

Our Curriculum

A creative curriculum

"Pupils are provided with a broad and varied curriculum. Exciting and innovative trips and visitors to the school enhance the school's curriculum." Ofsted 2011

The curriculum to which each child is entitled is laid down by the requirements of the National Curriculum (2014) for Key Stage one children. This curriculum is followed by all children of compulsory school age. During a child's first year at school they will follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum.

The National Curriculum consists of English, Maths, Art and Design, Citizenship, Computing, Design Technology, Geography, History, Music and Physical Education. Religious Education is also taught throughout the school.

In the Foundation Stage the curriculum for children is split into seven areas: Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Physical Development, Communication and Language, Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the world and Expressive Arts and Design.

"Children are able to access a range of opportunities which promote all areas of learning. Improvements to the outside provision since the last inspection mean that they now engage in the full curriculum, both indoors and outdoors. Opportunities are provided during the day for children to flow freely between the two areas. Overall provision is good" Ofsted 2011

Thematic Learning

We believe in providing our children with an exciting, creative curriculum based on a carefully planned thematic approach. Teachers plan the curriculum with a focus on a particular theme with the aim of developing the key skills necessary for confident and effective learning. This is then enriched through the provision of additional activities and opportunities such as forest school, use of the new library, themed weeks, dressing up and use of the outdoors. We welcome visitors into the school to share their skills with the children and look for opportunities to take the children on visits in the local area and beyond.

The school has gained recognition for the quality of provision through the Artsmark, Activemark, Let's get cooking accreditation, Dyslexia Friendly Status, Healthy Schools OPAL and Sounds-Write.

In addition to the subjects above, opportunities for Personal, Social and Emotional learning are provided through circle times, assemblies, the work of the learning mentor and the work of the school council.

The children are active in developing ways to Safeguard themselves through plat assemblies, the use of anti-bullying pledges, e-safety rules and pupil voice. Our two yearly cycle of Values and Learning Behaviours help to develop and celebrate British Values and an understanding of diversity.

"Pupils learn in a safe and nurturing environment where the care, guidance and support they receive are outstanding. Pupils say that they feel safe in school and their parents and carers overwhelmingly agree. Pupils are developing a good understanding of how to keep themselves safe. Pupils' behaviour is good and they demonstrate a positive attitude towards learning in lessons." Ofsted 2011

Maths

Maths is an important part of everyday life, providing means of making sense of the world in which we live. Gaining knowledge, skills and understanding in this area will enable children to deal with the mathematical demands of life. We aim to:

- Develop skills of fluency, reasoning and problem solving.
- Develop children's confidence to enable them to express ideas using appropriate mathematical vocabulary.
- Encourage a positive attitude to maths in all our children
- Encourage the use of imagination, initiative and flexibility of thinking
- Provide the children with an understanding of the number system and mental strategies which will equip them in their understanding of calculation
- Provide opportunities for children to use their knowledge, skills and understanding in everyday situations

English

The use of English is the foundation of all learning. It is the medium of communication and the successful understanding and use of English is a basis for all educational progress. It empowers the learner and is essential for independent learning and most aspects of everyday life. Children use their knowledge, skills and understanding in speaking, listening, reading and writing across a range of different situations. We aim to:

- Enable children to use standard English grammar, adapting their style to suit their audience as needed when speaking and writing
- Enable children to listen carefully and comprehend the content of spoken and written text
- Ensure that children can use the knowledge and understanding provided by the Sounds-Write programme to read and write unknown words confidently
- Use a range of strategies to enable children to write with confidence, fluency and with the compositional skills to enable clear communication of ideas and meaning to a variety of audiences
- Enable children to develop neat, clear handwriting
- Provide children with the opportunity to improve work through editing and proof reading

Phonics is the fundamental starting point of the teaching of reading and writing in our school. All classroom based staff members have achieved Sounds-Write accreditation and this progressive, structured, linguistic approach to develop confident readers and writers. Every child experiences daily phonics teaching planned and delivered using the Sounds-Write program. Through this teaching the children are taught to recognise sounds and break down words into their composite sounds; this is then reinforced through all aspects of our curriculum.

Using Talk for Writing strategies children read and learn stories, poems and non-fiction texts. We have good collections of books in the classrooms as well as in our newly developed library. Our children access a wide range of texts throughout the school. Home reading is supported by texts from a range of schemes and also read books. This home school promotion of reading helps to create a life long love of reading.

Computing

Computing is playing more and more of an everyday part in our children's lives. This is reflected at our school with computing skills woven throughout the curriculum. The children are taught computing skills in programming, coding, digital creativity, communication, research and a deeper understanding of how computing is used in our lives. We also focus on e-safety and this is taught through all aspects of the computing curriculum. Through participating in regular e-safety lessons, children develop the skills needed to be safeguarded on line at home and at school.

To aid this teaching we have invested in a range of equipment, including:

- 48 iPads to be used across the school
- 16 computers based in the schools computing suite
- school wide wireless internet access

- a wide range of practical resources including programming toys, cameras, green screening booth, video cameras, voice recorders, remote controlled toys and much, much more!

The nature of computing means that we are continuously looking at how we can improve the outcomes for the children at this school. We aim to keep up to date with changes in technology, and ways in which it moves forward.

Science

Our science teaching follows the national curriculum learning outcomes through a thematic approach. We believe in providing children with a range of practical experiences to facilitate learning and understanding in science which will stimulate and excite their scientific curiosity. They will be encouraged to ask questions about the world around them as well as developing their use of scientific language.

We aim to:

- Provide opportunities for children to work scientifically, including developing the processes and skills of observing, predicting, classifying, sorting and evaluating
- Encourage children's curiosity about phenomena and events in the world around them
- Provide opportunities for children to apply their knowledge and understanding to real life situations
- Provide opportunities for children to communicate their scientific ideas

Physical Education

At Hindhayes PE is a valuable part of our curriculum. In line with the National Curriculum, PE is concerned with the development of agility, balance and co-ordination; skills that will lead into success in many areas of sport from gymnastics to dance, from netball to rugby. Y2 children are also given the opportunity to have swimming lessons for one term each year. Children are taught both by teachers and by specialist sports coaches, giving them an awareness of the need for exercise to contribute to a healthy lifestyle now and in the future.

Within our teaching of PE we aim to:

- Allow success for all through progressive, differentiated challenges
- Create an awareness of safe practices, working individually, in pairs and in groups
- Develop a growing awareness of the importance of exercise
- Practice and develop a variety of physical skills alongside team building, resilience and self reflection
- Teach children to evaluate and celebrate their own work and the work of others

Activities are selected to take into account the range of learning styles that can be seen across the school and reflect creative, social and physical well-being. Through strategic use of the national sports premium funding, Hindhayes staff continue to drive the development of the PE curriculum and the teaching of PE forward.

RE

We follow the agreed Somerset syllabus for RE:

Awareness, Mystery and Value 2011

For more information please see

<http://amv.somerset.gov.uk/>