



# Primary Curriculum

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**Staff Responsible:** Deputy Head – Shane Donovan

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**Approved by:** Curriculum Lead – Jo Baker      **Date:** 20/11/19

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**Last reviewed on:** November 2019

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**Next review due by:** November 2020

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## Ripplevale School Primary School Curriculum

***‘Ripplevale School provides a caring learning environment where our pupils make meaningful progress, relative to their individual starting points. Our aim is to encourage them to develop appropriate personal, social and employable skills enabling them to become confident, independent and aspiring young people.’***

### **Curriculum Aims**

Our aim is for every one of our pupils to leave Ripplevale School as independent and socially competent adults. We want them to be healthy, able to access employment, gain job satisfaction, learn new skills, and to be eager to continue learning.

### **Curriculum Overview**

Our primary department gives children the very best start in their lifelong learning. We work alongside National Curriculum requirements to enhance our own rich and relevant curriculum offer. Pupils access the National Curriculum through cross-curricular learning that enables them to practice important transferable skills that will provide the underpinning for their lifelong learning. The curriculum is highly differentiated to address individual needs and allow for both academic and personal progress to be made through experiential and challenging learning opportunities that are specifically designed to revisit and reinforce key skills.

We use the word “curriculum” to encapsulate all the learning opportunities that are experienced by our pupils. We aim to cover many of the broader areas of learning to ensure we are providing a robust set of life skills to support current and future successes.

### **The National Curriculum**

At Primary we offer a relevant, rich and dynamic curriculum which includes all statutory curricula for relevant ages. Learning is linked to a "theme" to allow for a cross-curricular and holistic approach, incorporating statutory subjects alongside enrichment opportunities such as an off-site trip or special events in school. Sometimes a subject may be taught on its own, separate from the topic, if necessary. Maths and English are taught separately every day.

### **Intervention and Support**

A variety of teaching methods and adaptations are employed to deliver the curriculum. Learning habits are embedded by pupils and equip them with the foundations to enjoy a successful school career. With a range of support and interventions available at Ripplevale, the curriculum is tailored even further to address the specific needs of pupils, these include support from therapy and intervention. These include: occupational health, speech and language, mental health and wellbeing, literacy, numeracy, play therapy, counselling and Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT).

## **Personal Development & SMSC**

At Ripplevale, we recognise that encouraging and supporting a child's personal development is a crucial factor in their ability to enjoy learning and to achieve. As such, we aim to provide an environment and opportunities that enable children to explore and develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally.

Personal Development is embedded throughout all areas of the primary curriculum and support children to go beyond the acquisition of academic knowledge in order to work towards achieving EHCP outcomes and supporting pupils in developing strategies to help them access learning.

Personal and interpersonal skills and capabilities underpin success in all aspects of life. It is important, therefore, that children's mental health & wellbeing, self-esteem and self-confidence are explicitly fostered along with the ability to understand and manage their own emotions and to interact effectively with others.

## **Fundamental British Values**

We actively promote the fundamental British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance (for those with different faiths and beliefs) across the primary department. We plan a wide range of learning experiences and activities that reflect and value the diversity of children's experiences and actively challenge gender, cultural and radical stereotyping. We help the children gain an understanding of people, families and communities beyond their immediate experience. We promote positive behaviour and equal opportunities.

## **Enrichment**

Primary pupils participate in the highly successful enrichment programme. One afternoon per week is dedicated for pupils to extend their learning through a range of enrichment activities. The provision can take place on or off site, and may include trips to local points of interest, sporting activities and guest speakers attending school. A focus on developing independent and life skills is vital for our pupils to ensure they are equipped for life beyond Ripplevale. Real-life experiences, such as shopping, journeys on public transport, and using leisure facilities form part of our enrichment programme.

## **Outdoor Learning**

Pupils within the primary department are also able to extend their learning through weekly visits to our Outdoor Learning area where they have the opportunity to learn in an outdoor environment that stimulates their interest in the natural world. Our Outdoor Learning area provides innumerable lessons about some very contemporary issues around sustainability of natural resources and how to care for our planet. It also offers a sense of tranquility, freedom and creativity where poems, paintings, songs and plays are inspired performed and enjoyed.

## **On-line safety**

Being aware of how to be safe when interacting with the wide range of ICT resources available to the school is an entitlement of all members of our school community. Pupils are taught as part of their curriculum about how to recognise and avoid danger when using ICT resources. Staff work to prevent any member of Ripplevale becoming the victim of online exploitation and/or cyber-bullying. E Safety is taught as part of the PHSE and computing curriculum as well as through enrichment and theme days.

## **Working with Parents**

Education Health Care meetings are held once a year. This process ensures that each and every pupil receives an appropriate curriculum with the support and additional interventions necessary to make meaningful progress. It provides a forum for all stakeholders to come together; the pupil, parents/carers, school staff and external professionals that may be involved with the education and health of the individual such as Occupational Therapists, Speech and Language Therapists, Educational Psychologists, Specialist Teachers and School Nurses. Priorities for pupils are identified by setting aspirational goals. These long-term goals can then be worked towards by setting smaller targets within medium term outcomes. These plans are reviewed three times a year; the annual review, and three parent's evenings.

## **Reports**

Reports detailing attainments within each subject area are provided to parents 3 times a year. Teachers have high expectations for every pupil and set targets that are deliberately ambitious. Each report gives a predicted target and a measure of how well the pupil is achieving the target, along with a measure of behaviour and effort during lessons. These provide parents/carers with an overview of pupil performance that highlights areas of success as well as areas that need further support and suggested tasks for home.

## **Transition to Secondary**

Throughout their time with us in Primary we prepare pupils for the transition to secondary education at Ripplevale Secondary School, or if possible and appropriate, into mainstream provision.

## UPDATE SCHEDULE

Version	Reviewed	Reason for update
V2	November 2019	Updating curriculum over to include enrichment & outdoor learning