

Curriculum Overview

Curriculum Intent

All of our actions in school are informed by our:

Learning Values: and **Community Values:**

Curiosity

Kindness

Aspiration

Honesty

Perseverance

Respect

Composure

Positivity

Our curriculum is no exception to this and is planned and delivered with these values as the guiding principles. The curriculum is broad and balanced and provides significant opportunity for children to apply and express their knowledge and understanding across subject areas.

Our Aims

- To provide stability and a safe environment to learn in
- To develop a sense of community and citizenship
- To encourage creative, independent thinking
- To increase self-esteem and build resilience
- To ensure everyone reaches their full potential
- To nurture a life-long passion for learning
- To engage children through interesting topics and hands-on activities
- To develop children's skills, knowledge and understanding of a range of concepts
- To help children to think creatively and solve problems
- To develop children's capacities to work independently and collaboratively
- To enable children to make choices about their learning
- To take account of children's interests and fascinations

Our Approach

The curriculum at Eastbrook incorporates the National Curriculum (reviewed 2018). However, the school recognises that this is just one element in the education of children. There is time and space in the school year to range beyond the NC specifications. The school is aware that the NC provides an outline of core knowledge around which teachers are expected to develop exciting and stimulating lessons as part of a wider school curriculum that promotes the development of knowledge, understanding and skills. The school also makes provision for personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE) and religious education.

We believe that children learn best when they are motivated, happy and interested so we are committed to providing a creative curriculum which meets the needs of every individual. A curriculum that is rich and diverse but also balanced and relevant. We believe in providing challenge and have high expectations for all our learners. We aim to create an environment where children's efforts are valued and where everyone has a chance to shine. We believe that a rich diet of learning experiences is undoubtedly the best way to develop well-rounded, happy children who are able to face all of life's challenges and opportunities.



We encourage our children to think about, and reflect upon, their learning. We do this through our Learning Values which are introduced to pupils as soon as they join our school. These help them to identify their own strengths and provide clarity around what they need to do next in order to make progress. This helps them to make sense of the world around them and also allows them to develop independence and resilience.

In addition to the National Curriculum, and the development of basic skills, we recognise the importance of educating the whole child. Aspects of health education, citizenship, personal and social education and personal safety (including internet safety) are included in the work of all year groups. Our Community Values encourage children to take responsibility for their own actions.

Literacy

As far as possible, literacy work is integrated with the theme of each year group's termly topic so that there is a real purpose for writing. We ensure that genre coverage is broad and balanced and, each half term, children have the opportunity to write to entertain, write to persuade and write to inform. Pupils learn writing skills through taught units of literacy which they then apply independently; this is also used for assessment purposes to identify next steps in learning and progress. Children's writing is celebrated on display throughout the school.

Reading is introduced as a source of pleasure from the outset when pupils join us. There is a weekly Reading Morning for parents in KS1. The daily teaching of phonics is rapidly built upon and children of all abilities are supported to become independent readers at the earliest opportunity. Each child's reading is carefully assessed so that age-appropriate books and a path of progression can be quickly identified. A combination of 1:1 reading, group Guided Reading and whole class texts provide our pupils with the decoding and comprehension skills necessary for them to confidently access and enjoy books of their own choosing.

Maths

Maths is taught discretely from the termly thematic topics, although links are made whenever possible. Sequences of lessons are planned so that pupils can develop fluency in mental and written methods. They then apply this fluency to tackle more investigative maths activities which require reasoning and problem-solving skills. This balance is evident across the key stages, and all children are taught strategies and encouraged to make links to previous learning.

Languages, RE, PSHE and Citizenship

French is taught across KS2 as part of the curriculum and KS1 often join in with language songs in assemblies. Our RE curriculum is based upon the Cornerstones 'Love to Celebrate' projects and focuses around the six major world religions with each year group spending time studying each religion. The focus of each half term is on a specific celebration or tradition for the religion that is in focus. All terms have a mixture of learning about religion and learning from religion. PSHE is taught in all year groups and the school actively joins in with national campaigns such as Anti-Bullying Week, where children wore odd socks to school to celebrate difference and diversity. Our eco-committee undertake environmental tasks around the school and have recently worked closely with SUSTRANS charity to promote pollution awareness. Our local MP often visits our school due to our support for initiatives such as 'Send My Friend to School' week and 'Deaf Awareness' week.

Curriculum planning

We believe that children learn best when they are motivated, happy and interested, so we are committed to providing a creative curriculum that meets the needs of every individual – a curriculum that is rich and diverse but also balanced and relevant. Our teaching teams plan carefully to produce exciting and differentiated activities. This ensures that all our children are able to access the curriculum and reach their full potential. Planning in this way also gives us the opportunity to respond to the needs and interests of our children.

Our approach is thematic and offers our pupils learning opportunities across a diverse range of topics. These topics are carefully chosen and planned to offer a mixture of arts and humanities together with those with more of a STEM bias (science, technology, engineering and maths). We are always seeking to develop cross-curricular links in our topics so that pupils make connections in their learning. Links are made, for example, to key texts in literacy and an increasing amount of learning across all foundation subjects is taught, wherever possible, within the topic theme. At the end of each term, children are assessed as to their level of attainment against the school's year group expectations in each foundation subject area.

