



HILL WEST
Primary
FOUR OAKS

**CURRICULUM
POLICY**

Hill West Primary School is a member of the Arthur Terry Learning Partnership

HILL WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL

CURRICULUM POLICY

CURRICULUM STATEMENT

The whole curriculum as approved by our Local Governing Body is concerned with the holistic needs of our individual pupils. It has been designed, developed and refined over many years. It has been a key focus for staff continued professional development whereby the national curriculum has been aligned with a localised curriculum that meets the needs of all our learners. Our curriculum is challenging with the highest aspirations for pupils' achievement and progress, preparing them for later life. Progressive learning journeys have been devised by the staff for each subject that outline what should be taught and mastered. This curriculum is then delivered through thematic key questions designed to engage and inspire learning and improve the children's ability to; ask questions, investigate, interrogate information, present and argue whilst developing a range of skills and deep knowledge.

Investment in staff CPD continues to ensure that breadth, balance and challenge is effectively planned for; our curriculum is highly responsive. Teachers and teaching assistants think carefully about the learning experiences they provide for their children and plan to deliver these in a way that captures children's interests and enthusiasm for learning not just in the moment but beyond the classroom. Our Personal Development and Well-being curriculum underpins all of our teaching by placing significant value on Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural education; Personal, Social, Health and Economic education; Relationships and Sex Education including British Values and identity.

All children make excellent progress across all subjects and this is robustly monitored through pupil progress discussions with Assistant Head Teachers. Our curriculum develops key skills across a range of subjects to enable the highest possible outcomes in core and non-core subjects. As a result of our curriculum our children leave Hill West prepared to contribute fully not only to life in secondary school but to their communities and city. At Hill West we appreciate that we are part of a wider family of schools and are committed to equip children to be happy, talented, confident and ambitious citizens of Birmingham and the world.

Birmingham Curriculum Statement

All children in Birmingham will experience a broad and balanced curriculum enabling them to grow and learn in an environment without prejudice or inequality. The curriculum will:

- ✓ promote children's engagement in learning through enquiry-led approaches that develop skills, dispositions and attitudes to learning;
- ✓ equip children for their futures in a rapidly changing world recognising the importance of technology, science, languages and communication for dialogue and understanding between different groups;

- ✓ value, celebrate and build on children’s religious and cultural heritage and develop a sense of identity, honouring the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- ✓ promote the fundamental shared values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs;
- ✓ help children develop an understanding of all faiths and none, and participate in the celebration of different religious events in understanding and accepting differences;
- ✓ develop children holistically: their intellectual, practical, aesthetic, spiritual, social and emotional capacities;
- ✓ ensure an understanding of protected characteristics of the Equality Act and how through diversity they can be celebrated;
- ✓ develop children to take the lead, accepting responsibility for their behaviour, to show initiative and compassion for others, to make a positive difference in their own lives and in the lives of those living and working in their local, national and global communities.

All children and young people will be given the opportunity to learn the benefits of physically and emotionally healthy lifestyles, by participating in high quality personal, social and health education including sex and relationships education. Opportunities will be provided for children to explore their talents and abilities through:

- Developing an appreciation of the arts
- Taking part in a wide range of physical activities, sports and games
- Developing a sense of self in a non-judgemental, mutually supportive environment
- Experiencing music and it’s intrinsic value for enjoyment and self-expression through performing, singing and the playing of instruments
- Experiencing social, moral, spiritual and cultural education which broadens children’s awareness and understanding of the world and their place within it
- Independent careers advice that inspires and motivates them to fulfil their potential.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 29 states that education must develop every child’s personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child’s respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures and the environment. We will not allow any attempts to narrow the curriculum, or to deny our children and young people their right to education.

