

Tenbury CE Primary Academy



Our Curriculum Vision

The vision for our curriculum is to equip children with the skills to be safe, confident and creative, inspire them to ask questions and explore possibilities about their changing world and enable them to make a positive difference in both our local and global communities of the future. Staff and pupils will achieve this together, supporting each other along the way, working collaboratively and encouraging one another to be reflective thinkers.

‘Therefore encourage one another and build each other up’

Thessalonians 5:11

Our Curriculum

This curriculum vision was reached collaboratively, with all staff. Subject leaders have then taken our overall curriculum vision to guide them in developing a clear vision for their subject areas. With these aims in mind, and with the need to meet the requirements of the National Curriculum, Tenbury Primary school has adopted a creative, cross-curricular approach. We want our children to be ‘hooked’ into learning and to be left with memorable experiences that will shape them for life. Our cross-curricular themed approach has fostered a high level of enthusiasm and a thirst for more knowledge and understanding, underpinned by key skills and attitudes. Learning is ‘connected’ across the subject areas in an organised, meaningful way, wherever possible.

In order to deliver these aims, alongside the National Curriculum, we have created themes or topics for each year group which allow for both creativity and a cross-curricular delivery of subjects. Each theme starts by finding out from the children what they already know and what they would like to learn, therefore giving the children some ownership in their learning. At the beginning of each unit of work there is often an entry point or a ‘hook’ for the future learning – an inspiring, exciting activity to engage the children immediately and motivate them to learn more. Each theme provides for a mixture of key life skills and high quality subject knowledge within the context of ‘real life’ learning opportunities and there is always a clear end event or product to aim for. Opportunities for learning within each theme include skills such as creativity, working in teams and independently, solving problems, presenting to an audience, applying 21st century technology etc.

First and foremost, our curriculum builds strong foundations in English and Mathematics and our morning sessions tend to focus on children's competency in numeracy and literacy skills. In Mathematics, we aim to develop children who are confident mathematicians, by enabling all of them to understand and use key mathematical concepts. Our mastery approach moves children on through the stages using hands-on practical resources to mathematical images and finally applying their learning to problem solving situations and deepening their understanding. In English, we ensure that children become fluent writers by having a strong grasp of sentence composition, spelling patterns, grammar and handwriting. Regular opportunities for reading activities in both group and individual scenarios ensure that standards across the school are continually rising.

We do not force subjects into our cross-curricular approach if it affects the quality of the subject delivery, which means that sometimes subjects are taught discretely and away from the main theme. Mathematics is always taught discretely, but there will often be opportunities for the subject to feature across the curriculum. Creative writing tends to dovetail easily within our themes, and when the writing has real meaning for the children, the standards achieved tend to be far higher. Computing is a subject that we deem very important in the 21st century – children need to be equipped with a high level of skills, so that they can progress in a technologically advanced society. Our Computing curriculum is integrated across all subjects, where possible and where it would enhance the learning, but is also taught discretely, following a clear scheme of work.

Assessment for learning forms a central part of all our curriculum plans and is an on-going process designed to monitor and improve teaching and learning in all curriculum areas. It focuses not just on the acquisition of knowledge but also on key skills and attitudes required for living and learning in the 21st century.

The key skills, attributes, experiences and knowledge that we want our children to leave Tenbury Primary school with can be seen in our curriculum aims diagram, and more importantly seen within our children as they move through the school from Reception to Year 6.

Our cross-curricular themes are planned on an annual cycle and can be seen on our curriculum planning for all year groups. Subject leaders carefully monitor the planning, teaching and learning in their subject areas, ensuring that the broad, balanced curriculum is delivered throughout the year, with all necessary learning objectives covered in a clear sequence of learning.

Our curriculum is further enriched by the provision of Forest Schools, with every child in Reception and KS1 participating on a fortnightly basis. Other enrichment activities include: residential and day trips of an educational nature, peripatetic music lessons, themed days/weeks from time to time, extra-curricular sports opportunities, participation in national events such as 'World Book Day', a link with a local author and active links with our partner school in Tanzania, where both virtual and face-face activities have helped the partnership to thrive.