



Curriculum Policy

Reviewed January 2024

At Newton Hill Community School we aim to improve the achievement of all pupils. We consider the quality of teaching and learning with effective leadership and management to be key factors in this alongside excellent curriculum provision. Embedding recent National Curriculum changes and maintaining current progress is vital for improvements to continue.

This policy links closely to the School Development Plan which provides a framework for school improvement. Our development planning is shaped by the current needs of the school and our identified targets. It is an ongoing and changing process therefore this curriculum policy should be revised appropriately to ensure it is up to date with current National and Local procedures.

Our School Vision

Central to the community of Newton Hill, our fully inclusive school provides a safe, healthy and happy environment for every child to fulfil their potential. Supportive parents, staff and governors embrace the creative, innovative and diverse curriculum which promotes successful, confident and responsible individuals.

*Newton Hill Community School
Ready for learning - Ready for life*

Our School Aims are to:

- Provide outstanding teaching for all our children.
- Ensure visible progress in lessons and over time alongside basic skills and attitudes to learning and life.
- Provide an engaging, broad and balanced curriculum for all our children.
- Together with parents, work to provide the best for the children educationally, socially and emotionally so that they will understand the needs and values of community life and their future role in society.
- Have high expectations of our children to work hard, behave well and show consideration towards others.
- Expect children to reach personal goals and demonstrate their individual achievements.

We share the aims and the vision through the school's five golden rules:

- We always keep everyone safe
- We always keep everyone included
- We always keep everyone learning
- We always keep everyone's property safe
- We are always honest.

Our Curriculum Intention

Our curriculum intent is to provide the best possible environment for our children to learn and develop, as well as to cultivate a sense of wonder, empathy and understanding of the world around them.

Our curriculum is designed to enable us to bring the best out of our children, ensuring that they maximise their potential as fully as possible for the next stage of their lives.

Through SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural), PSHE and RSHE we ensure that our children understand themselves, their place in the world and how to make the world a better place.

Our curriculum and school ethos encourage our children to be:

- Inclusive
- Curious
- Creative
- Knowledgeable
- Collaborative
- Positive
- Reflective
- Confident
- Considerate
- Mindful
- Thoughtful
- Inquisitive
- Mindful
- Supportive

Our curriculum is focused on developing the children's knowledge and skills across all of the National Curriculum subjects, with our aim of being the children are ready for their next stage of learning. Our children are given opportunities to develop life skills, focussing on their individual strengths and areas for development. Developing each child's individual character is an integral part of our curriculum. We aim to provide our children with the cultural capital that they need to enable them to succeed in life, for example through visiting museums, opportunities for music – both performing and appreciation, sporting competitions and visitors to school.

We are a reflective school, continually striving to improve our teaching and learning. Reading is given a high priority in our curriculum as the ability to read and understand opens up the learning for all of our children. The development of children's vocabulary is a vital tool in learning and understand the curriculum.

At Newton Hill we want all our children to:

- Make visible progress in lessons and overtime.
- Acquire basic skills which can be transferred to a number of contexts.
- Acquire life skills who know how to apply them to real life situations.
- Be productive and work hard.
- Show interest in their work, sustain concentration and are resilient.
- To understand what they are doing, how well they have done and how they can improve.

Curriculum Implementation

The curriculum forms the basis for our learning and the experiences our children enjoy during their time here at Newton Hill.

We are proud that our curriculum goes beyond the statutory National Curriculum and encompasses cultural, creative and sporting opportunities. The curriculum we offer enables us to ensure that every child develops the key learning steps and receive learning experiences and opportunities to develop their knowledge and skills in different ways. We ensure that learning at Newton Hill broadens the values and opportunities for the child as they grow and develop. Our curriculum consists of many planned experiences in school and out, for example – theme days/weeks, school council events, assemblies, visits, visitors, residential visits, workshops, fundraising and community opportunities.

Outcomes are designed to meet not only the requirements of the National Curriculum but also to develop the skills needed by our children for learning and for life. We have a vibrant and rich curriculum which builds upon the prior learning from EYFS to the end of KS2, ensuring consistency and progression. To ensure that progression and balance is maintained across the school, the programmes of study for each specific subject are turned into termly / half termly units.

Subject leaders ensure that the subject intent for their subject is up to date and relevant for the children we have in school. Teachers then translate these units into smaller daily / weekly plans where the specific needs of the children can be addressed.

Our Curriculum Provision

The curriculum in EYFS, KS1 and KS2 is organised around topics / themes to make it engaging for the pupils. We believe in 'wow' starts to topics and may use visits and visitors to hook the children into their learning. The curriculum is mapped out across a two-year topic planning cycle to accommodate our mixed year groups.

The curriculum in EYFS promotes teaching and learning to ensure children's 'school readiness' and gives the children a broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for good future progress through school and life. Throughout Foundation Stage children learn and develop skills, knowledge and understanding in areas of learning identified in the Early Learning Goals.

In KS1 and KS2 the core subjects of English and Maths are taught daily but links to the other subjects are forged where appropriate using a core text. Pupils will practise their English and Maths skills in the other subjects. This helps us to assess their learning as it shows they can apply the skills taught in other areas. The use of real books throughout the theme ensures pupils are immersed in good quality literature which models how readers and writers behave.

Our Statutory Responsibility

We teach the subjects of:

- English – reading, writing and communication
- Mathematics – number, shape and measures
- Science
- Art and Design
- Computing
- Design and Technology
- Geography
- History
- Languages – French
- Music
- Personal Development & RSHE
- Physical Education
- Religious Education

Timetables for these subjects are individual for each class. Qualified teachers and Higher-Level Teaching Assistants teach the above subjects. Some of the subjects are taught as discreet subjects and this is indicated on the curriculum plans for each class.

Impact - Assessment

A child's progress in these subjects is assessed according to their attainment against the objectives throughout the year. Attainment and progress in English and Mathematics is assessed termly, foundation subject assessments are updated every term. Formal assessments, in addition to daily feedback and marking, support this progress.

Some children may exceed the end of each year expectations, most children will reach the end of year expectations and a few children may not achieve the expected standard. At Newton Hill we strive for every child to achieve their full potential. Interventions are planned for those children not reaching end of year expectations.

Parents are informed through two termly consultation times. Parents also receive an annual report with an opportunity to discuss progress.

Monitoring

Subject leaders are responsible for monitoring their subject/s and providing feedback to the SLT. An update is provided to the Governing Body.

Review Date: July 2024