

Our Curriculum

Lanercost Church of England Primary School

2016/17



English

At Lanercost Primary School we teach English through dedicated 'literacy' lessons across the school.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage there is a great emphasis on speaking and listening as well as phonics (Read Write Inc, and Letters and Sounds). Children have daily Literacy sessions and phonics sessions. Work is planned around relevant, exciting texts which foster a love of reading, speaking and writing.

In Key Stage 1 all pupils have a Literacy lesson daily; this involves speaking, listening, reading and writing. Pupils learn to love books and other forms of text, including audio and visual texts.

Key Stage 2 classes have a dedicated Literacy hour which involves text, word and sentence level work. Children read whole class texts, learning about different genres of writing through these texts.

All children have a daily phonics or spelling session; these are largely short, fun activities. They also learn weekly sets of spelling to ensure progression.

We also have dedicated guided reading sessions. These involve groups of children reading a text with an adult and discussing it in detail.

The emphasis on acquiring age-appropriate Literacy skills is designed to ensure that we foster a love of reading and writing and prepare children for the next phase of their education. The literacy skills which the children learn in their English lessons are expected to be applied consistently throughout the curriculum. Our topic work provides many opportunities for writing skills to be applied in meaningful and interesting contexts.

We benefit from a number of parents who regularly come into school to read with the children on a 1 to 1 basis.

Maths

Mathematics is taught on a daily basis from Early Years up to Year 6. Teachers use teaching blocks and unit plans to plan lessons for their individual classes. Classrooms have supportive displays, as well as areas with mathematical equipment for the children to use. Practical activities are carried out throughout the school to bring maths to life and ensure real life skills are put into context. Children receive maths homework on a weekly basis which links to the work that has been carried out in the class that week.

Each child has their own 'Maths Passport' which is used to promote core skills throughout the school.

Science

At Lanercost Primary School we teach Science through an investigative approach. Children are encouraged to make predictions, experiment and spot patterns in results. We want all of our children

to engage with this subject and be able to see how it links to world that they live in and how it contributes to other subject areas.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage children study Science through topics, linked to knowledge understanding the world'. This work includes practical investigations and explorations, visits and speaking and listening activities.

Science at KS1 and 2 is delivered as discrete teaching and is timetabled every week. We follow a two year rolling programme (Years 1 and 2, lower KS2 and upper KS2) which matches the level descriptors in the National Curriculum. All children are expected to work scientifically in every lesson and this dovetails with learning scientific knowledge. A variety of different learning approaches are used by the staff, who attend regular continuous professional development to improve their knowledge and understanding of this area.

Visits and visitors are used to enthuse and make science an exciting and enjoyable subject; we belong to both the Association for Science and STEM.

RE

There is a strong emphasis on Religious Education and Christian values throughout the school. RE is taught discretely in weekly lessons and is supported by termly themes for collective worship. We apply these Christian values in other aspects of our curriculum, particularly in our topic work, and are also in the process of developing this further through 'What if' learning.

At KS1, the children learn about Christianity and Islam, whilst in KS2, they develop their knowledge of these faiths and also look at Buddhism.

We have strong and effective links between the school, Lanercost Priory and the local community. Representatives from different churches visit the school on a regular basis and we provide opportunities for the children to see different faiths first hand, through visits – in recent years we have visited local Anglican and Catholic churches, synagogues and Buddhist temples.

Lanercost School founded the LISH consortium of church schools who come together each autumn for a combined RE week. Each school works on a particular religious theme and, at the end of the week, the schools come together to share their learning.

Art

We aim to encourage our children through a wide variety of art activities to develop skills and to explore their creativity. Through the teaching of art the children will have the opportunity to explore colour, shape, space, form, pattern and texture.

In each year the children will have the chance to paint, draw, print, use textiles and clay and work in both 2D and 3D. They will also learn about the work of a variety of different artists and craftspeople as well as art from other cultures.

Year group teachers plan for art on a termly basis and plan appropriate cross-curricular activities linked to the class topic. The children's work is celebrated and much of it can be seen on display in the classrooms and around school, making a bright and stimulating learning environment for all of us.

Recently, links have been established with William Howard School to promote the Arts Award scheme – children in coming years will have the opportunity to complete the Discover and Explore awards and these achievements will carry through into their secondary education.

Modern Foreign Languages

In KS2, children are taught French. Lessons are delivered in a stimulating, interactive way, with an emphasis on speaking and listening.

Music

Lanercost Primary School employs a music specialist for one afternoon each week as part of the Wider Opportunities scheme operated by Cumbria Music Service. Children in KS2 have the opportunity to learn a different instrument each year, such as saxophone, recorder, drums, trumpet, penny whistle or clarinet. This gives each child a range of musical experiences and promotes the uptake of small group music lessons (also provided by the music specialist).

At the end of each term, the children form a school orchestra to demonstrate their learning to parents in the Lanercost Priory. We also have a school choir.