OUR SCHOOL AIMS AND VALUES

At Hill West Primary School we are dedicated to the whole child and as such we endeavour to:

- Develop and foster a strong home-school partnership through open dialogue;
- Provide a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum that shows progress and continuity from Foundation Stage to the end of Key Stage Two so that each child meets their full learning potential;
- Develop challenging experiences and activities to foster individual self-esteem and confidence;
- Develop stimulating and inclusive learning environments;
- Promote the awareness that each child is unique and develop opportunities to celebrate differences;
- Develop in each child a sense of awe and wonder.

CURRICULUM AIMS

Our specific aims are to:

- promote high standards in all individual subject disciplines;
- ensure every child is a fluent reader and develops a love of books;
- allow children to develop knowledge of themselves as learners;
- enable children to acquire knowledge and key skills across the curriculum;
- enable children to be confident in the use of technology in a range of subjects;
- promote spiritual development;
- promote physical and mental development and an awareness of the importance of a healthy lifestyle;
- enable children to be aware of the importance of and participate in the arts and related cultural themes;
- enable pupils to develop moral sensibility through carefully taught values;
- develop the personal and social skills of each child;
- prepare pupils well for transition and the opportunities, responsibilities and experience of adult life;

THE ORGANISATION OF THE CURRICULUM

At Hill West building on our understanding of how children learn, our curriculum is taught through key questions that link different subject disciplines thematically. We do this so that children have well-developed schema underpinned by interconnected knowledge and skills. Our key questions that link the learning are designed to engage and inspire, improving children's ability to; ask questions, investigate, interrogate information, present and argue whilst developing a range of skills and deep knowledge. Alongside this, children also receive a weekly subject-specific lesson that either reinforces prior learning through earlier linked learning, or introduces new learning that will be revisited during a subsequent key question.

As excellent teachers we make the best use of time, space and other resources available to plan for the children's learning. We understand the need for a clear structure of progressive learning which builds term on term and year on year but allows scope for flexibility so that teachers can be responsive to children's needs.

- **Long-term** - at Hill West we have developed schemes of work / progressive learning journeys for each subject that provide our teachers with curriculum coverage and content (using the national curriculum and locally developed curriculum). This is our long term planning. This is reviewed annually.
- **Medium term** - teachers are responsible for planning the work for their own class and do this through a combination of linked learning opportunities through key questions and discrete lessons. Our medium term plan provides details of what the children will be learning in each subject each week based on the use of our progressive learning journeys. This is evaluated and reviewed continually by teachers but more formally by the whole staff on a termly basis.
- **Short term** – teachers use their medium term plan to map out the subjects to be taught each day over the course of the week with intended outcomes. This one-page overview is concise so that time for teaching preparation is maximised.

At Hill West teachers recognise that their planning contributes to the planning for the whole year group and is, in turn, part of the planning for the whole school and eventually for the success in learning of each individual pupil.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Head Teacher in collaboration with the Deputy and Assistant Head Teachers have overall responsibility for the leadership of the curriculum and delegate responsibility to key staff:

- The Assistant Head teachers collaborate to lead on curriculum design and development within their individual phase in school and as such lead all subjects.
- The senior leadership team ensures that the curriculum has progression and appropriate coverage;
- Individual subject leads are identified for SIP priority subjects and are supported by a member of the Headship Team (Jaimey Thomas – Reading, Ryan Horne – Music, Alison Downes – French).
- Individual Class Teachers are responsible for writing the medium term plans and liaising with each other over the content and delivery of the units of work. They evaluate and monitor progress with the support of the Assistant Head Teacher assigned to their phase;
- The Senior Leadership Team in collaboration with Middle Leaders and Year Group Lead Teachers measure standards in all subjects across school;
- Class Teachers ensure that the curriculum is taught and that the aims are achieved for their class. They plan collaboratively to ensure parity across the year group.

At Hill West there is a corporate responsibility to ensure that the progress of each pupil is monitored and that there is appropriate challenge, support and intervention to ensure all children succeed irrespective of any barriers to learning or disadvantage.