



Grasmere Academy

Learn • Flourish • Achieve

# Primary Curriculum Policy

**Date adopted by governors: September 23**

**Committee: Quality Committee**

**Review date: September 24**

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## Statement of intent

At **Grasmere Academy and Stephenson Memorial**, we value pupils' education and aim to provide a broad and balanced curriculum that is accessible to all. We do not tolerate discrimination of any kind and our curriculum celebrates the diverse nature of our society, enabling pupils to embrace the world around them – encouraging adherence with the fundamental British values. It also promotes the spiritual, moral, social, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at our school and of society.

This policy outlines our dedication to establishing a well-rounded and robust curriculum, as well as the provisions surrounding its creation.

# 1. Curriculum intent

Pupils' learning and development is at the heart of our school's curriculum; it is broad and balanced and equips pupils with the skills necessary to succeed in life after school.

This curriculum intent statement outlines how the school has created the curriculum and the benefits it will bring to pupils' learning and self-improvement.

## Curriculum intent

At **Grasmere and Stephenson Memorial**, we have designed our curriculum with pupils' learning at the centre. We recognise that a curriculum has to be broad, balanced and offer pupils opportunities to grow as individuals as well as learners. Our school values the input of its pupils, parents and the local community with regards to the planning and delivery of the curriculum. We believe pupils get a well-rounded education if everyone is involved in shaping it.

We aim to ensure pupils enjoy learning and feel prepared for life after school. We also intend to offer our pupils new and exciting experiences through extra-curricular activities that are designed to build resilience, confidence and self-esteem.

**Classroom-based learning:** Accessing different learning resources and equipment to broaden pupils' knowledge, and making cross-curricular links where applicable, so that pupils can draw upon knowledge from different subjects and understand how each key piece of learning plays a part in everyday life. Classroom teaching also includes one-to-one and small group tuition for pupils who require additional support.

A full list of the subjects available to our pupils can be found in section 6 of this policy.

**Extra-curricular activities:** We provide a variety of extra-curricular activities for pupils that enhance their learning experience, form personal connections with their peers, and teach skills essential for life after school.

# 2. School ethos and aims

2.1. The overall aims of the curriculum are to:

- Enable all pupils to understand that they are all successful learners.
- Enable pupils to understand the skills and attributes needed to be a successful learner.
- Enable pupils to develop their own personal interests and develop a positive attitude towards learning, so that they enjoy coming to school, and acquire a solid basis for lifelong learning.
- Teach pupils the basic skills of literacy, numeracy, ICT and science.
- Enable pupils to be creative through art, dance, music, drama and design and technology, and develop a sound historical knowledge through history
- To create inquisitive, curious and creative minds.

- Enable pupils to be healthy individuals and appreciate the importance of a healthy lifestyle.
- Teach pupils about their developing world, including how their environment and society have changed over time.
- Help pupils understand the fundamental British values, and enable them to be positive citizens in society who can make a difference.
- Fulfil all the requirements of the national curriculum and the locally agreed syllabus for RE.
- Teach pupils to have an awareness of their own spiritual development, and to understand right from wrong.
- Help pupils understand the importance of truth and fairness, so that they grow up committed to equal opportunities for all.
- Enable pupils to have respect for themselves and high self-esteem, and to be able to live and work co-operatively with others.
- Enable pupils to be passionate about what they believe in and to develop their own thoughts on different topics.
- Enable pupils to develop their intellect including their emotional development, ask questions and take appropriate risks.
- Teach pupils about the importance of forming healthy relationships with friends, family and peers.

2.2. Through the aims outlined above, pupils will benefit by:

- Learning how to lead safe, healthy and fulfilling lives.
- Understanding that failure is part of the road to success.
- Being rewarded for academic successes.
- Being supported with their next stages in education and feeling prepared for life after school.
- Becoming responsible individuals who contribute to community living and the environment.
- Achieving to the best of their ability.
- Acquiring a wealth of knowledge and experience.
- Becoming critical thinkers.
- Finding a sense of belonging to the school and its community.
- Learning how to cooperate with their peers and respect one another inside and outside the classroom.

### **3. Legal framework**

3.1. This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- The Education Act 2002
- The Children Act 2004

- The Equality Act 2010
- DfE (2017) 'Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years'
- DfE (2013) 'The national curriculum in England'
- DfE (2023) 'Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage'
- DfE (2019) 'School attendance'

## 4. Roles and responsibilities

4.1. The **governing body** is responsible for:

- Approving and monitoring the content of this policy.
- Liaising with the **Headteacher**, subject leaders and teachers with regards to pupil progress and attainment.
- Formulating a Quality Committee who assists the school with the creation and implementation of the curriculum, as well as measuring its impact.
- Ensuring the curriculum is inclusive and accessible to all.

