



WHOBERLEY HALL
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Curriculum Policy

Implemented by school: Autumn 2024

Review by: Autumn 2027

Believing  **Achieving**  **Learning for Life**

Curriculum Policy: Key Stages 1 and 2

Vision and Values

Our curriculum is inspired by the principles of the English National Curriculum, enriched by Chris Quigley's Milestones, which provide a framework for deep and connected learning. We are committed to creating a stimulating, inclusive, and ambitious environment that equips every child with the knowledge, skills, and values to succeed.

Our key values are:

- **Respect and Empathy:** Encouraging understanding and appreciation of diversity and shared humanity.
- **Resilience and Determination:** Nurturing perseverance in the face of challenges and fostering a growth mindset.
- **Curiosity and Creativity:** Inspiring a lifelong love of learning and innovation.
- **Collaboration and Community:** Building teamwork and fostering a sense of responsibility to others.
- **Integrity and Excellence:** Promoting honesty, fairness, and the pursuit of high standards.

Aims of the Curriculum

Aligned with the English National Curriculum and Chris Quigley's Milestones, our curriculum aims to:

1. **Provide a broad and balanced education** that builds deep understanding and connects knowledge across subjects.
2. **Support all children in achieving their potential**, regardless of their starting points, through high expectations and inclusive teaching.
3. **Equip pupils with essential literacy and numeracy skills** while fostering critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity.
4. **Deepen understanding through Threshold Concepts**, enabling pupils to retain and apply key ideas over time.
5. **Cultivate curiosity and awe about the world**, encouraging scientific exploration, historical understanding, and geographical awareness.
6. **Promote physical, emotional, and mental well-being**, nurturing healthy and confident individuals.
7. **Encourage an appreciation of art, culture, and music**, fostering creativity and self-expression.
8. **Develop digital literacy and global citizenship**, preparing children to thrive in a modern, interconnected world.

Curriculum Lenses

Lenses represent the '**big ideas**' within each subject that underpin deep learning. These ideas are revisited and developed over time, ensuring pupils' understanding becomes richer and more sophisticated.

- **Key Characteristics of the Curriculum Lenses:**

- They focus on the essential knowledge and skills that define a subject.
- They provide a foundation for making connections across learning.
- They are taught through a spiral curriculum, where ideas are revisited, allowing depth and mastery.

For example:

- In **science**, pupils may explore the lens of "observation," building on their understanding from basic scientific enquires in Key Stage 1 to advanced enquiry planning and observing overtime in Key Stage 2.
- In **history**, the lens of "conflict" helps pupils develop a nuanced understanding of events, from simple stories of historical figures in Key Stage 1 to analysing global events by Key Stage 2.

Lenses ensure our curriculum is not merely about memorising facts but about developing enduring understanding and application.

The Role of First-Quality Teaching

First-quality teaching is the foundation of our curriculum. It ensures that every child has access to high-quality learning experiences that promote mastery and wonder.

Key features of first-quality teaching include:

1. **High Expectations and Challenge:** Teachers encourage pupils to engage deeply, fostering ambition and resilience.
2. **Engaging and Purposeful Lessons:** Lessons are designed to ignite curiosity and make abstract concepts accessible through real-world applications.
3. **Personalisation and Inclusion:** Scaffolding ensures all pupils, including those with additional needs, can access and master the curriculum.
4. **Spiral Learning Approach:** Knowledge is revisited, extended, and connected to deepen understanding over time.
5. **Evidence-Based Strategies:** Teaching is informed by research to ensure strategies are effective and adaptive to learners' needs.
6. **Continuous Assessment and Feedback:** Formative assessments track mastery and guides teaching and learning.
7. **Building Positive Relationships:** A supportive classroom ethos encourages risk-taking and perseverance in learning.

Diversity and Inclusivity

Our school is a tapestry of cultures, religions, and traditions, and we take immense pride in the richness of our community. We believe that diversity is a strength, and we are committed to fostering an environment where every child feels valued, respected, and celebrated for who they are.

To honour this commitment, we:

- **Celebrate Cultural and Religious Occasions:** Events such as Diwali, Christmas, Eid, Chinese New Year, and others are woven into the fabric of school life, offering children and their families opportunities to share their traditions and experiences.
- **Promote Understanding and Respect:** Through assemblies, classroom discussions, and curriculum content, we encourage pupils to appreciate and respect different perspectives, beliefs, and practices.
- **Integrate Diversity into Learning:** Our curriculum reflects a global perspective, highlighting diverse contributions to science, literature, the arts, and history.
- **Engage Families as Partners:** We invite families to share their cultural traditions and experiences, building strong home-school connections and enriching our learning community.

By embedding these principles into our daily practices, we aim to create a school environment that not only recognises but celebrates the unique identities of every child. This ensures that pupils develop respect, empathy, and a sense of belonging, preparing them to thrive in a multicultural and interconnected world.

Curriculum Philosophy: A Bespoke Approach to Learning

At our school, we recognise the uniqueness of every child and the importance of tailoring our curriculum to meet the needs of our community. Our bespoke curriculum is rooted in cutting-edge research and an understanding of how children learn and grow. By drawing inspiration from cognitive science and educational psychology, we create an environment where learning is captivating, purposeful, and effective.

