



Arbour House School

Curriculum Policy

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Arbour House School Curriculum

At Arbour House School the curriculum forms the basis for the learning and experiences our pupils enjoy. Staff have high expectations, set challenging targets and provide excellent individualised support for each pupil. We aspire for our pupils to reach their individual potential through learning in a happy, secure and caring environment.

As part of our commitment to our school's guiding principles – aspire, bespoke and creative – we strive to offer a curriculum that is highly personalised and designed to best meet individual pupils' needs. Most of our children have had periods out of education, many for an extended period of time, and they may have struggled to be successful in prior placements, so an education that is meaningful and accessible to them is our priority.

At Arbour House School we aim to retain most of the statutory elements of the National Curriculum within our Learning Pathways mapping. It is then adapted to meet the special educational needs of our pupils. We believe that this ensures that our pupils have equal access to a broad and balanced curriculum tailored to their individual needs.

Pupils in Key Stages 1-4 follow a core curriculum to support the acquisition of basic skills for life. The key elements of this are English (for some pupils we use Read, Write Inc to support reading), Maths (Numicon) and Information and Communication Technology. They also follow a differentiated PSHE programme, based on JIGSAW, a mindful approach to PSHE and Relationships and Sex Education is adapted in a stage appropriate not age appropriate way when necessary to ensure pupils' SEN is taken into account. Pupils have weekly PE sessions to support their physical development, and have the opportunity to study Science as part of their core provision. At Arbour House we understand that one size does not fit all, and we ensure that programmes of study and resources used to support learning are individualised and the right ones for specific children.

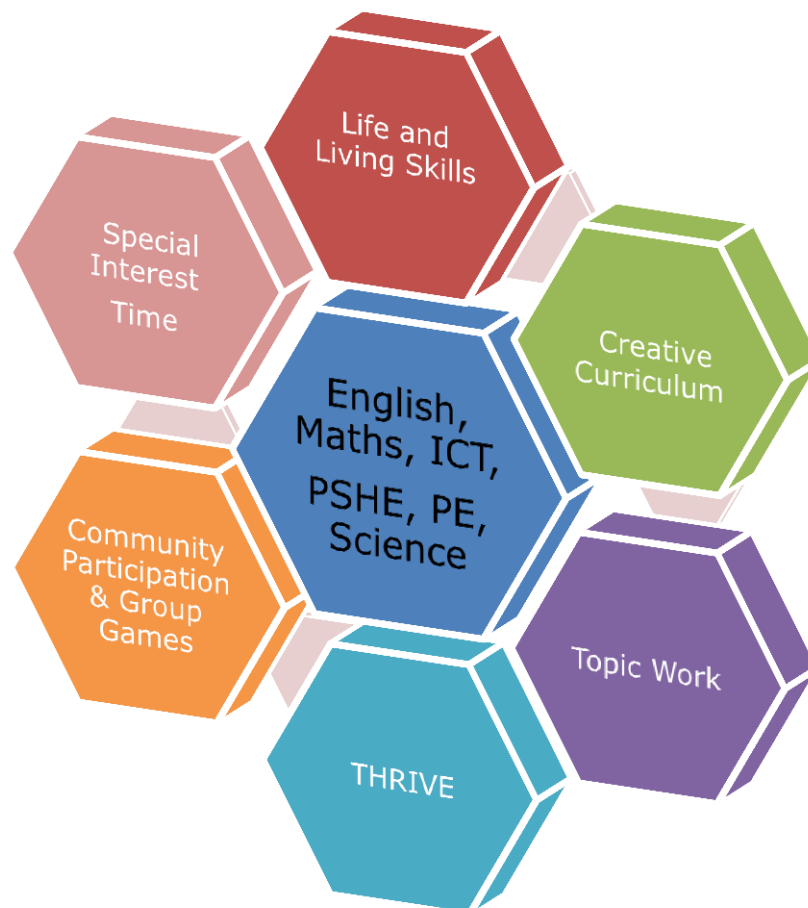
Other curriculum offered includes Life and Living Skills, Humanities (delivered through half termly 'Topic Work'), and weekly Creative Curriculum sessions that offer pupils the opportunity to work in a fun, hands on and creative way, either individually, in peer groups or as a whole school.

In Creative Curriculum pupils learn more about themselves and the world around them. They explore areas of the curriculum and alternative ways of learning not necessarily covered in other subjects, and our CC planning embeds pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development as well as enhancing and supporting their understanding of Fundamental British Values.

All pupils access the local community at least weekly, for library sessions, to use the gym, to access the school allotment, or to shop for ILS activities, and

when appropriate, learning takes place outside the classroom. We aim to make our learning 'real' and functional. For older pupils this also includes opportunities to attain nationally accredited qualifications and experience vocational and/or work-based learning.

We offer all pupils a weekly 'Group Games' session that is designed specifically to develop their social and communication skills, their ability to share and work with others, and also embeds our work on Fundamental British Values and SMSC. It improves their self-esteem and self-confidence, and they learn of the roles and responsibilities of being a valued member of our school community in preparation for taking their place in the wider community outside of the school environment.



Within the overarching framework of our curriculum, the provision at Arbour House School aims to be bespoke to meet pupils' individual special educational needs and is guided by their Education, Health and Care Plans. Pupils may need their provision supplemented by a varied sensory diet for example, with sessions for sensory integration incorporated into their

timetable, or additional occupational therapy or speech and language therapy. Some pupils may be able to work in 45 minute lessons, others in 10 minute chunks, and we aim to facilitate learning in a way that takes individual needs into account and offers opportunities for success for all.

All pupils have their own Thrive Action Plan with individualised activities to support the development of their social and emotional resilience and a 1:1 weekly Thrive session. There are Special Interest sessions weekly too, and pupils can choose themselves what the focus of this time will be, ensuring that they have the chance to pursue their own interests and that their voice is heard.

At Arbour House School we aim to provide a happy, positive, and fulfilling school experience, and to nurture in all of our pupils a love of learning and an enhanced sense of well-being. We want our pupils to develop greater independence, be prepared for key stage transitions, and leave us at the end of their education equipped with the confidence and skills to take their place as contributing and valued members of their community.