

Curriculum Intent

The uniqueness of every child is recognised and valued. Our curriculum recognises and celebrates the diverse backgrounds and experiences from which our children originate. We offer an excellent education underpinned by a broad, culturally rich and powerful curriculum to ensure that all pupils are well equipped to reach their full potential and be prepared for the next stages in their education.

Queenswood School's mission is to prepare our pupils to take up a useful place in society. We recognise and celebrate diversity and respect other people, regardless of their background and this is reflected in the broad and vibrant curriculum we offer. In our curriculum, we pay particular regard to respecting the protected characteristics set out by the 2010 Equality Act (ie age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnerships; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex and sexual orientation) as we all have at least one of these characteristics (for example sex and age)!

Our curriculum is underpinned by the teaching of basic skills, knowledge, concepts and values; although creativity is pivotal at Queenswood School. We constantly provide enhancement opportunities to engage learning and to celebrate and develop the individual talents of our pupils, recognising everyone as unique with their own ambitions, skills and dreams. We aim to provide an environment that encourages lifelong learning.

Community involvement is also an essential part of our curriculum as we celebrate local traditions, learning new skills to enable children to take an active role in events throughout the year. Children leave Queenswood School with a sense of belonging to a tightly knit community where they have the confidence and skills to make decisions, self-evaluate, make connections and become lifelong learners.

Curriculum Implementation

Skills and knowledge are taught discreetly in subject areas so that our children gain a broad understanding of each subject and know exactly which subject they are studying. However, the curriculum is designed to embed transferable skills throughout, without weakening essential skills-based learning. The outstanding quality of our classroom environments serves to stimulate and engage higher thinking. At Queenswood School, we also recognise the importance of feedback, both adult and peer, as an integral part of the teaching and learning cycle, and aim to maximise the effectiveness of its use in practice. Curriculum planning is flexible in that we always intend to meet the needs of our pupils.

Curriculum Impact

Lessons are planned to have clear learning objectives, based upon the teacher's detailed knowledge of each child. We strive to ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to each child's level of ability and that the expected outcomes for each lesson are clear in our plans. If any individual children do not achieve at the expected level for the lesson, we use this information when planning for the next lesson.

Day-to-day, on-going assessment is a crucial method of assessment which provides instant feedback to the teacher and ensures progress within every lesson. 'Assessment for Learning' strategies are used in all lessons; these provide a clear picture of a child's level of understanding and ensure that teachers can quickly assess when a child does not understand and needs greater support. Lessons are flexible enough to allow teachers to adapt to the needs of the child and we are able to adapt the next lesson in order to best suit the children's level of understanding.

Progress is assessed regularly. At the end of each term, assessment data is gathered and progress is checked by subject coordinators and the Senior Leadership Team. Children are expected to make good or better progress in all subjects and this individual progress is tracked. In cases where children are identified as making 'slow progress' in English or Maths, rapid interventions are put in place to address gaps in learning.

English: The teaching of English at Queenswood School is designed to instil in children a love of speaking and listening, reading and writing that will last them a lifetime. Giving pupils the key skills in English enables them to access material in all curriculum areas, and provides a foundation for their learning throughout their school career. To achieve this, teachers are focussed on making English interesting and exciting, engaging the pupils with the joy and wonder of books and piquing their imagination and creativity. English is integral to the holistic development of the pupil, fostering positive behaviours and attitudes toward learning; providing key knowledge and skills; it benefits pupils throughout their education and beyond.

Mathematics: It is of paramount importance to ensure that our children have the best possible grounding in Mathematics. We aim to spark a curiosity and excitement for Maths learning and instil confidence and knowledge in children as they embark on their journey to mastering the Maths curriculum. Our pedagogy encourages an exciting growth mind and problem-solving approach. All children are encouraged to believe in their ability to master Maths and they are empowered to have the curiosity and persistence they need in order to succeed; both individually and while tackling the same concepts at the same time and progressing together as a whole class.

Science: At Queenswood School we encourage children to explore their curiosities and theories relating to Science. We try to ensure that children are excited and intrigued by the topics, through varied and exciting activities and investigations. We strive to incorporate Science across the curriculum, linking themes from other topics or organised days, events and trips to the subject. Our curriculum aims to broaden the children's scientific view of, and respect for the world around them, whilst promoting a love for enquiry and a desire for exploring new things. It is important for the children to understand the various routes and diverse career opportunities within the STEM industries and for the children to see that scientists are not old men in white coats but young women, students and anyone with a curiosity about the natural world.

Computing: We value the contribution that ICT can make for the benefit of all pupils, staff, parents and the wider community. Our aim is to provide an ICT rich environment which allows pupils to gain the confidence and ability to prepare them for the challenge of a rapidly developing and changing technological world. To achieve our aim we will:

- Use ICT where appropriate to motivate and inspire pupils and raise standards across the curriculum;
- Develop pupil's computing skills, knowledge, understanding and capability and provide varied opportunities for pupils to apply and consolidate their computing capability across all curriculum contexts;
- Assess ICT with a focus on pupil's skills and future targets;
- Encourage learning out of school hours and promote links with parents and the wider community;
- Use ICT to support all pupils to ensure they are able to reach their full potential, regardless of gender, disability or ethnicity;
- Make children aware of inappropriate use of ICT and how to use it safely and responsibly;

- Take responsibility as staff for our own continuing professional development in the Computing curriculum and ICT;
- Ensure our ICT resources are easily accessible;
- Use creativity with technology in varied aspects of the curriculum and life.

