

## The Rushwick School Curriculum

Rushwick's Curriculum offers the following 10 Key Principles to guarantee an entitlement to a broad and rich curriculum for all children:

1. Value and build on the learner's cultural heritage and sense of identity within a modern Britain.
2. Equip learners for their future in a rapidly changing world.
3. Develop their skills dispositions and attitudes to learning alongside knowledge and understanding.
4. Develop the learner holistically – their intellectual, practical aesthetic social and emotional capacities.
5. Promote learners engagement in learning through enquiry led approaches involving exploration, risk taking, discovery and speculation.
6. Be committed to ALL learners achieving the best they can achieve through high quality teaching, learning and assessment.
7. Be complemented by assessment systems that contribute positively to learning.
8. Involve governors, parents, families and local community in curriculum design.
9. Equip learners to be happy, confident and ambitious citizens of Rushwick, our nation and the world.
10. Promote continuity especially at points of transition.

Rushwick School follows the National Curriculum but in doing so we make sure the core Christian values and educational principles of the school are able to flourish. The school aims to provide a curriculum that is broad, balanced, relevant and differentiated to provide for varied abilities. Barriers to learning are removed through careful provision mapping and we provide suitable learning challenges that respond to diverse needs. This encompasses a variety of exciting, first-hand experiences to enable children to acquire appropriate skills, knowledge and understanding preparing them for today's world. Through the provision of a stimulating environment, children will develop to their full potential academically, socially, spiritually and physically.

### National Curriculum Subjects:

#### Literacy

In literacy, Rushwick aims to offer pupils intellectual excitement and challenge; to provide them with a sense of delight and wonder; to equip them with knowledge and skills and the ability and confidence to use and apply these to meet the needs of society today and in the future. We use the new National Curriculum as a basis for developing the children's reading, writing, speaking and listening skills with five hours of literacy a week in addition to taught and independent reading time. There is an emphasis on giving children the technical knowledge and language, through grammar sessions, which they can apply to their writing as well as using these to discuss and improve their work.

At Rushwick, children in Reception and KS1 read to an adult every week and in KS2 children spend more time reading texts in a group setting, enabling them to explore and understand the deeper meanings in texts. Children have access to a wide variety of books in their classrooms and in the library. We encourage all children to read every day at home, starting in Reception, to foster a love of reading.

### Phonics and Spelling

We aim for all our children to develop a sound knowledge and understanding of letter sounds in order to give them the right tools for fluent reading skills. Letters and Sounds phonic programme is used in the Early Years and KS1, with all the children have a daily phonics/spelling session based on this. Letters and Sounds teaches the children how to recognise sounds (phonemes) and build them to make words.

In Reception, children are taught to remember each of the letter sounds through story, action songs and a hand movements. A range of resources for this, including Jolly Phonics and Phonics Play. If you would like to encourage your child to practice their sounds at home, check out the free games on the Phonics Play website.

### Mathematics

The mathematics curriculum is divided into seven strands:

1. Number and place value
2. Addition and subtraction
3. Multiplication and division
4. Fractions
5. Measurements
6. Geometry
7. Statistics (Year 2 onwards)

Rushwick's policy for mathematics is based on the National Curriculum Programme of Study. It aims to ensure that all pupils:

- become fluent in the fundamentals of mathematics,
- reason mathematically by following a line of enquiry,
- can solve problems by applying their mathematics to a variety of routine and non-routine problems.

Class teachers provide daily maths lessons for at least four days a week. Additional maths is taught when there are links to other subjects, so that pupils can develop and apply their mathematical skills. Homework is provided for children to practise and consolidate their

skills and knowledge, to develop and extend their techniques and strategies and prepare for their future learning.

## Science

A high-quality science education provides the foundations for understanding the world through the specific disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics. Science has changed our lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity, and all pupils should be taught essential aspects of the knowledge, methods, processes and uses of science. Through building up a body of key foundational knowledge and concepts, pupils should be encouraged to recognise the power of rational explanation and develop a sense of excitement and curiosity about natural phenomena. They should be encouraged to understand how science can be used to explain what is occurring, predict how things will behave, and analyse causes.

The national curriculum for science aims to ensure that all pupils:

- develop scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding through the specific disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics
- develop understanding of the nature, processes and methods of science through different types of science enquiries that help them to answer scientific questions about the world around them
- are equipped with the scientific knowledge required to understand the uses and implications of science, today and for the future

The principal focus of science teaching in key stage 1 is to enable pupils to experience and observe phenomena, looking more closely at the natural and humanly constructed world around them.

In key stage 2 the science curriculum is divided into four parts

1. life processes and living things
2. materials and their properties
3. physical processes
4. experimental and investigative science

## Computing:

At Rushwick we recognise that computers are now part of everyday life and for most of us, technology has become essential to our lives, at home and at work. Computational thinking' is a skill children must be taught if they are to be ready for the workplace and able to participate effectively in this digital world. The new national curriculum for computing has been developed to equip young people with the foundational skills, knowledge and understanding of computing they will need for the rest of their lives. Through the new programme of study for computing, they will learn how computers and computer systems work; they will design and build programs, develop their ideas using technology and create a

range of content. Computing also ensures that pupils become digitally literate – able to use, and express themselves and develop their ideas through, information and communication technology – at a level suitable for the future workplace and as active participants in a digital world.