WOW days

Every term we offer a range of events across the school to enrich the curriculum and enhance the enjoyment of learning. These often include visits and visitors, bringing outside expertise and alternative settings to promote learning. However, throughout all of our topics, it is chiefly the imagination and preparation from our teachers that ensure pupils are 'hooked' from the outset. Each topic is defined by a WOW day, a topic-themed set up or 'hook' that engages the children and invests them into their learning from the outset. Some examples include:

- In EYFS, follow the clues left by The Jolly Postman as he delivers letters to well-known fairy tale characters...
- Join the dress up day in year 1 where children take on the role of fictional super heroes and real-life heroes...
- It is a meeting of minds as year 2 pupils become experts in innovation as they take on the role of Inventors and Pioneers, preparing and running their own exhibition to parents...
- Pupils accept an invitation to see whether they are made of the 'right stuff' to graduate from Astronaut Academy in the To Infinity and Beyond topic in year 3...
- Passports are checked and seatbelts buckled for a flight to India in the year 4 topic Festivals and Feasts. The pupils' taste buds will tingle when they taste the foods on offer too...
- Land ho! We have arrived in the new world! But who sent us here? A succession of Tudor monarchs in search of power and wealth! From pirates to potatoes, we will discover everything this Brave New World has to offer...
- The World War 2 experience is vividly brought to life as Year 6 pupils are evacuated by train, only to be faced with searching questions from host families waiting at the end of the line...

Home Learning

The diversity of our curriculum is reflected in our approach to home learning. Each term, pupils take home a Home Learning booklet which offers them, and parents, a choice-based approach to completing homework tasks across the range of foundation subjects. This is supplemented by teacher-set tasks in maths. The termly Homework booklets have resulted in some hugely creative outcomes which are proudly on display in the school.

Assemblies

To celebrate and share the learning in our termly topics, each class performs a curriculum-themed assembly to parents. These assemblies are always well-attended and enjoyed, and every pupil plays a part. The assemblies often take the form of narratives and examples of the children's learning is shared in many different ways, such as songs, video clips, artefacts, poetry and writing.

Music and sport

In addition to the themed topics, learning and achievement in music and sport also form the backbone of our school. Eastbrook consistently enjoys success at various sports within our locality and a week does not go by without a team participating successfully in a local event. Our teams draw upon a diverse range of pupils and abilities too. For example, we take vulnerable pupils to a SEN athletics event to boost their confidence and enjoyment of sport. The school has developed very close ties with Brighton & Hove Albion in the Community who continue to run a number of popular initiatives with us. The swimming pool continues to be enjoyed by all pupils and our annual swimming galas are a big draw with parents who come to see their children enjoying both individual and team events.

Our choir and instrumentalists are always busy. They enhance school assemblies and often perform outside of school. For example, the choir sing at the local Methodist Church and at a local nursing home where they are always greatly appreciated by the residents. At Christmas time they perform carols at the local shopping centre and The Grocers Ball at the Grand Hotel. The choir also perform alongside other schools at the annual Young Voices event at the O2 in London.

Community links

In addition to the choir, the annual school Talent Show showcases a huge range of ability across the school and has an enormous impact on children's confidence. The money raised by the show is donated to local charities, with previous recipients including the Multiple Sclerosis Centre and The Corner House, a mental health charity. To celebrate and recognise our community value of 'kindness', our school House Captains took a group of pupils to the local church to help at a community coffee morning.

Residential

Residential visits are a great way to develop self-confidence and independence in our older pupils. Years 3 and 4 have the opportunity to visit different local outdoor education centres and Years 5 and 6 travel further afield to a PGL centre in France.

Clubs

We believe that outstanding education extends beyond the classroom and work hard to provide a wide range of supervised activities outside the school day for children to enjoy. We have clubs running for all age groups. Some of the more regular ones include: Dance, Judo, Art and Craft, Gardening, Football, Netball, French, Swimming, Cricket, Tag Rugby, Karate and Choir. We are always looking to offer new clubs with cheer-leading and Mandarin proving popular in recent years. We also offer tuition in a range of musical instruments.

Forest School

Eastbrook has introduced Forest Schools to the curriculum to provide an opportunity for our children to learn skills and develop confidence through hands-on learning experiences in our

extensive school grounds. Our Forest School is run by four staff who have trained to become fully qualified Forest School practitioners. A yurt has been built to provide an outside learning space.

Children from Early Years through to Year 6 get the opportunity to attend Forest School in sessions which last half a day and are usually blocked together, over a half term, at two different points in the year. Feedback has been really positive from parents, and our children have really enjoyed the opportunity to explore the outdoors. The sessions are well-planned, with a child-centred approach that encourages independence, creativity and fun!

Parental involvement

In addition to Reading Mornings and class curriculum assemblies, parents are welcomed into school for other curriculum activities. EYFS hold regular 'book looks' to show the variety of learning undertaken. Parents come in to class to see topic work 'exhibitions', for example in year 2 and year 4. The year 6 Enterprise Day fundraiser sees pupils running their own stalls selling artefacts made at school. Parents are also offered workshops that help them to understand our curriculum and support their children with learning. For example, there has recently been a phonics and spelling workshop which was well attended.