



Fairfields Primary School & Nursery

Our School Curriculum

As a state-funded primary school we must offer a curriculum which is balanced and broadly-based, which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of our pupils, and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life. ¹

Our school curriculum comprises *all* learning and other experiences, which we plan for our pupils. For children with particular needs, such as those with SEND, our curriculum is designed to be ambitious and to meet their needs.

Our school curriculum starts in the Early Years and follows the [Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage](#), which sets the standards for learning, development and care for children from birth to five. There are seven areas of learning and development that must shape educational programmes in early years settings. All areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected.

Three areas are particularly important for building a foundation for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, forming relationships and thriving.

These are the *prime* areas:

- communication and language
- physical development
- personal, social and emotional development

Providers must also support children in four specific areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied.

The *specific* areas are:

- literacy
- mathematics
- understanding the world
- expressive arts and design.

The Early Years curriculum at Fairfields is fully explained in our [Foundation Stage](#) page on the Curriculum information part of our website.

¹ Section 78 of the 2002 Education Act

For Key Stages 1 and 2, we follow the National Curriculum for primary schools in England.

The [National Curriculum](#), which provides pupils with an introduction to the essential knowledge that they need to be educated citizens, forms one part of our curriculum. There is time and space in the school day to range beyond the National Curriculum specifications. The National Curriculum for primary school is made up of eleven subjects, further classified as 'core' and 'foundation' subjects.

The core subjects are English, Mathematics and Science.

The foundation subjects are Art and Design, Computing, Design and Technology, Languages (Key Stage Two classes only), Geography, History, Music and Physical Education.

In addition, we are required to teach Relationships Education, Health Education and Religious Education. Our school also teaches Sex Education. At Fairfield's, we have a whole school approach to PSHE and RSE by teaching through the 'Jigsaw' programme from Reception to Year 6. Jigsaw brings together PSHE, RSE, emotional literacy, social skills and spiritual development in a comprehensive scheme of learning. Please view our Relationships and Sex Education Policy for further information on this area of learning.

Our *intent, implementation and impact* for the National Curriculum subjects are explained on our individual subject area pages. Please follow the [Curriculum link](#) from the Key Information drop down menu on our website. There, you will see how our subjects are sequenced, in a logical progression, to enable pupils to build their knowledge and skills. Also explained on our subject pages is how we embed the spiritual, moral, social, cultural, mental and physical aspects of learning across our curriculum, outside of the taught subjects of RE and PSHE.

At Fairfield's, we play a crucial role in developing cultural capital through immersing children in workshops, dance, music and drama, school trips, sporting activities and by introducing them to literature and art from different cultural backgrounds.

Embedding cultural capital into our curriculum is a way of closing the gap between children from differing socio-economic backgrounds by ensuring that children from all backgrounds have the same opportunities in society to achieve their full potential. We have therefore planned activities each term for all pupils to participate and experience as individuals, classes, year groups, as a key stage and as a whole school.

In addition to the core learning (the National Curriculum Programmes of Study) we have an exciting and varied school curriculum. For example, each and every class will experience a workshop, trip, event or visit every half term, which links with their area of study. These are all arranged by the class teachers who look for opportunities to develop the children's learning experiences.

In our autumn term, for example, the Year 3 children experience a Diwali workshop, a workshop: 'Stone Age to Iron Age' delivered by the Lowewood Museum; a Rocks, Fossils and Dinosaurs workshop and a trip to the Celtic Harmony Camp; Year 4 have an Egyptian

workshop and a science workshop all about States of Matter; Year 1 visit Mountfitchet Castle and have an exciting Toy Workshop in school; Year 2 have a very informative Road Safety workshop and learn all about the Great Fire of London in a Drama workshop; Year 5 learn about Ancient Greece in an exciting workshop and Year 6 explore a Shakespeare play in detail, with an immersive workshop. The spring and summer terms are equally rich in broadening our pupils' experiences.

We do have one school residential trip. Our school residential to the Isle of Wight and more recently to Butlins of Skegness, is always a success with our Year 6 pupils. This takes place in June every year. The experience is a very useful bonding exercise for the children as well as giving them a little glimpse of independence, responsibility and resilience, before heading off to secondary school.

We have thought carefully about the make-up of our curriculum and thought how best it can serve the children of our community. We know that keeping fit and healthy will allow our children the best chance for a fulfilling and healthy adult life. We put great store in our clubs, which for the most part are to do with sports or keeping fit.

We always have a diverse and wide-ranging selection of clubs for the children. In the year 2021/2022 we offered the following clubs: Popdance*, Girls and Boys Football, Drawing, Netball, Ball Skills, Wake Up and Shake Up, Tennis*, Gardening Club, Woodys Football*, Spanish, Choir, Construction, Big Book Club, Board Games and Chess. (* Denotes an external provider club.) Most clubs are run by teaching staff and are free. We run these at lunchtimes and after school.

In addition to keeping themselves fit and healthy, we know that for our children to have the best chance at succeeding in the world, they need to be confident readers and writers. We have made great efforts to create a full lending library within our school, which now contains just over 8000 titles. The children, in addition to their reading book and/or phonic book, always have a library book as part of their reading portfolio. We encourage children to read more widely through our well-established *Reading Passport* scheme and our *Free-Reading* award scheme.

Our curriculum has been designed so that pupils are reading at an age-appropriate level. After investigating the phonics schemes available for schools, we are now using the [Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised Scheme](#) as our preferred systematic synthetic phonics programme. We feel that this will give the children the greatest chance to become successful, confident and fluent readers.

We feel we have an ambitious, engaging and stimulating curriculum designed for our children and the 21st century lives they will go on to lead. We are continually adapting and adding to our content to ensure we offer the children the very best chance to succeed.

We are happy to discuss any aspect of our curriculum and will help you with any queries you may have about your child's learning at Fairfields. Please contact the Headteacher, your child's class teacher or simply view our website, for more information about our curriculum.