4.2. The **Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher** is responsible for:

- Devising long- and medium-term plans for the curriculum in collaboration with teachers and other members of the SLT.
- Communicating the agreed curriculum to the **governing body** on an **annual** basis.
- Ensuring the curriculum is inclusive and accessible to all.
- Assisting teachers with the planning and implementation of the curriculum, ensuring their workload is manageable.
- Ensuring the curriculum is implemented consistently throughout the school and ensuring any difficulties are addressed and mitigated as soon as possible.
- Receiving reports on the progress and attainment of pupils and reporting these results to the **governing body**.
- Making any necessary adjustments to the curriculum where required.
- Keeping up-to-date with any relevant statutory updates and taking action where required.
- Creating and maintaining an up-to-date curriculum intent statement.
- Ensuring the curriculum is created in accordance with this policy.
- Updating and maintaining this policy.

4.3. Teachers are responsible for:

- Implementing this policy consistently throughout their practices.
- Ensuring lesson plans are reflective of the school's curriculum.
- Implementing the curriculum in creative ways, appealing to different learning types and keeping pupils engaged in content.
- Creating short-term plans for the curriculum with fellow colleagues and reporting these plans to the **Headteacher**.

- Creating weekly lesson plans in collaboration with colleagues
- Collaborating with the **Headteacher** and the **SENCO** to ensure that the curriculum is inclusive and accessible to all.
- Working closely with the **SENCO** and TAs to ensure those in need receive additional support in lessons.
- Ensuring academically more able pupils are given challenging work to celebrate their talents.
- Celebrating all pupils' academic achievements.
- Reporting progress of pupils with SEND to the **SENCO** and ensuring any difficulties identified are discussed and resolved.
- Monitoring the progress of all pupils and reporting on this to the **Headteacher**.
- Working to close the attainment gap between academically more and less able pupils.

#### 4.4. Subject leaders are responsible for:

- Providing strategic leadership and direction to their team.
- Supporting and offering advice to colleagues on issues relating to the subject or curriculum area.
- Monitoring pupil progress within the subject area and reporting on this to the **Headteacher**.
- Providing efficient resource management for their department.
- Ensuring the curriculum is inclusive and accessible to all.
- Ensuring there are specialist resources and equipment available for pupils in need so that everyone can have full access to the curriculum.

#### 4.5. The **SENCO** is responsible for:

- Collaborating with the **Headteacher** and teachers to ensure the curriculum is accessible to all.
- Ensuring teaching materials do not discriminate against anyone in line with the Equality Act 2010.
- Carrying out SEND assessments where necessary and ensuring pupils receive the additional help they need.
- Liaising with external agencies where necessary to ensure pupils who require additional support receive it.

## 5. Organisation and planning

- 5.1. The school's curriculum will be delivered over 190 days and will be delivered equally throughout the school week.
- 5.2. Each school day will be split into two sections (morning - Literacy and Numeracy will be taught here, afternoon – The wider curriculum will be taught here).
- 5.3. In general, lessons will be delivered through the agreed learning model. This has been produced following research completed around cognitive load theory and metacognition. It outlines the best practise for lesson design.
- 5.4. Lessons will use a range of teaching techniques to appeal to different learning types, e.g. visual, audio and kinaesthetic.
- 5.5. The different learning techniques include:
  - **Using different kinds of questions** to engage pupils and prompt them to apply their knowledge to different examples, e.g. using why and how questions.
  - **Opening discussions** around topics so pupils can learn from their peers and learn how to hold conversations with others.
  - **Holding structured debates** to expose pupils to different points of view and teach them how to negotiate situations where there is a potential conflict of interest, whilst still respecting others' beliefs.
  - **Using assessments/recall and retrieval** to test pupils' knowledge and consolidate learning; these can be through both informal and formal assessments.
  - **Role playing and acting** to develop pupils' empathy and give them the opportunity to explore topics in a more interactive way.
  - **Labelling, ordering and identifying** key themes within texts, dialogues and films to help pupils' coordinate series of events.
  - **Written and spoken tasks** to encourage different methods of expressing ideas, as well as identifying key differences between writing and speaking conventions.
- 5.6. Teachers will plan lessons which are challenging for all pupils and ensure that there are provisions in place for more academically able pupils.
- 5.7. Teachers will plan lessons to accommodate for pupils of mixed ability, making cross-curricular links where possible.
- 5.8. A full list of subjects covered in school can be found in section 6 of this policy.
- 5.9. Teachers will have due consideration for pupils who require additional help within their planning and organisation of lessons.
- 5.10. Disadvantaged pupils and those with SEND and EAL will receive additional support – this will include dedicated time with TAs and access to specialist resources and equipment where required.
- 5.11. TAs will be deployed within lessons strategically so that they can assist with pupils who require additional help, but are also able to minimise disruptions where necessary.



