



## Curriculum Policy

### Introduction:

The curriculum is all the planned activities that we organise in order to promote learning and personal growth in school. Our school curriculum is underpinned by the values which we consider to be important in school. It is the means by which the school achieves its objective of educating children in the knowledge, skills and understanding that they need in order to lead fulfilling lives. It not only includes the subjects of the National Curriculum but also a wider education, including the development of social skills, an awareness of citizenship and an ability to learn independently.

These are the main values of our school, upon which we have based our curriculum:

- We value the way in which all children are unique, and our curriculum promotes respect for the views of each individual child, as well as for people of all 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. We organise our curriculum so that we promote co-operation and understanding between all members of our community.
- We value the rights enjoyed by each person in our society. We respect each child in our school for who they are, and we treat them with fairness and honesty. We aim to enable each person to be successful, and we provide equal opportunities for all the children in our school.
- We value our environment, and we aim, through our curriculum, to teach respect for our world, and how we should care for it for future generations, as well as our own.

## **Aims and objectives**

The aims of our school 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 school, and acquire a solid basis for lifelong learning;
- to teach children the basic skills of literacy, numeracy and information technology (IT);
- to enable children to be creative and to develop their own thinking and problem solving skills;
- to teach children about their developing world, including how their environment and society have changed over time;
- to provide children with an understanding of Wales' cultural heritage;
- to enable children to be positive citizens in society;
- to fulfil all the requirements of the National Curriculum, the Literacy and Numeracy Frameworks, the Foundation Phase document and the Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education;
- to teach children to have an awareness of their own spiritual development, and to understand right from wrong and promote our agreed school values;
- 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 be able to live and work co-operatively with others.
- To develop pupils' physical skills and foster an enjoyment of sport and exercise

## **Organisation and planning**

- Our curriculum is organised into topics. These topics are decided upon by the class teacher, in liaison with the class but will always be designed to ensure that,

## EASTERN PRIMARY SCHOOL

over the year, that the statutory knowledge base is covered. This is organised to provide sufficient flexibility to ensure pupil engagement and a degree of choice.

- There is often a greater emphasis on particular subject areas over a given term. For example the topic of Tudors and Stuarts is clearly a history based topic whereas the topic of Flight lends itself far more to science and geography work. Topics are carefully planned so that over any year, pupils have a balanced and coherent curriculum.
- We plan our curriculum in three phases. Our long term planning sets out the knowledge base that should be covered by any age group in a given year, whilst our skills continuum provides a progressive system by which pupils' individual 'next steps' can be planned for. We aim to review our long-term plan on a regular basis.
- Within our medium-term plans, we give clear guidance on the objectives and teaching strategies that we will use when teaching each topic. The medium term plans are completed by teachers on a half termly or termly basis and they give an overview of the work to be taught in the subsequent term.
- 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. Teachers evaluate lessons and identify the next steps for their class, groups of pupils or individuals – teachers use a web based tracking system.
- Throughout the school, there is a heavy emphasis on developing pupils' skills within a subject. Subject specific skills have been identified by subject leaders and provided for all staff at an appropriate level for the age and ability of pupils. These skills are used, alongside the statutory knowledge base, to plan work at all stages throughout the school. There is a very particular focus on pupils' literacy, numeracy and creative thinking skills.

## EASTERN PRIMARY SCHOOL

- We also place a heavy emphasis on cross curricular teaching whenever possible. We have adopted an inter-disciplinary topic approach to curriculum planning. We plan the curriculum carefully, so that there is coherence and full coverage of all aspects of the National Curriculum and the Foundation Phase, and there is planned progression in all curriculum areas.
- Our school fully supports the principle that young children learn through play, and by engaging in well-planned structured activities. We deliver a play based curriculum in the Early Years and encourage experiential learning throughout the school as we believe that this develops pupils learning more effectively, as well as developing an enjoyment of learning.
- Throughout each stage of the planning process opportunities for developing pupils thinking and problem solving skills are identified. Pupils are also taught to evaluate their own work and identify ways in which they can move it forward.

### **Key skills**

The school has identified the following skills 'key skills':

- Literacy;
- numeracy;
- information technology;
- working with others;
- improving own learning and performance;
- problem solving.

In our curriculum planning we highlight these skills, so that the children's progress in all of these areas can be identified and monitored. All subject areas contribute to a child's progress in these skills. Our school believes that all children need to make good progress in these skill areas in order to develop to their true potential.

## **Children with special needs**

The curriculum in our school is designed to provide access and opportunity for all children who attend the school. If we think it necessary to adapt the curriculum to meet the needs of individual children, then we do so only after the parents of the child have been consulted.

If a child has a special need, our school does all it can to meet these individual needs. We comply with the requirements set out in the SEN Code of Practice in providing for children with special needs. If a child displays signs of having special needs, his/her teacher makes an assessment of this need. In most instances the teacher is able to provide resources and educational opportunities which meet the child's needs within the normal class organisation. If a child's need is more severe, we consider the child for a statement of special needs, and we involve the appropriate external agencies when making this assessment. We always provide additional resources and support for children with special needs.

The school provides an Individual Educational Plan (IEP) 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 schools will aim to address the need. It also sets out targets for improvement, so that we can review and monitor the progress of each child at regular intervals.

## **The role of the curriculum groups**

Management and development of the curriculum is allocated to coordinators to facilitate. Membership of these groups is detailed in Appendix 1.

The role of the coordinators, working alongside others, is to:

- provide a strategic lead and direction for an area of learning;
- support and offer advice to colleagues on issues related to that area;
- monitor pupil progress in that area;
- provide efficient resource management for the area.

The school gives all staff non-contact time to monitor their areas on a rolling 9 term schedule. They review the way the area is taught in the school and plan for improvement by talking to pupils, looking at planning and looking at work. Following monitoring they provide feedback to teachers and governors in the form of presentations or written reports. They may also have time to develop their own knowledge and skills, introduce new initiatives or develop their subject in other ways. This development planning links to whole-school objectives. The curriculum groups also keep a portfolio of children's work, which they use to show the achievements of children at each key stage and to give examples of expectations of attainment.

### **Monitoring and review**

Our governing body's curriculum committee is responsible for monitoring the way the school curriculum is implemented. This committee reviews each subject area in its 9 term cycle of review and development.

We have named governors for each of the key priorities in the School Development Plan, ICT, data and Special Needs. The governors liaise with the subject leaders of these areas, and monitor closely the way the school teaches these subjects.

The headteacher is responsible for the day to day organisation of the curriculum. The headteacher monitors the weekly lesson plans for all teachers, ensuring that all classes are taught the full requirements of the National Curriculum or Desirable Outcomes, and that all lessons have appropriate learning objectives.

**EASTERN PRIMARY SCHOOL**

The policy will be next reviewed during Autumn 2017

Signed..... (Chair of Governors)

Date.....