Our aim is to equip the children with the skills required to use computers effectively to enable them to maximise their potential. To do this, we aim to develop teaching strategies which promote resilience, independence, critical thinking, communication skills, basic skills and problem solving. We hope our pupils at Queenswood School will become confident with technology, but will also see the benefits of using technology in later life. We aim for our children to become digital leaders, who are ready to meet the challenges of their digital future.

History: At Queenswood School, we believe that children should gain a coherent knowledge and understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider world which helps to stimulate children's curiosity to know more about the past. Children should learn to ask perceptive questions, think critically, weigh evidence, sift arguments, and develop perspective and judgement. Our History curriculum ensures that children will have a chronological understanding of British history from Stone Age to present day. They are able to draw comparisons and make connections between different time periods and their own lives. Interlinked with this is the need to look at world history such as the ancient civilisations of Egypt, Greece and the Romans. The units are enriched by cross curriculum work when appropriate. Children learn through enquiry based learning opportunities to gain a greater understanding of Britain's and the World's history.

Geography: We believe that Geography helps to provoke and answer questions about the natural and human worlds; encourages children to develop a greater understanding of their world and their place in it and helps to develop a range of investigation and problem-solving skills that are transferable to other curriculum areas and which can be used to promote children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Geography is, by nature an investigative subject, which develops an understanding of concepts, knowledge and skills. We seek to inspire in children a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people which will remain with them for the rest of their lives; to promote children's interest and understanding about diverse places, people, resources and natural and human environments, together with a deep understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes.

PE: PE plays an important role across the curriculum. Not only can it teach children about developing important skills and keeping themselves healthy but also about problem solving, self-assessment (identifying their strengths), communication, team work and competitiveness which can be carried across all the different subjects in the curriculum. Building vital skills, whether in football, gymnastics or dance are extremely important and every child will constantly and consistently develop their own personal PE skills from EYFS up to Year 6. We provide many opportunities for children to access sport, through PE lessons, additional activities and sports games. By ensuring that our children are active, they develop and improve across the whole curriculum and we see that this contributes to their overall personal health and well-being. Our children also enjoy weekly swimming lessons at the local sports centre, from EYFS through to Year 6.

The Arts:

Art and Music: At Queenswood School we believe that the arts offer opportunities for our children to explore, express and communicate their feelings whilst gaining experiences of the wider world. Our children are provided with opportunities to a wide range of arts experiences as part of and in addition to the curriculum. Through experiencing the arts, children develop their creativity, self-esteem and confidence. Our creative arts programme, including music, dance, drama and art significantly impacts cognitive development,

increases self-esteem, and actively engages everyone in learning. Our arts provision enables our children to perform and share their achievements with each other and wider audiences; thus supporting outstanding personal development opportunities. We have many concerts, plays and events throughout the year for our children to shine.

Design Technology: Design and Technology is an inspiring, rigorous and practical subject which encourages children to learn to think and intervene creatively to solve problems both as individuals and as members of a team. We encourage children to use their creativity and imagination, to design and make products that solve real and relevant problems within a variety of contexts, considering their own and others' needs, wants and values. We aim to, wherever possible, link work to other disciplines in cross-curricular ventures. The children are also given opportunities to reflect upon and evaluate past and present design technology, its uses and its effectiveness and are encouraged to become innovators and risk-takers. Through a variety of creative and practical activities we teach the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to engage in the process of designing and making.

PSHE: At Queenswood School, personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education is an embedded part of our broad and balanced curriculum. Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development is at the heart of our school ethos. British Values are promoted through the overarching aims and objectives of PSHE by supporting our children to become healthy and responsible members of society, as well as preparing them for life and work in modern Britain.

RE: We believe that Religious Education plays an important part in developing our children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural growth. Through the teaching of R.E. children gain a better understanding of themselves and their belief system and also develop an awareness of the differing beliefs of others. R.E. offers our children the means by which to understand how other people choose to live and to understand why they choose to live in that way. This helps children to develop respect and tolerance towards their peers, staff and the community as a whole. As well as developing factual knowledge of a variety of religions, R.E. also encourages students to ask questions about life, develop self-reflection and promotes attitudes of confidence and thoughtfulness about themselves. We aspire to help children to develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues which is an essential skill in our 21st century multi-cultural society.

French: This is offered in KS2. Our aim is to encourage children's confidence and creative skills. We strive to stimulate and encourage children's curiosity about language. We help children develop their awareness of cultural differences in other countries. At Queenswood School we strive to embed the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing skills necessary to enable children to use and apply their French learning in a variety of contexts and lay the foundations for future language learning. Our curriculum is designed to progressively develop children's skills through regular taught lessons. Children progressively acquire, use and apply a growing bank of vocabulary organised around topics. Children are encouraged and supported to develop their speaking and listening skills through conversational work, singing activities and games. As confidence and skill grows, children record their work through pictures, captions and sentences. Children access work at age related expectations, with regular opportunities to be challenged through higher-level objectives. Children are assessed according to age related expectations in line with curriculum requirements.