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**Abbey Infant Nursery and Infant School**

**Curriculum Policy**

At Abbey we aim to foster a life-long love of learning through adopting a highly practical topic approach. We are committed to providing quality and excellence through an exciting, stimulating learning environment that stretches and develops the child as a whole and to provide an education which will develop social skills and encourage children to become more active citizens within the school community and beyond.

**Aims**

The Curriculum aims to:

* Provide a broad and balanced curriculum, establishing cross-curricular links to foster a broader understanding.
* Ensure our children are active, motivated and enthusiastic learners.
* Build up children’s confidence and motivation to learn through the use of a range of learning and teaching styles.
* Embed key skills in order to prepare children for real-life and everyday situations.
* Provide opportunities to apply knowledge and learning in practical ways. Making learning more meaningful, through putting it into context
* Provide enrichment opportunities where learning and teaching can take place beyond the classroom.
* Shape our curriculum to meet the needs of our children.
* Stimulate our children’s natural curiosity and to give them the confidence to be curious and allow our children to take risks.
* Teach skills through what interests our children, working through topics that engage children.
* Involving the children in the planning, decision making and the direction the learning takes.
* Help our children to transfer skills between different areas of the curriculum in order to encourage flexibility and resourcefulness and to enable them to use their strengths in one area to overcome challenges in another.
* Use a wealth of relevant resources – in classrooms, outdoors, in the local community and the wider area, including visits and visitors.
* Allow our children to demonstrate their learning in different ways –through photographs, posters, products, presentations and performances.

**Curriculum**

The Creative Curriculum has been organised through a ‘topic based’ approach which incorporates the key skills set out in the National Curriculum. The creative curriculum is delivered during the afternoon sessions on a daily basis. Our creative curriculum covers all non-core subjects. During these sessions our children will be taught key skills in; Science, History, Geography, Art and Design, Music, Design and Technology including Cooking, Computing and PE. Even though Literacy and Mathematics are taught every day in the mornings we embed these skills and make links across the curriculum. Each year group team and class teacher is responsible for the delivery of the Curriculum.

**Creative Curriculum Planning**

* Long Term Plans: These take the form of a Curriculum Overview. This gives the overview of what themes will be taught and when.
* Medium Term Plans: These take the form of knowledge organisers and planning overviews. These are broken down into Year Groups and terms and give a short overview of what will be taught within each subject area. These plans are cross referenced with National Curriculum Objectives and the National Curriculum Breadth of study for each subject area to ensure coverage, challenge and breadth.
* Short Term Plans – These are produced on a weekly basis by each year group staff team and detail learning objectives/intentions/outcomes, activities, resources and assessment opportunities.

When Planning our topic lessons we take into account:

• How the topic will be introduced (a ‘topic launch’, that could be a visit, visitor or a trip).

• Opportunities for trips and visits from external agencies.

• Key Assessment Opportunities.

**.** What the children already know and what they wish to learn about.

**Links with Parents and the Community**

Each Year group are encouraged to broaden the experience of the topics for the children through trips, visitors into school and shared experiences of the wider school community, e.g. involvement with parents and school links etc.

Children’s’ achievements are celebrated regularly through the school newsletters, displays in classrooms and shared areas and in assemblies where children are encouraged to share their knowledge with the rest of the school.

In addition to this we involve parents and the wider community in the following ways:

• Curriculum letters to parents sent at the start of each term, outlining key information about the topic theme.

**.** Planning is shared on our school website.

**Assessment and Record Keeping**

Each term children are assessed according to the Key Skills and children who are below, at and above expectations are noted.

Ongoing Assessment includes:

• Topic books – including children’s comments

• Questioning and discussion

• Children’s work – exercise books, paper, posters, oral presentations, performances, photographs, videos

• Self-assessment

• Peer assessment

• Formative assessment of children’s’ understanding – such as a mind map.

**Monitoring:**

Topic Books: These are monitored on a termly basis by the Head Teacher and Deputy Head Teacher. Individiual subject leaders monitor their own subjects each half term.

**Planning:**

Long and medium term planning is monitored at the start of each topic theme. Short term planning is monitored on an on-going cycle throughout the term.

Lesson Observations:

These take place as part of the cycle of school self-evaluation.

**Equal Opportunities:**

We aim to give all children, irrespective of age, gender, ability or ethnic origin equal opportunity to make maximum progress. It is expected that all children will be given the opportunity to learn in a creative and encouraging learning environment which encompasses a range of learning and teaching styles. Our Learning Hub, inclusion team supports class teachers in the use of strategies which enable all children to access the full breadth of the curriculum.

**Roles and Responsibilities**:

Headteacher and Governing Body have overall responsibility for the Creative Curriculum, supported by the Deputy Head Teacher**.**

The Deputy Head teacher is responsible for overseeing the delivery of the

Creative Curriculum through:

• Regular formal and informal discussions with staff.

• Monitoring planning to ensure curriculum coverage.

• Carrying out book scrutinies alongside planning to ensure cross-curricular links are optimised.

• Observing learning and teaching to ensure progress is being made within the topics.

• Regular reviews of the curriculum through staff and pupil questionnaires and open dialogue.

• Speaking with the children about their learning.

All teaching staff are responsible for the planning and delivery of the curriculum on a day-to-day basis and for making cross-curricular links where appropriate. Staff will make amendments to planning in order to optimise learning opportunities when they arise.