

# Collierley Nursery and Primary School



## Curriculum Policy 2018

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***“Students learn best what they have to figure out for themselves.”***

**summary of teachings by Piaget, Bruner, Papert, Dewey and assorted other scholars.**

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## Statement of intent

At Collierley we aim to provide a curriculum to develop curious thinkers with a love of learning who can demonstrate independent thought. Our curriculum aims to create an environment where questioning, risk-taking, thinking for oneself and the freedom to learn from mistakes are all encouraged. Using the framework of the [2014 National Curriculum for England and Wales](#) to provide a broad and balanced education, we have developed schemes of work to achieve aims appropriate for the children in our school. These schemes were written with the needs of the children and the setting of the school in mind.

We are committed to:

- **Engendering a culture of inquiry within the school.** Children need to feel comfortable to ask questions and share their ideas with the teacher and their peers. If this is in place, they are far more likely to contribute to discussions and provide ideas.
- **Teaching a deep understanding of foundation skills.** Unless children have the necessary skills they will be unable to fully access the curriculum.
- **Involving all staff, pupils and parents/carers in the curriculum development/review process.**
- **Building upon the children's pre-existing knowledge and experiences.** The children will have the opportunity to direct their learning based upon their interests. Teachers will use a range of pre-assessment methods to ensure a solid knowledge base.
- **Spontaneity.** Although our curriculum is based around skills and questions to answer, we will also build on questions and discussions raised in class.
- **Using the outside spaces to provide active and exciting learning experiences.**

## Principles

Using a skills based, inquiry led curriculum, our aim is to develop learners who:

- are excited by learning and become lifelong learners.
- are able to link areas of knowledge and transfer skills from one area to another.
- have the ability to solve problems using the resources, skills and knowledge they have gained.
- can develop for themselves an active and healthy lifestyle with good emotional intelligence.
- are reflective learners who understand their strengths and how they can be used.
- can identify areas for development and know what to do in order to progress.
- can show resilience in their learning, persevering even when tasks are difficult, knowing when and how to ask for help when its needed.
- can work effectively as a team.
- become increasingly independent through their time in the school, showing initiative and that they can organise themselves.

## **Rationale**

The curriculum at Collierley Nursery and Primary School supports our ethos:

*“We believe that our school will nurture all individuals in their journey to achieve their full and unique potential. Collierley Primary School is committed to developing a welcoming safe and stimulating learning environment that will enable our pupils to become responsible citizens and lifelong learners. We are aware that our pupils bring different experiences, interests and strengths, which will influence the way they learn.”*

## **Curriculum Delivery**

Classroom staff and children were asked about a vision for the curriculum and how people learn best. The responses were remarkably similar:

- active
- purposeful
- asking and answering questions
- solving problems
- led by the children
- relevant

These responses demonstrate that an inquiry curriculum addresses the needs and wishes of children and staff alike. The curriculum is seen at Collierley Primary School as the entire learning experience. This includes learning both inside and outside the classroom and experiences the children will gain through visits and visitors. English and Mathematics are taught as separate lessons so that the children gain the necessary skills to be able to access the rest of the curriculum. Before beginning an inquiry led unit of work, teachers ensure that all children have the pre-existing knowledge and experiences to be able to build upon. Science and the foundation subjects are split into a series of skills based upon the subject aims of the 2014 National Curriculum. This ensures skills are acquired and practised across the year and built upon from one year to the next.

## **Literacy Across the Curriculum**

It is essential that all our pupils become literate and good communicators. In all subjects, pupils are taught to express themselves correctly and appropriately on paper and orally. They are given the opportunity to make presentations, debate and take part in discussions in lessons. They will use the skills of reading accurately and with understanding.

## **Numeracy Across the Curriculum**

Similarly, the skills from numeracy are used across subjects where appropriate. This takes many forms: the presentation and analysis of information from charts, graphs and tables; the use of measures including time; the methodology of problem solving and reasoning...

## **PSHCE and British Values**

At Collierley Nursery and Primary School we uphold and teach the British Values of

Democracy  
The rule of law  
Individual liberty  
Mutual respect  
Tolerance.

These are taught through our broad and balanced curriculum and, where appropriate, explicitly in Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship Education (PSHCE) lessons.

Curriculum planning and delivery includes opportunities for exploring and debating these values and issues.

Assemblies once a week focus on these values and support children in deepening their understanding.

## **OPaL**

We are fortunate to have extensive and varied school grounds at Collierley Primary to facilitate Outdoor Play and Learning. Much work has been completed to ensure these are used by all pupils at all times of the year. Through outdoor play, children are not only more active and developing valuable life skills, they are also more comfortable about taking risks. Outdoor learning is incorporated into the curriculum and is used to stimulate learning. We encourage the children in our school to take risks with their learning; to become more comfortable with:

- Questioning
- Collaboration
- Negotiation
- Creativity
- Problem solving
- Applying skills

## **Visits**

The well planned, thorough curriculum delivered at Collierley Primary prepares children for their educational future. We are also aware that we are educating the whole child and that the classroom can be an artificial environment for learning. We have a planned range of visits across all year groups to address a range of aspects of learning. Experiencing visits out of school enhance classroom based learning and take away the danger that children see things only in a textual or abstract way but can make the link to real life.

Education off school site also gives the opportunity for children to reveal talents, knowledge and skills that are not immediately obvious during lessons which can be structured.

## **Visitors**

It is essential that children meet adults other than teachers in the school. We are aware that our pupils need to become familiar with the diverse nature of the outside world. Encouraging visitors from a range of backgrounds, abilities and beliefs can provide inspiration to pupils.

One of the crucial aspects for a child's life skill is interaction and as the interaction with a range of adults increases, so does the skill. Inviting visitors into school can also increase the experience of cultural and social features of the community.

## Forest School

All children attend Forest School with a fully trained practitioner. Forest School is an inspirational process, that offers all learners regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in a woodland or natural environment with trees.

Forest School is a specialised learning approach that sits within and compliments the wider context of outdoor and woodland education. Further members of staff are in the process of being changed so that the all children across the whole school can have the opportunity to:

- Feel unique and valuable
- Become competent to explore & discover
- Experience appropriate risk and challenge
- Initiate and drive their own learning and development
- Experience regular success
- Develop positive relationships with themselves and other people
- Develop a strong, positive relationship with their natural world

## Organisation

All children are taught in mixed ability single age year groups. Maths and English are taught daily with other subjects taught weekly. Children are also taught:

- Science
- Art and Design
- Computing
- Design and Technology
- Geography
- History
- Languages (Key Stage 2)
- Music
- PE

The frequency of the lessons depends upon the skills and topic. The National Curriculum is covered fully each year.

Signed by:

\_\_\_\_\_ Headteacher                      Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair of governors                      Date: \_\_\_\_\_



