



Curriculum Policy

Believe, Achieve, Celebrate

Reviewed: November 2023 - M Woodhouse

Review Date: November 2025

(see also Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy)

1 INTENT

Introduction

- 1.1 Thurnby Mead Academy's curriculum is all the planned activities that we organise in order to promote learning, and personal growth and development. It includes not only the formal requirements of the National Curriculum, but also the cultural capital - various extra-curricular activities that the Academy organises in order to enrich the children's experience. It also includes the 'hidden curriculum' – what the children learn from the way they are treated and expected to behave. We want children to grow into positive, responsible people, who can work and cooperate with others while at the same time developing their knowledge and skills, in order to achieve their true potential. Preparing children to be successful in modern Britain, is our aim.
- 1.2 We seek the highest standards of attainment for all our children. We also value the breadth of the curriculum that we provide. We aim to foster creativity in our children, and to help them become independent learners. Above all, we believe in making learning stimulating and authentic with a focus on language and oracy development.

2 Values

- 2.1 Our Academy curriculum is underpinned by the values that we hold dear at our Academy. The curriculum is the means by which the Academy achieves its objective of educating children in the knowledge, skills and understanding that they need in order to lead fulfilling lives.
- 2.2 Our Academy is in full agreement with the values statement included in the introduction to the National Curriculum Handbook for Primary Teachers in England. These are the main values of our Academy, upon which we have based our curriculum:
 - We value children's uniqueness, we listen to the views of individual children, and we promote respect for diverse cultures.
 - We value the spiritual and moral development of each person, as well as their intellectual and physical growth.
 - We value the importance of each person in our community, and we organise our curriculum to promote inclusion, equality, respect, tolerance, cooperation and understanding among all members of our community.
 - We value the rights enjoyed by each person in our society. We respect each child in our Academy for who they are, and we treat them with fairness and honesty. We want to enable each person to be successful, and we provide equitable opportunities for all our pupils.
 - We will strive to meet the needs of all our children, and to ensure that we meet all statutory requirements regarding inclusion.
 - We value our environment, and we want to teach our pupils, through our curriculum, how we should take care of the world, not only for ourselves, but also for future generations.
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3 Aims and objectives

- 3.1 The aims of our Academy curriculum are:
 - to enable all children to learn, and develop their skills, to the best of their ability

- to promote a positive attitude towards learning, so that children enjoy coming to Academy, and acquire a solid basis for lifelong learning
- to teach children the basic skills of literacy, numeracy and Computing
- to enable children to be creative and to develop their own thinking
- to teach children about the developing world, including how their environment and society have changed over time
- to help children understand Britain's cultural heritage
- to appreciate and value the contribution made by all ethnic groups in our multi-cultural society
- to enable children to be positive citizens
- to fulfil all the requirements of the National Curriculum and the Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education
- to teach children to have an awareness of their own spiritual development, and to distinguish right from wrong
- to help children understand the importance of truth and fairness, so that they grow up committed to equal opportunities for all
- to enable children to have respect for themselves and high self-esteem, and to live and work cooperatively with others.

4 IMPLEMENTATION

Organisation and planning

- 4.1 We plan our curriculum over three terms. We agree a long-term plan for each key stage. This indicates what topics are to be taught in each term, and to which groups of children. We review this long-term plan on an annual basis.
- 4.2 Through our medium-term plans, we give clear guidance on the objectives and teaching strategies for each topic. Objectives are taken from the National Curriculum or the Agreed Syllabus for RE.
- 4.3 Our short-term plans are those that our teachers write on a weekly or daily basis. We use these to set out the learning objectives for each session, and to identify what resources and activities we are going to use in the lesson.
- 4.4 In the Foundation Stage, and at Key Stage 1, we adopt an inter-disciplinary topic approach to curriculum planning. We plan the curriculum carefully, so that there is coherent and full coverage of all aspects of the National Curriculum and EYFS Framework, and there is planned progression in all curriculum areas.
- 4.5 We recognise that children learn at different rates and sometimes have curriculum needs that come from an earlier or later curriculum stage. Some pupils in Year 1, for example, continue to follow a Foundation Stage curriculum within Year 1 until Christmas.

