

THE SCOPE OF THE CURRICULUM

The school makes the necessary arrangements for the fulfilment of its statutory duties with regard to the national curriculum, however it is our belief that our curriculum should actively reflect the needs and aspirations of our children and the wider community. We hold regular curriculum reviews with the children to make sure that our curriculum continues to inspire and challenge.

CURRICULUM RATIONALE

We take a largely themed approach throughout the school, concentrating on skills based teaching through specific topics/themes. We still maintain that there should be knowledge based area of the curriculum and again, these come through themed topics. Again, through observation, assessment and evaluation, we can ensure that the particular needs and priorities of the school can be met through curricular review.

Maths and English are covered in a daily basis. We believe that these form the building blocks that all skills and knowledge can be built upon.

We emphasise the teaching of Languages and keep connections with the global community through dedicated language teaching, so that our children have not only an appreciation of cultures, beliefs and lifestyles different from their own.

We emphasise speaking and listening through our Family Groups, debating sessions and links with Parliamentary Outreach to enable our children to put their points across effectively. We firmly believe that children need to communicate effectively to succeed in whichever walk of life they choose.

We hold dedicated Family Groups and SMSCD/PSHE Sessions to ensure our pupils' wellbeing. We recognise that one in four children on average currently experience mental health difficulties and these sessions help us as a 'family' to talk through concerns and anxieties.

We recognise the importance of PE across the curriculum to support healthy lifestyles, combat childhood obesity and to diversify the curriculum. A regular programme of festivals, after school clubs, competitions and our Daily Mile help us to deliver this.

We work extensively with OASES, an outdoor learning organisation, to further diversify the curriculum and bring teaching and learning outside the classroom.

PRINCIPLES OF CURRICULUM STRUCTURE

BREADTH

Our school's curriculum fully encompasses the 2014 national curriculum and provides for an expression of our own priorities, including;

- Effective communication, both written and oral
- English
- Maths
- R.E.
- Modern Foreign Languages and International Studies
- Information Technology
- Music
- Art
- P.E.
- Science
- Topic (Geography & History, Art & Design Technology).
- PSHE, Citizenship & British Values
- Debate
- Cooking
- Healthy Living (FISCH).
- Outdoor learning. (OASES).

CURRICULAR VISITS

- Newcastle University Campus Explorers
- Newcastle University Safari
- Cultural Exchange, Giessen, North Germany
- Sunderland Stadium of Light

- Binchester Roman Fort
- London, Houses of Parliament
- St. James' Stadium
- Head of Steam
- Mowden Park Rugby Club
- Great North Museum
- Newcastle University
- Oriental Museum
- Beamish Museum
- Bowes Museum
- Gala Theatre
- Palace Green Gardens
- Botanical Gardens
- Robinwood
- Lockerbie Manor
- Bowless
- Gaunless Valley
- Locomotion
- Sea Life Centre
- Newcastle Central Mosque
- Life Centre
- Discovery Museum
- Arbeia Roman Fort

CAREERS/ FUTURE STEPS

To give our children a taste of possible progression and career paths, the school organises career visits to;

- Evenwood Engineering
- CA Roofing
- University of Childhood
- Newcastle University Campus & Safari Projects.

BALANCE

Balance within the curriculum is largely about the attention given to each curriculum area. It is fundamentally about time and how it is used.

Most mornings are devoted to English and Maths as these provide the bedrock for all understanding and learning.

Afternoons are devoted to applying the skills taught through English and Maths towards a thematic topic approach and in other subject areas.

Discrete time is also given to concentrating on the wellbeing of our children.

This takes place through;

- Assemblies
- PSHE & Citizenship sessions (regularly child Led)
- British Values & Citizenship are regularly taught through the Votes for Schools Programme
- Discrete and themed PSHE and Citizenship lessons
- Safeguarding is taught through Gooseberry Planet, E-cadets, Safer Internet Week and Safe Assemblies.
- Visits from outside agencies such as Fire, Police and Medical Services also contribute towards the children's understanding of how to keep themselves safe.

PROGRESSION

The curriculum is on a two Year Cycle. Key Stage One has a three year cycle.

Subject coordinators can play a leading role in establishing a progressive and continuous programme in each subject.

The curriculum is reviewed and modified through consultations with both children and staff.

CURRICULUM PRIORITIES: STANDARDS, THE ARTS, PE & G&T

We have prioritised certain aspects of the curriculum that we feel require extra time and emphasis. Using assessment and evaluation, there may be a need for our pupils to have further work in English and Maths, this might include additional writing sessions each week and booster work with teachers and teaching assistants across the school.

Finally, at Ramshaw a creative and enriched curriculum plays a major part in school life. We place great importance on the development of creative thought through Dance, Music and Drama. Creative arts weeks, enrichment days and Dance Festivals play a major part in promoting this area of the curriculum. This emphasis and quality of such work has been commended in the achievement of our Artsmark Award, International Award, School Speakers Award, Healthy Schools Award, LGBT Best Practice Award and Food for Life Awards.

We use our Sports Funding to enable our children to participate in as many Festivals, Competitions and Tournaments as we can with our local cluster schools. We're keen to give our children experience of as many different and varied activities as we can, including Archery, Swordfencing, and Orienteering.

CREATIVITY AND THE ARTS

At Ramshaw creativity means aspects of the curriculum that develop our pupils' capacities for original ideas and action and enable them to engage positively with the growing complexity and diversity of social values and ways of life. We have built into our curriculum time for developing children's creative thought by ensuring extra time devoted to enrichment days, Dance Festivals, theatre visits, author visits and music festivals.

P.S.H.E. AND CITIZENSHIP

At Ramshaw SRE is currently taught via PSHE and through the School Nurse. However, Health, Social Education and Citizenship are also taught; not only discretely but also permeate the whole of the curriculum. Issues are addressed through Assemblies, Group Discussions and visits from Health Workers.

Votes for Schools provides a major platform for discussion of British Values and current affairs.

Our children take part in cross-school debates on current issues both national and international.

We aim to give pupils the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to lead confident, healthy independent lives and become informed, active, responsible citizens. All pupils at Ramshaw are encouraged to take part in a wide range of activities and experiences across and beyond the curriculum, contributing fully to the life of our school and communities.

Extra Curricular Activities

Mornings – Breakfast Club: 8:00-8:45

- Dance Club

- Yoga
- Archery
- Astronomy
- Football
- Sports Club
- Cookery Clubs
- Swordfencing
- Art

Impact

- Improved knowledge and understanding of different cultures leading to appreciation of the diverse elements of each country.
- Through Votes for Schools debates, children have improved oracy, articulacy and having the eloquence and confidence to express themselves clearly . Children also get to have an opinion on current events and issues and can compare with other opinions both locally and nationally. This gives them increased life chances in future educational and career opportunities. This also allows children to explore British Values and Prevent agendas.
- Children are taken out of comfort zone and exposed to new concepts and ideas and therefore broadening horizons and aspirations.
- Children are inspired to explore a topic further through visits, research and modelling of the topics learned in school.
- Children’s creativity encouraged and curiosity sparked through exposure to new and unfamiliar experiences.
- Through University visits and future career opportunities, children are able to extend their own potential and aspirations for future careers.
- Evidence of children’s cultural appreciation apparent in work and around the school building and in conversations.
- Through Educate and Celebrate, children have an awareness and empathy with different kinds of families and different types of lifestyle.

Accessibility

The school has links with a variety of organisations to subsidise transport costs, e.g. Northern Heartlands and Bowes Museum, and North Star Housing.