and attentive in lessons so goes hand in hand with mental fitness and agility so we recommend that parents also take their children to local sports clubs and classes after school and at weekends.

All pupils get at least 2 hours of organised sport a week including at least one dedicated lesson of PE e.g. for games, ball skills, dance, gymnastics, athletics etc. following the Val Sabin scheme, supplemented with swimming lessons in Years 3 and 5, lunchtime coaching, clubs, a dance school on site, sports days and competitions, and outdoor adventurous activities on trips out and school journeys. Visiting Olympians inspire our pupils while professional sports coaches enhance our offer e.g. for tag rugby, tennis or cricket. We are FA Charter Standard School and have strong links with Charlton Athletic FC. We link PE and personal fitness with lessons on diet and how to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Sport Premium

The Sport Premium is a funding package provided by the Government. This provides schools with additional money to support the delivery of PE and sports in schools. You can find more information on how this money has been spent and its impact on our children in the Sporting Premium section of the website.