



THE HESSE ACADEMY
Curriculum Policy – Primary Phase



Effective Date:

April 2016

Date of minuted approval by the Board of Governors:

22 March 2018

Review Committee:

Primary Local Board

Review Date:

April 2019

Owner:

Head of School

Rationale

Creating an ethos and environment in which pupils can enjoy learning, reflect, improve and grow in confidence, is fundamental to learning and, therefore to our school. This policy reflects our values and philosophy in relation to the teaching and learning of our thematic curriculum.

What does thematic learning look like at Penshurst Primary School?

We aim to:

- enthuse our pupils with an exciting, modern curriculum that drives learning across all Key Stages
- provide a curriculum with a full and broad coverage for all pupils
- meet all statutory requirements of the Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 national curriculum creating opportunities that develop investigative, creative and practical skills for all
- ensure British Values are celebrated within each theme
- encourage an understanding of diversity, culture and religion and celebrate difference

1. We aim to enthuse our pupils with an exciting, modern curriculum that drives learning and progress across all Key Stages.

There will be evidence in all our classrooms and across the wider school environment of the impact of our curriculum on pupils' enjoyment and outcomes by:

- displays linked to each theme, celebrating the work of the pupils
- interactive displays including books for pupils to use for independent research, key words and questions related to the theme on display
- modelled expectations available for reference. E.g. What a good one looks like (WAGOLLs)

Our teachers and staff with specific learning responsibilities will ensure that:

- activities are planned which promote independent and collaborative learning; cross curricular learning is evident in each lesson
- lessons cater for all learning needs: visual, audio and kinaesthetic
- success criteria is clear at the start of the lesson for all pupils to follow and achieve
- trips and visitors are planned to enhance the themes and increase pupil enjoyment
- Reading, Writing, Maths and Science are all included to raise standards in each subject

- Bloom's Taxonomy Higher level thinking skills is used to create purposeful and challenging learning objectives

The Curriculum Leads will ensure that:

- coverage of each theme will be tracked over the year
- monitoring and evaluation of lessons will be regular and inform best practice
- pupil voice feedback will be taken into account
- work scrutiny is undertaken regularly to ensure pupil progress
- challenge days at the end of each theme to celebrate progress made within the topic

We are fortunate that as a member of The Hessle Academy through-school, our pupils have access to specialist facilities for Science, ICT, PE and Performance that other primary school children do not have. We encourage our teachers to access these specialist facilities to enhance the delivery and engagement of learning. We will not always explicitly reference that children will be educated for a specific activity at our other site within the Academy, but all necessary safety precautions will be taken regarding transport and trips and visit guidelines issued by the East Riding.

2. We aim to provide a curriculum with a full and broad coverage for all pupils

There will be evidence in our classrooms and school of:

- cross curricular learning taking place in each lesson and displays celebrating cross curricular thematic work

Our teachers will ensure that:

- each theme will contain evidence of Literacy, Maths, Science and Computing
- knowledge acquisition will form a large part of science lessons to ensure that pupils are at the required standard for the new challenges of KS3 sciences
- History, Geography, Art, D & T (Design & Technology) will be evident in each theme
- To enhance provision of 'The Arts' Music will be delivered as a stand alone lesson
- Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE) will be covered during morning circle time, whole school and class assemblies and linked to appropriate themes

Implications for the whole school will be:

- Staff development opportunities to ensure teaching of MFL (Modern Foreign Languages) is well developed across KS2
- monitoring and evaluation will take into consideration the cross curricular aspects of theme especially ensuring Literacy, Maths, Science and ICT are present.

3. We aim to meet all statutory requirements of the Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 curriculums

There will be evidence in all our classrooms and the wider school environment of:

- differentiated work suitable for all abilities challenge for all pupils
- extension activities which stretch the pupils and match their ability

Our teachers will ensure that:

- lessons are pitched correctly deepening pupils' knowledge and skills throughout the lesson
- themes are followed in their entirety as this allows for the correct progression throughout the key stages
- more able pupils will be catered for through the use of challenging activities

Implications for the whole school will be:

- Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 national curriculum foundation subjects are used to plan theme outcomes

4. We aim to create opportunities that develop investigative, creative and practical skills for all

There will be evidence in all our classrooms and the wider school environment of:

- collaborative learning and independent learning
- open ended Maths, and Science investigations
- ICT (Information Communication and Technology)
- high quality Literacy and Maths within thematic lessons alongside hands -on practical activities

Our teachers will ensure that:

- thematic skills are developed collaboratively and that good practice is modelled to the pupils
- the timetable allows for foundation subjects to be fully covered
- there will be at least one Science and Maths investigation present in each theme

Implications for the whole school will be:

- training in staff meetings to share good practice
- team teaching/ paired observations to share good practice
- example Science (including Computer Science) and Maths investigations provided to staff for each theme
- opportunities provided for cross phase working with KS3/4 practitioners to ensure exciting and progressive coverage