

**NORFOLK HOUSE SCHOOL
CURRICULUM POLICY
(INCLUDING EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE - SCHOOL AND NURSERY)**

Statement of Intent:

The staff and Directors at Norfolk House School believe we should provide a caring, positive, safe and stimulating environment which promotes the social, physical and moral development of the individual child. The school recognises the importance of working within the framework of Every Child Matters: Change for Children and the five outcomes outlined within it:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well being

Introduction

The curriculum at Norfolk House School is made up of all the planned activities that are organised to promote learning, personal growth and development. It includes not only the formal requirements of the National Curriculum, but also a range of extra-curricular activities that the school organises in order to enrich the children's experience.

It also includes the 'hidden curriculum' – what the children learn from the way they are treated and expected to behave. Our pupils grow into positive, responsible people who can work and co-operate with others while at the same time developing their knowledge and skills, in order to achieve their full potential.

Our school curriculum is underpinned by the values that are important at Norfolk House School. The curriculum is the means by which the school achieves its objective of educating children in the knowledge, skills and understanding they need for the future.

Aims

The aims of our school curriculum are:

- to enable all children to learn, and develop their skills to the best of their ability;
- to promote a positive attitude towards learning, so that children enjoy coming to school and acquire a solid basis for lifelong learning;
- to promote high standards of literacy, numeracy and science and to be confident in their use of I.C.T.;
- to enable children to be creative and develop their own thinking;
- to appreciate and value the contribution made by all ethnic groups in our multi-cultural society;
- to enable children to be positive citizens;
- to enable children to have respect for themselves and to have high self-esteem;
- to promote an awareness of the importance of a healthy lifestyle;
- to provide equality of opportunity for all pupils to make progress.

The curriculum is planned effectively, providing continuity and progression. Through the provision of a range of activities we aim to;

- encourage the highest levels of attainment for all pupils;
- enable pupils to begin to make connections across different areas of learning;
- help pupils to think creatively and solve problems by applying their knowledge;
- develop pupils' capacity to learn and work both independently and collaboratively;
- enable pupils to respond positively to opportunities, challenge and responsibility;
- enable pupils to acquire and develop a broad range of knowledge, skills and understanding.

The Organisation of the Curriculum

- the curriculum is taught through discrete subjects and linked ‘topic’ areas where relevant;
- long term plans are in place covering each academic year;
- medium term plans are in place and they contain the detail of the work covered with a progression of learning objectives;
- short term plans are written daily in a diary format. They also differentiate, evaluate and learning objectives;
- children are taught with their year groups with occasional individual support given outside the classroom.

Curriculum Challenge Weeks

Twice a year the whole school participates in a Curriculum Challenge Week. Each week has a main subject focus (e.g. Mathematics, Art/DT, English and Geography) and is carefully planned to include as many cross-curricular aspects as possible. The children are encouraged to work in a variety of ways, including individual, paired and group work. Practical work forms a large part of these weeks. Outings are encouraged to supplement the curriculum.

EYFS Curriculum

In Norfolk House Nursery the EYFS curriculum is evident in everything the children do. Children’s learning and development is rigorously planned for every individual child to allow them to achieve their full potential.

The Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum underpins all the work done in the early years classes at Norfolk House School. (Reception and Transition). The detailed curriculum is planned in line with the EYFS regulations and framework.

Under the guiding theme of Learning and Development there are six clear areas of learning:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development
Communication, Language and Literacy
Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy
Knowledge and Understanding of the World
Physical Development
Creative Development

All areas of learning are of equal importance and are delivered in conjunction with each other. The development of each child is recorded through the use of assessment scales which provide an accurate and detailed insight into the progress made by the individual children.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Headmistress and the Deputy Headmistress have the responsibility for the leadership of the curriculum. Responsibility for individual subject areas is delegated to key members of staff:

- subject co-ordinators are responsible for monitoring the medium term plans and liaising with class teachers over the content and delivery of the units of work. They regularly evaluate and monitor standards in their subject;
- class teachers ensure that the curriculum is taught and that the aims are achieved for their class;
- class teachers ensure that the progress of each pupils is tracked and that there is appropriate challenge, support and intervention.

To be reviewed December 2011