

The National Curriculum defines the programmes of study for key subjects in maintained / state primary and secondary schools in England (Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have their own equivalents). Fundamentally, it sets out what your child is supposed to learn, and when. A new version was introduced in September 2014. Academies, free schools and independent schools do not have to follow the curriculum.

The current Government's view was that the old curriculum wasn't sufficiently challenging. The new curriculum has been developed partly by comparing England's curriculum to those in other countries. The Department of Education has combined the best elements of what is taught in the world's most successful school systems, including Hong Kong, Massachusetts, Singapore and Finland, with some of the most impressive [existing] practice from schools in England.

Here at St White's School, we have developed our integrated curriculum to reflect the changes to the new National Curriculum. The result is a creative, inspiring, relevant and dynamic approach to learning which responds to the needs of our pupils and teaches them the skills to thrive.

The National Curriculum consists of the core subjects of English, maths and science, which run the through the school year. Foundation subjects such as PE and Languages are also taught on a weekly basis, whereas history, geography, art and design, design and technology, computing and music may be blocked into units of work at various times of the year. RE follows the locally Agreed Syllabus and may also be blocked.

As a framework, we have used the National Curriculum 2014 document ensuring appropriate coverage of the programmes of study for each statutory subject is reinforced by the rigorous acquiring of skills in each area. The curriculum overview ensures that meaningful and appropriate links are made between subjects, but not at the expense of quality of learning in the individual subject. Care has been taken to allow for flexibility in response to local or global issues, and staff strengths and interests. The physical resources of the school have been utilised to create a learning journey where all children will be 'secondary ready'.

The Key Stage 2 curriculum is organised so that children will re-visit many areas during their four years here, reinforcing and building on prior learning, while still keeping the learning experience fresh and interesting. The school's curriculum leader has an overview of coverage and progression, while subject leaders monitor standards, progress and attainment in their own subject area. In some subjects, the leaders are shadowed and supported by other members of staff to ensure continuity and progression.

Throughout the school week, opportunities are sought to enhance the children's spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development. These are supported by the PSHE sessions that feature in each year group. In doing so, we aim to ensure pupils are aware of the history and values of Britain, and prepares pupils for life in modern Britain.

Underpinning all of this are the four key learning values of **Challenge, Commit, Conquer and Celebrate**, designed to encourage the children to develop effective learning behaviours for life.

The new National Curriculum will be assessed for the first time in May 2016. There will be new tests for children at the end of Key Stage 1, as well as those at the end of Key Stage 2. The tests will cover English reading, English grammar, punctuation and spelling, and mathematics at Key Stages 1 and 2. There will also be a Key Stage 2 science sampling test every other year.