- 5.12. Pupils with EAL will be given the opportunity to develop their English ability throughout lessons where necessary.
- 5.13. Planning will be used to identify any possible difficulties within the curriculum and will break down barriers to learning.
- 5.14. Any difficulties identified will be addressed at the outset of work.
- 5.15. Classrooms will be organised so that pupils have full access to resources and equipment – they will be provided with a rich and varied learning environment that will enable them to develop their skills and abilities.

## **6. Subjects covered**

- 6.1. The school will have due regard to the national curriculum at all times throughout the academic year.
- 6.2. The school will have due regard for the ‘Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage’.
- 6.3. The school will ensure every pupil has access to the following core subjects: (please see separate policies for each of these curriculum areas)
- English
  - Maths
  - Science
  - Relationships and health education
- 6.4. The school will ensure pupils also have access to the following foundation subjects:
- Art and design
  - ICT / Computing
  - Design and technology
  - Languages
  - Geography
  - History
  - Music
  - PE
  - Sex education
  - RE
- 6.5. Project Based Learning - Literacy and Numeracy are taught every morning, all other curriculum areas will be taught in the afternoon. The school has mapped out a knowledge based curriculum, relying on the learning model (fig 1) in order to create a spiral curriculum of constant recall and retrieval and key vocabulary. Autumn and Summer term has a History focus, Spring term focuses on Geography.

Detailed curriculum maps have been produced to ensure that key subject specific knowledge and content can be taught, other areas such as art and music are linked in through using the technical skills that have been designed.

**fig.1 Learning Model**

## **7. PSHE**

- 7.1. Part of the national curriculum includes PSHE lessons where everyday topics, e.g. raising awareness of different cultures or anti-bullying, can be addressed.
- 7.3. All provisions made regarding PSHE lessons will be made in line with the school's **PHSE curriculum coverage map**.

## **8. Monitoring, reporting and assessment**

- 8.1. Homework will be challenging and assess pupils' knowledge and understanding of concepts covered within lessons, this is uploaded to the schools online seesaw account.
- 8.2. Key homework will be set on a **weekly** basis, such as spellings and basic skills in maths, as well as creative project homework.
- 8.3. Informal assessments will be carried out **termly** to measure pupil progress. The results of the assessments will be used to inform future planning and target setting.
- 8.4. Results of informal assessments will be recorded and reported back to the **Headteacher**, pupils and pupils' parents.
- 8.5. Pupils will also complete national assessments. The results of these assessments will be reported back to the **Headteacher**, pupils and their parents.
- 8.6. Assessment of pupils with EAL will take into account the pupils age, length of time in UK, previous education and ability in other languages.
- 8.7. Special measures will be given to pupils who require them, e.g. pupils with SEND, pupils who are ill, or pupils who suffer from conditions that inhibit their academic performance.
- 8.8. All reporting and assessments will be conducted in line with the school's **Assessment Policy**.
- 8.9. A quality monitoring cycle will be produced annually to ensure that school leaders and governors gain an in-depth understanding of how their curriculum subject is being taught and what the outcome of this is on educational outcomes.

## **9. Equal opportunities**

- 9.1. There are nine protected characteristics outlined within the Equality Act 2010, these are:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation

9.2. The school does not tolerate any form of bullying or discrimination against people with one or more of these characteristics. Any pupil or teacher found to be discriminating against any of these characteristics will be disciplined in line with the relevant school policies.

9.3. The school's curriculum will celebrate diversity and the **SLT** has a responsibility to ensure that the curriculum does not discriminate against any of the above characteristics.

9.4. The school will have due regard for the **Equal Opportunities Policy** at all times when planning and implementing the curriculum.

## **10. Supporting pupils with SEND**

10.1. Pupils with SEND will receive the additional support they require both academically and with their personal development, in line with the school's **SEND/Inclusion Policy**.

10.2. Pupils with SEND will work in smaller groups to work on topics covered in lesson to ensure they do not fall behind their peers, this could be through immediate intervention sessions or pre teaching.

10.3. Pupils with SEND will not be discriminated against in any way and they will have full access to the curriculum.

10.4. The progress of pupils with SEND will be monitored by teachers and reported to the **SENCO**.

10.5. The **SENCO** will work closely with teachers to help them break down any barriers pupils with SEND have to education.

## **11. Extra-curricular activities**

11.1. The school offers pupils a wide range of extra-curricular trips and activities to enhance their academic learning and personal development.

11.2. Extra-curricular trips and activities occur outside school hours and can include overnight stays both in the UK and abroad.

11.3. All pupils are able to participate in the activities and trips available. Wherever there is an instance where a pupil cannot participate, the trip or activity will be adapted so that the pupil can take part.

All extra-curricular activities and trips will be planned and executed in accordance with the school's/LA's risk assessments.

## **12. Monitoring and review**

12.1. This policy is reviewed **annually** by the **Headteacher** and the **governing board**.

12.2. Any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all members of staff and relevant stakeholders

This policy covers all subject areas, however, please refer to additional policies for further information on core subjects and RSE.