



Houldsworth Valley Primary Academy

CURRICULUM POLICY

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Signed:

Chair of Governors

Signed:

Headteacher



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1. INTRODUCTION

Our aim is to meet the needs of pupils at Houldsworth Valley preparing them for adult and working life in the 21st Century. The curriculum that we offer ensures that the pupils have a broad and balanced curriculum that is purposeful and meaningful.

The curriculum should help pupil to:

- Achieve high standards and make excellent progress.
- Enable those not achieving age-related expectations to narrow the gap and catch up with their peers.
- Be challenged and stretched to achieve their potential.

2. AIMS

- Have pupils at its heart, putting their interests first.
- Have a curriculum that is fit for purpose, offering differentiation and personalisation.
- Be a centre of excellence in learning and teaching.
- Achieve and exceed National standards in achievement, attainment and progression.
- Be committed to excellence and continuous improvement.
- Nurture the talents of all and celebrate success.
- Involve the community, parents/carers.
- Be in a learning environment that is inspiring.

3. MATHS

Mathematics helps children to make sense of the world around them through developing their ability to calculate, to reason and to solve problems. It enables children to understand and appreciate relationships and pattern in both number and space in their everyday lives. Through their growing knowledge and understanding, children learn to appreciate the contribution made by many cultures to the development and application of mathematics.

We use the National Curriculum 2014 and the Early Years Foundation Stage Early Learning Goals to plan our curriculum.

We believe in consistency across the school.

- Every class has a Maths lesson daily.
- Every class completes a 10 minutes 'Maths Meeting' daily.
- Every class uses Mathematical music or songs during lesson transitions.
- Every class uses a range of equipment including numicon.
- Every class has a Maths learning wall.
- Every class follows the maths mastery programme up to Year 4 and encourages the children to explain, reason and discuss.

PUMA tests are completed termly to assess whether the pupils are working below, at or above age-related expectations.

4. ENGLISH

4.1 Success For All

Success for All is a prime strategy to teaching English. Success for All is an evidence-based school improvement strategy. We work extensively to embed a consistent and dynamic approach to teaching and learning known as co-operative learning.

Success For All is a whole school improvement programme that:

- Improves teaching and learning - focusing on literacy.
- Secures sustainable improvement.
- Empowers leadership and builds capacity.
- Develops effective use of data - illustrating real time progress

The pupils in the school are set at the appropriate level for their reading and writing. This session lasts for 90 minutes a day. It includes the teaching of phonics, spellings, guided reading and writing. The pupils are assessed every 6 weeks and groups are altered accordingly. The books used are rich and exciting.

4.2 Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar

SPAG is linked to Success For All when appropriate. SPAG is also taught in the foundation subjects in the afternoon.

4.3 Handwriting

- Children are taught the cursive style of handwriting from reception onwards.
- Handwriting Heroes encourages all children to complete their best handwriting in all subjects.
- Letterjoin is used to teach progression in a cursive style.

4.4 Reading

At Houldsworth Valley we believe that an active encouragement for each child to read for pleasure or for 'fun' is an essential part of education. Reading for pleasure provides wide and significant educational advantages across the curriculum. At the core of this is the right for the child to choose texts.

We encourage children to read for pleasure by providing a wide range of texts including picture books for all ages. The children, with help from the class teacher, regularly exchange books. We have a well-stocked library that children can access for an even wider range of reading experiences.

Children take home a book from the library. Parents are encouraged to read with their children and complete a reading log. We encourage older children to comment in their own reading logs and teach them the kind of comments to make.

All classrooms have a dedicated cosy and comfortable reading area stocked with books and magazines.

PIRA tests are completed termly to assess whether the pupils are working below, at or above age-related expectations. Coverage sheets are kept in yellow files. Books indicate progress over time.

4.5 Writing

Children are taught to develop stamina and skills in writing as they progress through the school. They are taught to write at length with accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar. Writing includes narratives, explanations, descriptions, comparisons, summaries and evaluations.

