



Curriculum

At Barndale House School we aim to provide a rich and stimulating curriculum which caters for the individual needs of our pupils. All pupils should be able to follow a curriculum which enables them to progress to their full potential.

Each pupil has an entitlement to a curriculum which allows for:

- Effective learning to develop through the use of assessment for learning, the explicit teaching of personal, learning and thinking skills within a positive social and emotional climate across the school learning community.
- Standards and achievements of the highest level to be promoted through effective assessment, planning, teaching, learning and evaluation
- Personalisation through accurate assessment, pupil tracking, intervention and access to appropriate pathways and qualifications that meet their needs.
- Engagement and motivation which develops creativity and offers enrichment opportunities beyond the statutory National Curriculum through exciting and stimulating teaching.
- Innovation that explores cross curricular themes that are relevant and topical, develops the personal, learning and thinking skills of all learners, exploits technology to make learning exciting and creates learning opportunities together with external partners.
- Flexible timetabling to support learning styles and opportunities through different pathways for different learners.
- Identifies and responds to learners' interests and responds to identified gaps in pupil's skills, personal development and attitudes.

Flexibility in terms of balance within the curriculum is essential if we are to ensure relevance for individual pupils at different stages of their education. Therefore not all pupils will experience all aspects of the curriculum all of the time. Balance in the whole curriculum should reflect the needs of pupils at various age related stages of their school careers. As pupils move through the school we aim to give them the opportunity to develop academically, socially and to increase their level of independence; preparing them for the next stage of their education and the world at large.

Appropriate use will be made of the local and wider community thus enabling pupils to transfer knowledge, skills, attitudes and concepts they have learned within the school environment.

The curriculum is divided into Core subjects and Foundation subjects. At Barndale House School we consider the following to be core subjects.

- **English**
- **Mathematics**
- **Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE)**
- **Physical Education**
- **Sex Relationships Education (SRE)**
- **ICT/Computing**

English

Our school curriculum provides a developmental approach to the teaching of English leading to the broader programmes of study at the National Curriculum levels. We have dedicated English lessons in each class, but English is taught throughout all subjects in the curriculum.

The English Curriculum is divided into three areas:

Speaking and Listening

Language is not restricted to verbal expression and comprehension. We encourage our pupils to communicate their needs as effectively as possible; with the support of the Speech and Language Therapists pupils follow an individualised programme implemented across the curriculum. Pupils have access to and are encouraged to use a variety of communication systems such as; Makaton, PECs (Picture Exchange Communication System) objects of reference, and communication aids e.g. VOCA (Voice Output Communication Aid.)

Pupils who are able to are supported to develop spoken language skills. We aim to develop their understanding of the spoken word and their capacity to express themselves effectively in a variety of ways.

Reading

Reading is interpreted as any activity that leads to the derivation of meaning from visual or tactile representations. for example; real objects, photos and symbols are used widely throughout school to give all pupils access to reading strategies to enable pupils to progress include; phonics and whole word recognition.

We aim to promote the enjoyment of reading and love of stories for pupils of all ages and abilities. Within discrete English lessons we use carefully chosen books relevant to the age and ability of the pupils. We ensure pupil's understanding when reading at all levels by questioning in an appropriate way. Sensory stories use a multi sensory approach to involve and engage our pupils. Teachers differentiate texts so that they are suitable for the whole class.

Writing

Writing may be interpreted as any activity that communicates and records events and experiences, information, thoughts and feelings. Pupils may use photographs, symbols, ICT aids, or the written word for this purpose.

Handwriting skills are developed when appropriate; pupils are encouraged to use an appropriate grip and form letters correctly.

When it is appropriate pupils are taught to write independently using techniques such as their phonic knowledge and personalised dictionaries to spell words. They are taught basic grammar and are given the opportunity to write for a variety of purposes and for different audiences; for example a letter or an imaginative story.

Mathematics

Mathematics can provide pupils with powerful ways of exploring, investigating and understanding the world. It links language and communication in the process of thinking and in the development of logical thought. Pupils access discrete and cross curricular mathematical learning experiences across all key stages at Barndale House School.

The maths curriculum is divided into the following strands following statutory guidelines for the New Primary National Curriculum, with suitable and appropriate differentiated teaching and learning to meet individual pupil's needs.

These now include and build on:

- Number and Place Value, Multiplication and division, Measurement, Geometry
- Fractions and statistics
- Fractions, including decimals
- Fractions, including decimals and percentages
- Ratio and proportion, Algebra, Geometry to include properties of shapes

For post 16 students it becomes increasingly important that the skills and knowledge learned in maths lessons are useful and practical in everyday life. Therefore, as well as academic learning pupils are encouraged to generalise skills and practice them in real life situations

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)

Through a planned developmental programme of learning, pupils at Barndale House School acquire the knowledge, understanding, skills and strategies they need to live healthy, safe, productive, capable, responsible and balanced lives now and in the future.

PSHE is part of a whole school approach which supports pupils' to develop the qualities and attributes they need to thrive as individuals, family members and members of society.

Focus is both on direct experience and also preparation for the pupil's future.

As a health promoting school, links are made with other relevant subjects including Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Education, Citizenship and Sex and Relationship Education (SRE).

The Programmes of Study are based on 3 core themes;

- Health and Wellbeing
- Relationships
- Living in the Wider World

These are taught in accordance with pupils' readiness and are appropriate across all Key Stages with increasing challenge, broadening scope and deepening pupils' thinking.

Sex and Relationships Education (SRE)

This forms a natural part of the curriculum. Matters arising from individual pupils are dealt with promptly in an appropriate and supportive manner.

The school has a discrete policy for SRE which is available to parents. SRE teaching begins at an early level e.g being able to identify people by gender and moves at an appropriate pace as required by individual pupils.

The Emotional Literacy Support Assistant continues to work with small groups and individuals on a planned basis. Community nurses support learning for pupils by taking small withdrawal groups for Sex and Relationship Education. All the work in the area is done with the knowledge of consent of parents.

Physical Education (PE)

In PE we encourage pupils to be active, improve their fitness and coordination, and enjoy team sports. As well as PE lessons most pupils throughout the school go to weekly swimming lessons and have access to Riding for the Disabled. Pupils also have the opportunity of attending a local gym.

There is an after school sports and rebound club open to all pupils.

ICT/Computing

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is taught throughout all Key Stages at Barndale House School utilising a range of the latest technology. Devices range from simple battery powered button switches to Apple iPad tablets.

The foundation subjects that will be taught at the different key stages include:

- **Science**
- **Art and Design**
- **Citizenship**
- **Enterprise**
- **Design and Technology**
- **Geography**
- **History**
- **Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)**
- **Music**
- **Religious Education (RE)**

RE is taught following guidelines suggested by the Northumberland Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE). Teaching focuses on the six main faiths represented in the UK with weighting derived from the religious make –up of the North East of England. Christianity is taught at each Key Stage and is supported with teachings from Buddhism, Judaism, Sikhism, Hinduism and Islam.