

Curriculum Provision

At The Cedars Primary School we provide a broad and balanced curriculum which we tailor in order to meet our children's individual needs. We know that all of our children are individuals and have differing needs and barriers to learning. Our curriculum is delivered in a way which is relevant and engaging to our pupils and allows them to meet their full potential as learners.

All of our children follow the National Curriculum as appropriate to their age and ability.

Classes

Pupils at The Cedars Primary School are taught in small classes of up to 9 pupils. Each class has 1 teacher and 1 teaching assistant.

The curriculum has been designed to meet the individual needs of our pupils in a stimulating and motivating way.

We use Read, Write Inc as our structured phonics programme. This enables us to meet the individual needs of our pupils, many of whom need specific support with their literacy skills.

All Pupils have individual targets for Literacy and Numeracy as well as individual plans for meeting any additional special needs that they may have.

Curriculum

English

We believe that language development is very important to a child's all round development. If a child can read and communicate effectively and read well they are more likely to meet their full potential, both in school and as an adult.

We follow the National Framework for English and use Read Write Inc and Ruth Miskin's Language and Literacy to support this.

Speaking and Listening

Speaking is our primary form of communication. We listen for pleasure, to hear instructions and to gather information. We aim to teach children to listen carefully and respond clearly; helping them to develop confidence in a range of situations. Many of our children have difficulties with their expressive and receptive language skills. We aim to support the development of this across the curriculum.

Reading

The ultimate purpose of children learning to read is that they read for pleasure and that they are able to use the printed word with ease and confidence as a source of information. When teaching reading we use a variety of strategies including phonics, word recognition (look and say), use of picture cues and the structure of sentences. These methods are supported by a cross-section of reading materials, which includes published reading schemes as well as a rich selection of other books and periodicals. Wherever possible we encourage parents to read with their children but acknowledge that this is not always possible and therefore make time for 1:1 reading activities during curriculum time.

Writing

Writing is a permanent record of thoughts and ideas. Our aim is to make writing an enjoyable activity. Writing starts at an early age in the form of scribbles on the page and we value these early efforts whilst directing children towards clear and effective use of writing. They will develop skills in writing prose, poetry, fact and fiction. We encourage children to develop correct use of grammar, spell accurately, punctuate their work properly and to write clearly and legibly. Once children reach level 2b in their writing we use Let's Spell to support the teaching and learning of Spelling.

Children are taught to write using the Nelson handwriting script.

Mathematics

Mathematics is an essential tool for the ever-changing world. At The Cedars we pay great attention to ensuring that children have a good understanding of early number and use this as a foundation on which to develop their skills. We encourage children to use their skills in real life situations and apply them throughout the curriculum.

Our Mathematics curriculum is based on the Revised Framework For Mathematics which is adapted and supplemented by teacher's own ideas and resources to meet the needs of their pupils

At The Cedars, children begin by learning the basic number skills of counting, simple addition and subtraction. For our younger children this is largely based on mental strategies building to written methods by the middle of Key Stage 2. We also acknowledge that many of our children have gaps in their knowledge and may need to consolidate elements of early number in order to progress.

As children progress through the school, they learn multiplication, division, fractions, decimals and percentages and ratio and proportion, building up their problem solving skills as they go along - and developing their ability to **think mathematically**.

We attach great importance to number work, and encourage children to become skilled in handling mathematical problems mentally, using pencil and paper methods and when they have acquired fluency, calculators are introduced. Times tables are practised regularly and tested weekly from Year 3 onwards. In addition children are taught the concepts of shape, space and measure and will learn how to apply these throughout the curriculum

Science

We try and make Science relevant to the children's' experiences by linking our investigations to real life situations. Our Science lessons cover a range of skills:

Understanding

Through our units, we develop the children's understanding of the nature of materials and how they change, growth and the function of animals, plants, light, sound, electricity, magnetism, movement and forces.

Experiments and investigations

We use practical experiments and investigations to illustrate ideas and develop the children's understanding of concepts covered in class. These practical activities are also an opportunity for us to develop our:

Measuring

Graph drawing

Collaborative working

Computing skills etc.

We encourage children to pose their own questions in our practical sessions and use their skills and knowledge to plan how to find the answer to these questions, e.g. Which magnet is the strongest? Do taller people jump further?

Observation

We encourage children to use a range of tools including magnifying glasses to look closely, measure carefully and make comparisons.

Information, Communication Technology

We use a variety of information, communication technologies in our lessons to:

Record data from experiments and investigations.

Draw graphs so we can see what happened.

To research about our topic

To create posters.

To explore simulations.

