



Derwent Vale Primary & Nursery School

Curriculum Policy

Rationale

The curriculum at Derwent Vale Primary School is all planned activities which promote learning, personal growth and development. It is broad and balanced and offers continuity and progression. It includes not only the formal requirements of the National Curriculum but also all other activities which the school organises to enrich and enhance the experiences of the children.

Aims and Values

We aim to give every learner the confidence to achieve their full potential by setting high expectations and by making the learning experience, challenging, enjoyable and interesting.

We aim to provide a broad, balanced and inclusive curriculum, which provides a wide variety of experiences for all.

We aim to develop learning through partnership with children, parents and the wider community, resulting in children who are active learners

We aim to provide an environment that is inspiring, rich and structured, that is well planned, well organised and is both safe and caring.

At Derwent Vale we look to the future by enabling children to acquire the skills they need for adult life and self-fulfilment. To help embrace a diverse and global community and realise their value within and to society.

Objectives

The curriculum policy has been formulated in accordance with the vision of the governors, staff, parents, pupils and local community. As a result our objectives are:

That each pupil learns and develops a wide range of skills to the best of their ability.

- To promote and develop a positive attitude towards learning by all pupils and parents.
- To develop the basic or core skills with an emphasis on literacy, numeracy, science and computing.
- To provide a wide ranging opportunities to develop creativity and thinking skills
- To cover the requirements of the national curriculum.
- To deliver literacy and numeracy through daily lessons based on the literacy and numeracy strategies
- To deliver a curriculum which is inclusive
- To develop a multi-cultural curriculum which values cultural diversity and develops an understanding of British values and the world and society in which we live
- To deliver Sex and Relationships Education throughout the school and explicitly to Year 5/6 children
- To deliver RE in line with the Cumbria agreed syllabus
- To consult with parents on a regular basis as to the quality, breadth and relevance of the curriculum
- To instil in the children an understanding of right and wrong, truth and fairness and to develop self respect and high self- esteem

Organisation and Planning

The curriculum is organised in the following ways:

It is split into Termly/half-termly themes enabling staff to deliver subjects in a cross-curricular manner. Staff ensure organisation and planning gives pupils opportunities to apply skills and knowledge in a purposeful manner and access more cohesive learning.

- Long term planning is whole school and collaborative
- Due to fluctuating numbers and therefore frequently changing teaching groups themes may be taught on a two year rolling programme
- The curriculum and its planning will be evolutionary
- The planning is a combination of long, medium and short term
- Maths is taught as a stand alone subject daily. Cross-curricular links may be made where appropriate
- English where possible is taught through the focus of the theme. Some skills may be taught directly and reinforced through the theme
- Themes may have a scientific, geographical or historical focus.
- Over the academic year all children experience the full range of subjects
- Planning in the foundation stage focuses on delivering the early learning goals across all areas of learning. Long term planning is on a 2 year cycle.
- Derwent Vale Primary School is unique and the curriculum and opportunities offered reflect this. Each child will have the opportunity to experience:
 - A wide range of sporting activities
 - High quality health education
 - A wide range of out of school visits including residential visits
 - A wide range of computing opportunities
 - Access rich and varied literature

Key skills

The following key skills are included in our planning:

- Listening & communication
- Working with others
- Application of number
- Computing
- Problem solving
- Enquiry
- Exploring & developing ideas
- Investigating and making
- Gaining knowledge & understanding
- Chronological understanding
- Interpretation
- Reviewing, modifying & evaluating
- Creating & developing
- Selecting & applying

The curriculum is an important lever for change and is an articulation of the school's values and aspirations. It is supported by relevant documentation including School Improvement Plan, Staff Development Plan, budget, action plans etc.