At Houldsworth Valley we see writing as cross-curricular and not just confined to the English lesson so the above skills and objectives are taught in all subjects.

Children write in pencil and in Key Stage two have the opportunity to obtain a pen licence to allow them to write in a handwriting pen.

To give children the opportunity to write at length we have a whole school writing session each week where children are given a 10-minute stimulus and then time to write independently in a quiet environment in their classroom with music playing. Slow writing techniques are often linked to this session.

5. SCIENCE

Our aim in Science is to give children opportunities to observe, record and draw conclusions about the world in which they live. We believe that teaching and learning in Science should stimulate and excite children's curiosity about the world around them. It provides first hand experiences and support for children to develop enquiring minds.

Wherever possible, Science is taught through a practical hands-on approach using our Science Lab. A variety of practical experiences, set in meaningful contexts, helps our pupils to ask scientific questions and then use their knowledge, skills and understanding to find the answers. Working individually, or given a specific role within a group, the children develop the life skills of both independence and collaboration. We use the National Curriculum 2014 and the Early Years Foundation Stage Early Learning Goals to plan our curriculum. Our medium term plans follow a 2 year rolling cycle, ensuring full coverage of the curriculum by the end of each key stage.

As far as possible Science is incorporated within each whole school topic, however when this is not possible Science is taught as a standalone subject for that half term.

Teachers use a range of both formative and summative methods to assess Science with each topic having a required practical skill assessment focus.

6. ICT

The approach to the use of ICT, is to develop usage in line with current educational best practice. In such a fast changing environment there are two essentials: to ensure that the teachers are confident with the use of I pads, IWBs and PCs for facilitating high educational learning experiences and outcomes, and for ensuring strong informed curriculum leadership to remain on top of how ICT raises standards in the classroom. The requirement of the National Curriculum to teach Computer Coding is delivered through a range of hardware which incorporates programmable features such as

responses to sound, light and direction. ICT is integrated into all core lessons: the use of laptops and other hardware such as cameras and film cameras is as much part of the learning tools as would be pencils and pens.

Houldsworth Valley makes considerable use of publishing programmes such as powerpoint and publisher, to allow children access to the widest range of communication outlets.

Computing Programmes of Study:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england-computingprogrammes-of-study>

Resources

<http://primarycomputing.co.uk/>

<http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>

<http://www.computingatschool.org.uk/index.php?id=primary>

7. MFL

We focus on French, building on the knowledge and understanding of the children as they progress through the school. We ensure that teaching is fun, and engaging with an emphasis on spoken language skills, music, movement and role play. We use a variety of rich resources including Rigolo and other online curriculum schemes. A MFL teacher currently teaches Year 5 and 6 from the Trust.

8. TOPIC LEARNING

In topic learning at Houldsworth, we take the children on a journey. Each year group focuses on a different topic termly - History, Geography, Art, Music etc is taught through that topic. By the time they leave Houldsworth Valley the children will have covered the National Curriculum knowledge and skills up to the end of Key Stage 2.

Subjects such as Science are taught as part of a topic where appropriate. All learning planned includes international links. We link skills taught in English and Mathematics to other subjects when possible.

9. PSHE

We are currently working on becoming a 'Rights Respecting' School. We have themed days including focusing on e-safety. We follow a 'ready for life' PSHE curriculum in class and assembly.

10. RE

We follow the Suffolk scheme of work for RE. We link studies of the world faiths to relevant topics wherever appropriate. Staff link RE to our topics when appropriate. Staff either teach RE weekly or as a block.

11. PE

We follow the Suffolk scheme of work for PE. There is a considerable commitment to offering a wide range of sport and physical education at the school. Extensive use is made of specialist teachers and coaches. We ensure wider participation in the community by involvement in interschool sports tournaments. Effective use has been made of the PE and Sports Grant to widen still further involvement in 'hard to reach' pupils and to upskill staff.