By the end of each key stage, pupils are expected to know, apply and understand the matters, skills and processes specified in the relevant programme of study.

Key stage 1 Pupils should be taught to:

- understand what algorithms are, how they are implemented as programs on digital devices, and that programs execute by following precise and unambiguous instructions
- create and debug simple programs
- use logical reasoning to predict the behaviour of simple programs
- use technology purposefully to create, organise, store, manipulate and retrieve digital content
- recognise common uses of information technology beyond school
- use technology safely and respectfully, keeping personal information private; identify where to go for help and support when they have concerns about content or contact on the internet or other online technologies

Key stage 2 Pupils should be taught to:

- design, write and debug programs that accomplish specific goals, including controlling or simulating physical systems; solve problems by decomposing them into smaller parts
- use sequence, selection, and repetition in programs; work with variables and various forms of input and output
- use logical reasoning to explain how some simple algorithms work and to detect and correct errors in algorithms and programs
- understand computer networks, including the internet; how they can provide multiple services, such as the World Wide Web, and the opportunities they offer for communication and collaboration
- use search technologies effectively, appreciate how results are selected and ranked, and be discerning in evaluating digital content
- select, use and combine a variety of software (including internet services) on a range of digital devices to design and create a range of programs, systems and content that accomplish given goals, including collecting, analysing, evaluating and presenting data and information
- use technology safely, respectfully and responsibly; recognise acceptable/unacceptable behaviour; identify a range of ways to report concerns about content and contact

## History

History lessons will inspire children's curiosity to know more about the past. In Key Stage 1 children learn about the lives and lifestyles of significant individuals and events within and beyond living memory. In Key Stage 2 pupils continue to develop a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of British, local and world history. Children should ask questions and use methods of historical enquiry using a wide range of historical sources.

## Geography

Geography is concerned with the study of places, the human and physical processes that shape them and the people who live in them. In Key Stage 1 pupils investigate their locality, an area within the United Kingdom and a small area in a contrasting non-European country. In Key Stage 2 pupils extend their knowledge to include Europe, North and South America. Pupils will use geographical skills including first hand observation, maps, atlases and globes. Children will locate countries, counties, cities, regions and topographical features and land use patterns. We aim to foster children's sense of awe and wonder at the beauty of the world around them.

## Art and Design

The aim of art and design at Rushwick is to give the children the opportunity to use a wide range of materials and mediums to create their own pieces of artwork. They are taught the skills and techniques, including digital media to produce individual and group pieces of work. The children are also given the opportunity to discuss and make comments on their own work, the work of their peers and other artists or crafts people. They have the opportunity to learn about a wide range of artists and crafts people and draw inspiration from them for their own work.

The design aspects encourage the children to look at the world around them and investigate the use of structures and mechanisms such as bridges, gears or levers and to develop the children's skills in becoming designers and inventors. The children will use their experiences in drawing, sketching, observing, constructing and problem solving to create models and final products which will develop their understanding of structures and construction. The children are taught how to use tools and materials safely and economically

## Music

Rushwick has a long tradition of musical activities, offering considerable opportunities for children to develop their talents in all aspects of music including composition, singing and appreciation across many musical genres. They have an opportunity to experience a wide variety of musical instruments and musical styles. The children are encouraged to perform in assemblies and concerts, both in school and further afield.

## Physical Education

The aim of physical education is to promote physical activity and healthy lifestyles. Children are taught to observe the conventions of fair play, honest competition and good sporting behaviour as individual participants, team members and spectators. Children take part in games, gymnastic movement, dance and athletic activities using indoor and outdoor environments where appropriate. Children can take part in after school clubs and have the opportunity to compete against other schools. Children have swimming lessons in Key Stage 2. Our staff and outside providers facilitate a wide range of coaching sessions including athletics, netball football and tag rugby.

### Languages

Children from year 3 – 6 have French taught to them on a weekly basis. This includes learning vocabulary, leading to structuring sentences that can be used in everyday talk. In addition, children learn about the cultural elements of different languages. They develop their skills through games, songs, rhymes, stories and role- play and through fun and varied lessons.

### Religious Education

Religious Education is a curriculum entitlement for all children and Rushwick follows the 'Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education'. We provide opportunities for children to develop their knowledge and understanding of all six major faiths: Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism, Judaism and Buddhism. Religious Education does not seek to urge religious beliefs on children or to compromise the integrity of their own beliefs by promoting one religion over another. Children begin to understand and respect different religions, beliefs, values and traditions. We recognise the similarities between religions and each other.

### PSHCE

PSHCE is taught both within all subjects and discretely when appropriate. A comprehensive scheme of work covers these very important aspects of the children's education. Topic areas covered include, 'growing and changing', 'medicines and drugs', 'substance use and misuse', and 'rights, responsibilities, pressures and risks'.

### Further Information

Parents are kept up to date about curriculum issues by means of a curriculum newsletter sent out each term by individual year groups. A copy of all year groups' curriculum news is sent home and placed on the website at the beginning of each term.

Each class delivers an inclusive class assembly twice and year for their parents and carers as an opportunity for every child to share and celebrate some of their learning across the curriculum.