We have good links with the local community, churches and secondary school (William Howard), to which musicians attend their annual 'Music Week' as well as other performances throughout the year.

Early Years Foundation Stage

Reception and Nursery children follow the EYFS curriculum (Early Years Foundation Stage). We attach great importance to the Foundation Stage and believe that the Early Years is a crucial time which is critical to children's development. Good Early Years education is essential to provide a firm basis for all future learning.

The Reception and Nursery class form an Early Years unit where we provide a broad and balanced curriculum following the seven areas of learning.

Prime areas:
Personal, social and emotional development
Physical development
Communication and language

Specific areas:
Literacy
Mathematics
Understanding the world
Expressive arts and design

We plan following half termly topics and link our learning to the focused area of interest. In Reception children have daily literacy, numeracy and phonics sessions and we encourage lots of child initiated learning through our continuous provision. Children are taught to be independent and plan for their own interests.

We learn a lot through play and the outdoors is an essential part of our curriculum. We assess children's learning daily, basing our assessments on their individual needs.

PE

The PE curriculum in our school is based on the National Curriculum and all children in our school receive two hours of PE each week. The enthusiasm shown by pupils confirms the engagement in 'high quality PE and school sport'. At different times of the year, we work with a PE specialist, gymnastics coach, yoga teacher, cricket, tennis and football coaches too.

Pupils from Nursery and Reception through to Year 6 enjoy taking part in PE lessons that provide children with opportunities to develop their skills in many different areas; they have the opportunity to work alone, with a partner or as part of a team. Each year group aims to build on the previous year and all teachers encourage children to try their very best in lessons and we all promote healthy active lifestyles.

PE in our school is enhanced through involvement with our local Secondary School (William Howard) and surrounding Primary Schools. The children have the opportunity to participate in training festivals and competitions against other schools in a range of different sports (interschool competition). We enjoy many sporting successes in our school.

We have many extra-curricular activities running throughout the year such as football, netball, cross country, orienteering and rounders. We host our own annual cross country which is attended by over two hundred and fifty children from the local Brampton cluster of schools.

Computing

Computing is taught discretely in weekly lessons and as part of our creative curriculum and is regularly applied in the teaching of all other subjects.

We aim to develop all children's abilities in basic word processing, including saving, editing and printing their work. Children are taught how to add pictures to text, use spreadsheets and how to create and modify a simple database. Children learn to program the movements of Bee-bots using basic commands in KS1.

We also teach pupils how to programme and create programs, systems and a range of content. We aim to ensure that pupils become digitally literate and are able to use, and express themselves and develop their ideas through, information and communication technology.

Each classroom has its own computer area, all linked to our network, and every classroom has an interactive whiteboard or plasma board.

Geography

Geography is taught from reception through to year six using a creative, cross curricular approach based on the National Curriculum programmes of study. Geography is important as it teaches us about places, the human and physical processes that shape them and the people who live in them. Geography helps children to gain a greater understanding of the world and the people who live in it. It also enables children to understand their place in the world from a local, national and global perspective.

In the foundation stage Geography is taught through a topic approach during lessons on understanding of the world. In subsequent years, Geography follows the National Curriculum objectives and is delivered as part of our creative curriculum, particularly through topics such as rivers or mountains.

On a monthly basis a different flag flies outside the school and all children are expected to find out about the country through independent research.

History

History is taught from reception through to year six using a creative, cross curricular approach based on the National Curriculum programmes of study. We offer children learning opportunities which will develop skills in historical enquiry, knowledge and understanding through a varied and engaging

breadth of study. Actors and visits are used to enhance children's understanding of how people live during different historical periods of time. Recently we have built and burnt our own long ship; had a Tudor banquet in Naworth Castle; marched as Romans along Hadrian's Wall and lived as Stone Age people in the woods behind the school for a day etc.

In Reception, children will begin to gain an understanding of history and chronology relating to themselves and their lives, through topics such as celebrations, birthdays and time lines. In subsequent year groups, topics such as Romans, the Border Reivers, Tudor Exploration and World War 2 develop their understanding of history and chronology in the local area and around the world.

SEN

Lanercost Primary School offers an inclusive education to all children.

We aim to maximise the potential of all our pupils whatever their ability by providing a broad and balanced curriculum. Pupils who are experiencing Special Educational Needs are catered for as individuals, in groups and by whole class approaches with differentiations to meet their needs.

The school policy document establishes the procedure for the early identification of learning difficulties and provides a framework for responses to these problems in accordance with the S.E.N. Code of Practice. Children may experience some Special Educational Need throughout, or at any time during their school career. This policy ensures that curriculum planning and assessment takes account of the type and extent of the difficulty experienced by the child.

Throughout the stages embodied in the Code of Practice, parents are informed and consulted as to the action to be taken. Outside agencies may be requested to advise the school as to the best way forward depending upon the seriousness and complexity of the problem. Lanercost Primary School has a co-ordinator for Special Needs who liaises with all relevant agencies.