Computing

Computing has become a very important aspect of the curriculum in recent years, and at The Cedars, it holds a central place in the curriculum. Children use a variety of technologies to support their learning across the curriculum and have weekly lessons in the Computing suite. Pupils also use our bank of laptops and iPads in the classroom to support their learning right across the curriculum. All of our classrooms are equipped with interactive whiteboards and two desktop computers in each class.

Our Computing curriculum covers all aspects of Computing, including: control technology (making models move in a pre-planned way), stop start animation, computer programming using Scratch, Microsoft applications and maintain a personal area on the school network. Through half termly sessions, children develop their understanding of all aspects of E-safety, including safe internet searching, keeping personal information private and know where to go for help and support when they have concerns about material on the internet. Throughout all lessons we encourage and teach the children to be responsible, competent, confident and creative users of information and communication technology.

Music

Music is an essential part of life at The Cedars, as shown in our range of productions and performances.

Music is taught as a practical subject in which all children participate and involves the following activities: singing, instrumental skills, composing tasks and listening to and appraising a variety of work, including the children's own. Computer programs are used to support the curriculum, including the iPads and iPods.

The aim is to increase the children's grasp of the principles, concepts and traditions in music; to help them experience the pleasure music can bring to themselves and to others; and to develop a sensitive response to and insight into the emotional and aesthetic aspect of music.

All the children in the school have a music lesson each week with a specialist music teacher. In the early stages they learn to listen carefully to a variety of music, play a range of percussion instruments and also respond with movement. As the children grow older they learn to read and play from written music. Through weekly singing assemblies, vocal skills are developed across the school. The emphasis is always on careful listening, learning musical skills and creating and playing music together.

The children are encouraged to have the confidence to perform and enjoy music. We hold musical productions twice a year and the children are encouraged to participate and perform to our wider community. The children also take part in termly class singing competitions when each class practice and perform a song to the rest of the school.

P.S.H.C.E.

As well as learning Science, Geography and all the other subjects of the curriculum, at The Cedars, we believe that children should have the opportunity to develop as young people in preparation for their adult life. While we try at all times to provide this personal and social education and plan opportunities for our children to apply these skills throughout the curriculum and all aspects of school life we also set aside lessons each week for them to develop these qualities.

Religious Education

At The Cedars we follow a scheme of work and the syllabus provided by the local authority. Children learn about a number of different faiths, with visits to places of worship in the local area. The emphasis in R.E. lessons is very much on learning about different faiths and viewpoints, and understanding the meaning behind traditions, customs and stories.

History

Children study history at The Cedars, frequently through topics (for example, the Tudors). To enhance their studies we often take our pupils on field visits to sites of historical interest and museums. Our work builds on the fact that children are fascinated by the past. We want our children to learn not only the dates, but also the how and the why.

We learn through...
Writing Video Artefacts Pictures
Discussion Visits Drama
Documents Photographs Information Books

Geography

We teach geography at The Cedars through first hand experience wherever possible. Children have the opportunity in the early stages to find out about their local area, to plan routes and make simple maps; as they grow older our children's work takes them further afield as they study different countries, the formation of the landscape and to read maps.

Art

Art is taught to all classes each week by a specialist Art teacher. We teach children the essential skills and techniques in a variety of media including paint, clay, drawing, textiles, collage and printing. As children develop these skills through a carefully planned framework, they become more skillful and creative artists. Through their artwork, we also aim to ensure that pupils develop skills of communication, co-operation, self-expression and self-criticism. They will also develop their memory, imagination and observation skills. During their time at The Cedars, children will also study the work of great artists and learn to work in the style of, for example, Turner, Matisse and Picasso.

Physical Education

P.E. plays a very important role in guiding children's physical development as well as promoting positive attitudes to health and fitness that they will hold throughout their life.

Through the subject we can help foster co-operation, communication and an understanding of competition that they can apply in all areas of their lives. Our P.E. lessons are inclusive so that all children can enjoy a sense success.

The P.E. programme covers:

Gymnastics Dance

Games Swimming

Athletics Outdoor Adventurous Activities

P.E is taught by a specialist instructor to all classes and in addition to this lesson children in the lower end go swimming every Friday and in the upper end of the school they alternate half termly swimming and fitness lessons on a Tuesday. We are able to offer sports clubs 2 afternoons after school. We also develop relationships with other local mainstream and special schools which gives us the opportunity to play regular sports matches.

Design Technology

We believe that Design Technology helps children to become problem solvers through practical tasks, using creativity and imagination. It develops the knowledge, concepts, skills and attitudes that enable pupils to engage in a broad range of creative activities in response to identifying needs and problems.

We aim to make our Design Technology lessons practical and engaging for all children. Materials and concepts the children will work with whilst at The Cedars include:

Textiles,

Structures,

Mechanisms,

Pneumatics,

Food technology and

Electrical components.