

Oak Lodge Primary School Curriculum Statement

What we aim to achieve (Intent)

At Oak Lodge we have designed our curriculum so that it is broad and balanced whilst ensuring enough depth so that learning does not become superficial. In order to achieve this subjects are planned around a key question, which by the end of the unit of work, the children will be able to answer. Our maths curriculum is progressive and based on the White Rose Scheme of work. Whilst our progressive literacy curriculum is based on high quality texts. For phonics we use the scheme Essential Letters and Sounds.

Whilst ensuring the National Curriculum is covered, opportunities to link curriculum areas are exploited, where appropriate, as this helps children to make connections and thus reinforce their learning. However, subjects/areas may be taught discreetly in order to avoid tenuous links and as a result, ensure the best outcomes for the children.

At Oak Lodge we want our children to make links, not just within what they are being taught in a unit of work, but also with ideas and concepts they have covered in previous year groups as this supports the knowledge and skills to become embedded.

Reading is a passion at Oak Lodge and we use high quality texts to promote both a love of reading and the curriculum. Books are also a key element of assemblies where we often use texts to demonstrate our school values and to share stories which highlight the importance we put on being an inclusive school and ensuring our children having an understanding of diversity, inclusion and global issues.

We aspire for our children to be responsible global citizens and our core Trust values of being responsible, resourceful and resilient feed into this. We have developed our global themes as a vehicle to promote this. Our global themes are: Looking After the World, Responsible Leadership and Looking after Each Other.

Through our curriculum we plan for opportunities to embed an appreciation and understanding of diversity, whether this is via texts specifically selected for assemblies and class books, historical characters being discussed or through the children sharing their own experiences.

Children at Oak Lodge are encouraged to be problem solvers and approach challenges with a positive mindset, knowing that mistakes are learning opportunities. Through this we aim for the children to strive for excellence at their level and that this will become the foundations for their future. Our staff understand the importance of being life-long learners and use educational research on which to base their practice thus ensuring that the children are getting the best education.

How we achieve our ambitions (Implementation)

Subject leaders ensure that the curriculum is ambitious and carefully planned, thus ensuring progression across the year groups.

When planning our high quality curriculum we ensure that there are planned opportunities to embed learning, develop vocabulary and focus on key skills and knowledge so that learning is both memorable and deep. Each topic culminates with an engaging end point, which again helps to embed what has been taught. Where possible, we provide opportunities to explore real life contexts to make the learning meaningful.

Effective formative assessment is utilised throughout lessons in order to maximise learning and progress. A range of strategies is used including verbal feedback, self and peer assessment and marking of work. These are used to check understanding, identify gaps and to move learning on at an appropriate pace.

Educational visits are carefully planned so they support and enrich learning, whilst still making these visits memorable for our children.

How we know we have achieved our ambitions (Impact)

Regular pupil progress meetings, alongside formative and summative assessments ensure that gaps in understanding are identified and addressed promptly so that high standards are maintained. All groups of pupils including SEND and disadvantaged pupils are regularly monitored to ensure they are making strong progress.

As a school we work closely with members of both our Trust and other Trusts to quality assure what we do in order to provide the children with the best education we can.

At Oak Lodge our children achieve well and are ready for the next stage in their education (which we are delighted to say is regularly commented on by local Secondary Schools).