Evidence-Informed Practices

We are committed to ensuring that our curriculum is shaped by the latest insights into how children learn best:

- **Cognitive Science Foundations:** We incorporate principles such as retrieval practice, spaced repetition, and dual coding to strengthen memory retention and deepen understanding.
- **Growth and Development Focus:** Teaching methods are informed by research into child development, ensuring that lessons align with the cognitive, social, and emotional stages of our pupils.
- **Adaptive and Responsive:** We regularly evaluate and refine our teaching strategies to ensure they remain effective and relevant, using assessment data and feedback to inform improvements.

Evolving Curriculum

We believe that as society evolves, so too must our curriculum. By staying attuned to the changing needs of our children and community, we ensure that every pupil is equipped to thrive in an ever-changing world:

- **Cultural Relevance:** Our curriculum reflects the diversity of our school and wider society, incorporating local, national, and global perspectives.
- **Future-Focused:** We integrate digital literacy, environmental education, and skills for the 21st century to prepare children for success in a world of innovation and change.
- **Inclusivity and Personalisation:** Through differentiated approaches and bespoke support, we ensure that every child's individual needs are met, fostering confidence and achievement for all.

Empowering Lifelong Learners

Our ultimate goal is to empower children to become independent thinkers and lifelong learners who aspire to achieve their full potential. We inspire children to:

- **Embrace Ambition:** By fostering resilience, curiosity, and determination, we prepare pupils to approach challenges with confidence.
- **Aspire Beyond Limits:** We encourage children to see the world as a place of endless opportunity, cultivating a mindset of growth and possibility.
- **Develop Core Skills:** Our curriculum emphasises critical thinking, problem-solving, collaboration, and creativity, equipping children for success in a dynamic world.

Curriculum Enrichment: Learning Beyond the Classroom

At our school, we believe that meaningful learning extends beyond the classroom walls. By engaging with the outdoors, the local community, and the wider world, we aim to enrich our pupils' experiences, nurture their aspirations, and develop their understanding of the world around them.

Outdoor Learning and Forest School

We embrace the importance of outdoor learning as an integral part of our curriculum:

- **Forest School and Outdoor Areas:** These spaces provide opportunities for hands-on exploration, fostering curiosity, creativity, and resilience. Through activities such as problem-solving, teamwork, and environmental stewardship, children gain skills that support both academic and personal growth.
- **Physical and Mental Well-being:** Outdoor learning enhances children's physical health, encourages active lifestyles, and supports emotional well-being through connection with nature.

Educational Visits and Trips

We carefully plan local and broader educational trips to bring learning to life:

- **Connecting with the Wider World:** Visits to museums, cultural landmarks, businesses, and other institutions broaden children's horizons, linking classroom learning to real-world contexts.
- **Inspiring Aspirations:** By exposing pupils to diverse environments, professions, and experiences, we inspire ambition and encourage pupils to dream big about their future opportunities.
- **Cultural Awareness and Citizenship:** Trips are designed to deepen understanding of different cultures, histories, and communities, promoting respect and empathy.

Ambition for Every Child

We are deeply committed to ensuring that every child, regardless of barriers or challenges, has the opportunity to thrive:

- **Removing Barriers:** Through careful planning, we make enrichment activities accessible to all children, ensuring inclusivity in every aspect of learning.
- **Building Confidence:** Outdoor learning and trips encourage children to step outside their comfort zones, fostering independence and resilience.
- **Empowering First-Class Citizens:** By cultivating respect, responsibility, and curiosity, we prepare pupils to make meaningful contributions to modern society.

The School Community as Our Foundation

We recognise that the strength of our school community is the foundation of our children's success. By working closely with families, local organisations, and other stakeholders, we create a curriculum that reflects and celebrates our shared values. Together, we build a nurturing and inspiring learning environment where every child feels supported to reach for the stars.

By aligning our curriculum with the principles of research-based teaching, cultural relevance, and community collaboration, we prepare our children not just for academic success, but for a life of purpose, achievement, and fulfilment.

Aspirations and Modern Citizenship

Our curriculum is designed to nurture pupils who:

1. **Understand and Contribute to Their Community:** By engaging with local resources and participating in projects, children develop a sense of belonging and responsibility.
2. **Have a Global Perspective:** Experiences beyond the classroom help children appreciate the richness of global diversity, preparing them to thrive in an interconnected world.
3. **Embrace Opportunity:** By fostering ambition and high expectations, we encourage children to pursue their dreams with confidence and determination.

By integrating outdoor learning, local and broader educational experiences, and a focus on aspiration, we empower children to shine academically, socially, and personally. Together, we nurture a generation of confident, capable, and compassionate individuals ready to lead and contribute in a modern, ever-changing society.

Conclusion

By embedding Chris Quigley's Milestones within the framework of the English National Curriculum, supported by first-quality teaching, our curriculum equips pupils with a deep, transferable understanding of key ideas. This approach ensures children develop the confidence, skills, and resilience to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally, preparing them for lifelong learning and success in an ever-changing world.