



SCARISBRICK
HALL
SCHOOL

FIRST SCHOOL

2011 - 2012

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INTRODUCTION

Many changes have taken place in education in recent years and schools may not be like they were when parents of children aged 5 to 8 were attending. The aim of this booklet is to give parents information about the curriculum in First School and how it is assessed.

THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM

The School follows the guidelines of the National Curriculum for each of its stages:

	Age Range	Year Numbers
Reception	4+ to 5	R
Key Stage 1	5+ to 7	1 to 2
Key Stage 2	7+ to 11	3 to 6
Key Stage 3	11+ to 14	7 to 9
Key Stage 4	14+ to 16	10 to 11

However, we have taken into account the learning abilities and styles of various age groups and have now divided the school into First School (Years R to 4), Middle School (Years 5 to 8) and College (Year 9 and above). As an Independent school, we are not statutorily required to implement the National Curriculum, but we have taken the best of it on board and are, in fact, offering much more through the ‘theme based creative curriculum’.

Organisation

This is a five-year programme covering Years R through to 4.

Objectives

This is:

- an introduction to learning involving a solid foundation in basic skills, encompassing both practical and written work;
- an introduction to a wide range of subjects, which include:

Core Subjects: English, Mathematics, and Science.

Foundation Subjects taught through a Creative Curriculum:

Geography, History, Design Technology,
Music, Art, ICT.

Compulsory Subjects: P.E., Religious Education.

Extra Subjects: Spanish, Drama, and P.S.C.H.E.

Many of these subjects are taught through a themed creative curriculum, using the key skills to enrich learning experiences. At times, parts of the curriculum do not fit easily into a theme, these areas are then taught as discrete subjects.

The objectives of this learning stage are:

- to induct the young child into the requirements of formal education;
- to commence the process of developing learning key skills;

- to arouse a child's curiosity and develop powers of imagination and creativity;
- to advance self-awareness, and identify personal qualities, talents, skills and weaknesses;
- to increase self-confidence and raise self-esteem through recognising achievements and encouraging endeavours;
- to improve the ability to work and live harmoniously within the peer group;
- to ensure that the essential core academic skills of literacy, oracy and numeracy are well taught and, equally, thoroughly learned.

ASSESSMENT

PIPS assessments are carried out in Reception to provide teachers and parents with information about each child.

Individual Early Years profiles are completed about each child during the Reception Year.

PIPS assessments are also carried out annually in Years 1 and 2.

Pupils in Years 1 to 4 will regularly have work assessed as part of our informal and formal assessment process. Termly assessment weeks provide an opportunity for teachers to focus their assessment on the key areas of Reading, Writing and Mathematics.

Children who are aged 7 at the end of Year 2 will be tested in the basic subjects of English, Mathematics and Science. These tests show what the children are able to do at the age of 7.

During the school year there is also continual assessment of pupils' work. 7 year olds will be tested on reading, writing, spelling, handwriting, Mathematics and Science.

The Standard Assessment Tasks, (S.A.T.s), are not officially used but children may be assessed on National Curriculum levels of attainment.

The level 1 targets are the easiest and will challenge a typical 5 to 6 year old.

The level 2 targets are designed to challenge typical 7 year olds.

A number of children reach level 3, which is well above the level expected of 7 year olds.

REPORTS

Mid-year Reports.

In February a child's progress in English, Mathematics and Science is recorded on a Mid-year Report. The Form Teachers also write a general pastoral report.

End of year Reports.

In June a more detailed report is written, containing:

- ***Examination results*, given as levels in English, Mathematics and Science (not Reception or Year 1);**
- ***Individual Subject* comments recording a child's progress throughout the year;**
- **Targets for next year;**
- ***Form Mentors* Summative report including details of any e³ activities;**
- ***Optional Extra Subject* reports are written on supplementary report sheets;**
- **A summary of the child's attendance throughout the year is included as a supplementary sheet.**

CORE SUBJECTS

ENGLISH

The aim of the English programme is to develop pupils' ability to communicate effectively in speech and writing, and to listen with understanding. It also enables pupils to be enthusiastic, responsive and knowledgeable readers. Their abilities are developed within an integrated programme of speaking and listening, reading and writing.

National Literacy Strategy

The strands of the new National Literacy Strategy are approached through the creative curriculum. Shared and guided reading of stories and poetry and through drama and imaginative play are used as part of the taught curriculum. These lead towards a variety of written work. Pupils begin to use simple dictionaries and to understand their alphabetical organisation. They also begin to understand the purpose of contents pages and indexes and begin to locate information by page numbers and words by initial letter.

By the end of First School pupils will be able to distinguish between fact and fiction and to make notes from non-fiction texts.

Correct, cursive handwriting is developed through First School and by the time they reach Year 4 we aim to have most pupils writing with pen.

MATHEMATICS

The National Curriculum Attainment Targets	
AT1	Using & Applying Mathematics
AT2	Number & Algebra
AT3	Shape, Space & Measures
AT4	Handling Data

Mathematics is used as an integral part of classroom tasks. This includes the understanding of number, number operations and the concepts involved in:

**money
measure
capacity
weight**

**shape
time
data handling
mental arithmetic
mental strategies**

This is achieved through the creative curriculum, practical work and in conjunction with a structured Mathematical scheme. Pupils are encouraged to develop their abilities in applying mathematics to problem- solving situations.

Assessment.

During June Year 2 pupils are tested internally using the national tests in Number.

SCIENCE

The National Curriculum Attainment Targets	
AT1	Scientific Enquiry
AT2	Life & Living things (Biology)
AT3	Materials & their Properties (Chemistry)
AT4	Physical Processes (Physics)

In First School, Science is approached through various topics that are linked to the termly theme for the creative curriculum.