5 The curriculum and inclusion

- 5.1 The curriculum in our Academy is designed to be accessed by all children who attend the Academy. If we think it necessary to modify some children's access to the curriculum, in order to meet their needs, then we do this only after their parents or carers have been consulted.
- 5.2 If children have special needs, our Academy does all it can to meet the individual needs, and we comply with the requirements set out in the SEND Code of Practice. If a child displays signs of having special needs, then his/her teacher makes an assessment of this need. In most instances, the teacher is able to provide the resources and educational opportunities that meet the child's needs, within normal class organisation. If a child's need is more complex, we consider the child for a statement of special educational needs, and we involve the appropriate external agencies in making an assessment. We always provide additional resources and support for children with SEND and SEMH.
- 5.3 The Academy provides a Pupil Outcome Plan (POP) for each of the children who are on the special needs register. This sets out the nature of the special need and outlines how the Academy will aim to address it. The POP also sets out targets for improvement, so that we can review and monitor the progress of each child at regular intervals.
- 5.4 Some children in our Academy have disabilities. We are committed to meeting the needs of these children, as we are to meeting the needs of all groups of children within our Academy. All reasonable steps are taken to ensure that these children are not placed at a substantial disadvantage compared with non-disabled children. Teaching and learning are appropriately modified for children with disabilities. For example, they may be given additional time to complete certain activities, or the teaching materials may be adapted.

6 The Foundation Stage

- 6.1 The curriculum that we teach in the reception class meets the requirements set out in the revised National Curriculum at Foundation Stage. Our curriculum planning focuses on the EYFS Framework and on developing children's skills and experiences through well-planned and sequenced play-based opportunities.
- 6.2 Our Academy fully supports the principle that young children learn through play, and by engaging in well planned and structured activities. Teaching in the reception class builds on the experiences of the children in their pre-Academy learning. We are committed to building positive partnerships with the various nurseries and other pre-Academy providers in the area.
- 6.3 Each term in the class, the teacher will assess the skill development of each child, and record this using 'Evidence Me'. This assessment forms an important part of the future curriculum planning for each child and supports their end of key stage Early Years Foundation Stage Profile.
- 6.4 We are well aware that all children need the support of both the parents/carers and the teachers to make good progress in Academy. We strive to build positive links with the parents/carers of each child, by keeping them informed about how the children are being taught, and how well each child is progressing. We provide parents/carers with information about how they can support their child's learning.

7 IMPACT

Key skills

7.1 The following skills have been deemed 'key skills' in the revised National Curriculum:

- communication
- application of number
- information technology
- working with others
- improving one's own learning and performance
- problem-solving

7.2 In our curriculum planning, we emphasise these skills, so that the children's progress in all of these areas can be identified and monitored. Teachers in all subject areas seek to contribute to a child's progress in these skills, because we believe that all children need to make good progress in these areas if they are to develop their true potential.

8 The role of the subject leader

8.1 The role of the subject leader is to:

- provide a strategic lead and direction for the subject
- support and advise colleagues on issues related to the subject
- monitor pupils' progress in that subject area
- provide efficient resource management for the subject

8.2 The Academy gives subject leaders non-contact time each term, so that they can carry out their duties. It is the role of each subject leader to keep up to date with developments in their subject, at both national and local levels. They review the way in which the subject is taught in the Academy, and plan for improvement. This development planning links to whole-Academy objectives. Each subject leader reviews the curriculum plans for the subject, ensures that there is full coverage of the National Curriculum, and sees that progression is planned into schemes of work. The subject leader also keeps a portfolio of children's work, which s/he uses to illustrate the achievements of children at each key stage, and to exemplify the attainment expected.

9 Monitoring and review

Governors liaise with the respective subject leaders, and monitor closely the way in which these subjects are taught. There is also a named governor assigned to special needs, who liaises with the SEND coordinator, and monitors the ways in which special needs are addressed.

The Principal is responsible for the day-to-day organisation of the curriculum. The Senior Leadership Team monitors plans for all teachers, ensuring that all classes are taught the full requirements of the National Curriculum, and that all lessons have appropriate learning objectives.

Subject leaders monitor the way in which their subject is taught throughout the Academy. They examine long-term and medium-term planning, and ensure that appropriate teaching strategies are used. Subject leaders also have responsibility for monitoring the way in which resources are stored and managed.

This policy will be reviewed every two years, or before if necessary.

