

# **Curriculum Statement**



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# **EARLHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## **Curriculum Statement**

### **Introduction**

At Earlham we believe every child should be able to access learning through a curriculum that is relevant to the needs and interests of our pupils, which will prepare them for future learning and adult life whilst raising their aspirations and making learning fun.

### **Curriculum Ethos**

Our Curriculum covers all required elements of the National Curriculum and EYFS Curriculum. Learning is organised through cross-curricular topics. We know that this focus helps the children to learn more effectively by providing opportunities to use key skills across different subjects. It is also a means of maximising learning time, as children can be learning, for example, about the geography of a country through creating landscapes in art.

A focus on English is maintained in all subjects, through speaking and listening and writing for different purposes.

ICT is an integral part of life nowadays, and we aim to fully integrate the use of technology across all subjects to prepare pupils for how they will use ICT in the workplace.

### **Inclusion**

The statutory inclusion statement on providing effective learning opportunities for all pupils outlines how teachers can modify, as necessary, the National Curriculum programmes of study to provide all pupils with relevant and appropriately challenging work at each key stage. It sets out three principles that are essential to developing a more inclusive curriculum:

Setting suitable learning challenges;

Responding to pupils' diverse learning needs; and

Overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessment for individuals and groups of pupils.

Staff can modify the programmes of study for pupils with special educational needs by:

- choosing material from earlier or later key stages;
  - maintaining, practising, consolidating and generalising, as well as introducing new knowledge, skills and understanding;
  - using the programmes of study as a resource or to provide a context for planning learning appropriate to the age and needs of pupils; and
- focusing on one aspect, or a limited number of aspects, of the age-related programmes of study.

A number of pupils take part in intervention programmes for maths and English, as required. Additionally, a small number of SEN pupils receive an individually tailored learning programme to meet their specific needs.

Adaptations to the curriculum may also be provided for our most able pupils to ensure they make maximum progress.

### **Assessment**

Assessment has always been at the heart of teaching and learning. The main educational purpose of assessment is to help young people make progress. By monitoring and assessing different aspects of pupils' learning, teachers build up knowledge of individual pupils' strengths and weaknesses in a subject. This information helps teachers to plan the next steps in teaching and learning.

Assessment is not a one-way process with teachers being the assessors and pupils as passive recipients of judgements about their attainment in a subject. Assessment information should help both teachers and pupils to understand how well learning is happening and to plan for future learning.

Assessment judgements are based on the National Curriculum attainment criteria, Level Descriptors and EYFS criteria.

### **Monitoring**

Each subject area is monitored across the school by the person with lead responsibility for that subject to ensure that high standards are being maintained in all areas of learning. They are supported by the SLT in a range of activities (e.g. lesson observations, book scrutinies, pupil interviews).

### **The curriculum beyond the classroom.**

In order to help bring our pupils' learning to life, we organise a wide range of activities outside of normal lessons. We know this helps make learning real for our pupils and captures their interest. These events range from trips to museums and the seaside, visiting a country show and local places of worship, to trips to the theatre and concerts. We also invite authors, musicians and artists into school.

We know that children learn best when their learning is supported at home. We send home regular Curriculum Newsletters that inform parents and carers about our topics, and also hold parents and carers workshops, where parents can find out about the strategies we use to teach different subjects within school (e.g. phonics).



## **Curriculum Organisation**

As Earlham has mixed age classes, the curriculum topics are organised on a two year rolling cycle. Our topics for 2013/14 can be found on the curriculum maps. Please note that a new curriculum is due to be introduced in September 2014.