Topics include:

Ourselves / Senses

Sorting and using materials

Forces

Health and growth

Environment

Grouping and changing materials

Using electricity

Growing plants

Light and dark

Sound and hearing

Plants and animals in the local

Variation

Forces and movement

The children are encouraged to discuss, predict and reason. Continual internal assessment is carried out by teacher observation.

Assessment

At the end of Year 2 pupils are tested internally.

FOUNDATION SUBJECTS

All foundations subjects are taught through a Creative Curriculum

This includes Geography, History, Design Technology, I.C.T. and Art & Design

Geography.

Geographical enquiry and skills.

Knowledge and understanding of places.

Knowledge and understanding of patterns and processes.

Knowledge and understanding of environmental change and development.

History.

Chronological understanding.

Knowledge and understanding of events, people and changes in the past.

Historical interpretation.

Historical enquiry.

Organisation and communication.

Design & Technology.

Developing, planning and communicating ideas.

Working with tools and materials.

Evaluation.

Knowledge and understanding of materials and components.

Information and Communication Technology

Finding things out.

Developing ideas and making things happen.

Exchanging and sharing information.

Reviewing, modifying and evaluating work.

Art and Design

Exploring and developing ideas.

Investigating and making art, craft and design.

**Evaluating and developing work.
Knowledge and understanding.**

During First School all the pupils are taught the knowledge, skills and understanding of the various subjects in the following way:

Geography

Through the study of 2 localities.

- a) The locality of the School.**
- b) A contrasting locality either in the U.K. or overseas.**

History

- a) Changes in the pupils' lives and those of their families.**
- b) The lives of significant people in the past.**
- c) Important events from the history of Britain and the wider world.**

Design and Technology

- a) Practical tasks that develop a range of techniques and skills**
- b) Designing and making using a range of materials.**

I.C.T.

- a) Practical use of the computer (storing and retrieving information)**
- b) Exploring a variety of I.C.T. tools.**
- c) Talking about uses of I.C.T. inside / outside school.**
- d) Awareness and understanding of how to use V.L.E.**

Art and Design

- a) Using a range of materials and processes.**
- b) Exploring a range of starting points for practical work (stories, objects, environment).**
- c) Working on their own or collaborating with others on projects (collage work).**

MUSIC

The National Curriculum Attainment Targets	
AT1	Performing & Composing
AT2	Listening & Appraising

The emphasis is on practical music making in First School. Pupils in Years 1 learn to play the recorder. In Year 2, pupils learn to play the violin. Essential skills are introduced in order to provide a good foundation for musical progress and development.

COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

<p>Acquiring and developing skills Selecting and applying skills Evaluating and improving performance Knowledge and understanding of fitness and health</p>
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The children are encouraged to participate in all aspects of this subject:

Dance Activities

- **Mixed group and individual work. Responding to stimuli, changing rhythm, speed, level and direction.**
- **Create and perform dances using simple movement patterns, including those from different times and cultures.**

Games

- **Football, Tag Rugby, Tennis, Rounders, Cross Country, Small sided games / ball skills.**

Gymnastic Activities

- **Use of simple apparatus to encourage proficiency in balance, rolling, jumping and turning. The children are encouraged in lifting, control and correct use of apparatus.**
- **Use of school grounds.**

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The teaching encourages curiosity, care and concern about the living world and its people. Important festivals throughout the year are discussed and stories are told from both the Old and New Testament. The children are encouraged to show an awareness of various other religions and their beliefs and places of worship.

EXTRA SUBJECTS

SPANISH

The pupils learn through chanting, singing and taking an active part in role-play and drama, using real, every day situations.

The pupils will also be introduced to written Spanish, once they are confident in the oral activities, and will have Spanish Activity Books.

DRAMA

There are no guidelines by the National Curriculum regarding the teaching of Drama. However, the School emphasises the importance of self-confidence and self-awareness; qualities that are developed by the teaching of Drama. The subject is taught both in and out of the classroom.

Drama is also incorporated into curriculum subjects such as English, R.E and Assemblies each term.

P.S.C.H.E.

During First School pupils learn about themselves as developing individuals and as members of their communities, building on their own experiences and on early learning goals for personal, social and emotional development.

Personal, Social and Health Education and Citizenship will help to give pupils the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to lead confident, healthy, independent lives and to become informed, active, responsible citizens.

During First School Birth, Care and Growth are covered in Science and P.S.C.H.E. The pupils will learn through discussion and watching videos on :-

- 1. Animals**
- 2. Our Babies**
- 3. Caring and Growing**

These units provide starting points for the introduction of key areas of sex education for the First School age range, including :-

- Physical growth**
- New life**
- New powers**
- New responsibilities**
- A new understanding of loving and caring**

P.S.C.H.E. activities can be integrated into most subjects of the curriculum – Assemblies, R.E., English discussions, History, Geography, Science and P.E.

P.S.C.H.E. is the perfect subject to introduce the concept of anti-bullying.

ENRICHMENT AND EXTENSION

There is far more to education than just what takes place in the classroom. The main curriculum is supplemented and complimented with a full programme of activities both during and out of school hours.

E3 Programme.

A full programme of exciting, enrichment and extension activities is offered four days per week built into the daily routine. Activities include, football, cross country, fashion and fabrics, dance and craft club, to name but a few.

Summer School.

A full programme of one-week courses operates during the summer vacation. Much fun can be had by attending these.

School Trips.

We hope that you will be able to take advantage of one or more of the many trips available to First School. Often these are linked with the creative curriculum theme; this helps bring the topic to life.