



Curriculum Overview

Our school aim is 'to provide an enriched and secure learning environment in which every child can achieve their full potential across all areas of school life: academic, creative, sporting and social.'

At Woodside Primary School, we offer the full Primary National Curriculum, embracing every opportunity to provide additional fun and challenging activities for all children to enjoy. We value school life being about developing the 'whole' child and working closely with families. We offer enrichment activities such as themed weeks, after school clubs and online resources to help with children's learning at home. We promote British Values and uphold our School Values of **determination, respect, friendship, tolerance, self-belief and courage**.

We live and work in a beautiful part of England with a rich history and this is reflected in our curriculum. We share good practice with Steam Mills Primary School and other primary schools within the West Gloucestershire Schools Partnership (WGSP) and we appreciate the activities our feeder secondary schools offer to our children.

Our rural locality and context have influenced our curriculum; three 'Golden Threads' are woven through our curriculum, enriching children's knowledge and understanding. Our Golden Threads are:

- Vocabulary
- Knowledge of the world
- Promoting diversity

We aim for all pupils to secure firm foundations in English and Mathematics and for this to underpin their learning in other subjects. Our vocabulary-led and knowledge-based curriculum offers a broad range of subjects from Early Years through to Key Stage 2 (KS2). We believe in bringing learning to life, both indoors and out, with an emphasis on engaging and purposeful learning. 'Vocabulary-led' means a focus on enriching and expanding children's knowledge and use of words and language so that they can communicate well and have the skills to enquire about our world and participate as considerate citizens as they grow.

Early Years

Our high expectation of children begins in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). Children can join from two years old in our pre-school setting for a flying start. In pre-school and Reception, children follow a child-led curriculum based on themes that introduce key ideas (such as the seasons). Teachers regularly assess children in line with 'Development Matters', with the aim of ensuring all children make progress from their starting points and meet the Early Learning Goals by the end of the Reception year. We welcome involvement with parents, including via Tapestry and use this to share lovely photos and key learning throughout their time in Early Years. Assessments are used to identify key subject areas to inform planning and focus children who need to be targeted for specific activities. There is a focus on

exploratory play based around topics and core texts, which children access both in the morning and afternoon sessions. Children take part in Early Maths, Phonics, and Literacy group-based sessions. The NELI project (to improve early language) starts in Jan 2022. Essential Letters and Sounds is our chosen DfE accredited phonics scheme. This provides a simple, consistent approach to teaching phonics and daily application of phonics knowledge to reading. ELS starts in pre-school at Phase 1+. See Phonics section below for further information.

In the EYFS, there are three prime areas, which are particularly important for building a foundation for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, forming relationships and thriving. They are:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development

There are four specific areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened. They are:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

Key Stage One (KS1)

In KS1, children continue their learning journey, taking part in maths, reading and writing lessons every morning. In Year 1 (Yr1), children continue to have daily phonics lessons. In Yr2, children continue through Phase 5 phonics and have Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPAG) lessons, which are linked to their learning in writing to allow them to apply and deepen their basic skills. In the afternoons, children access the wider curriculum through carefully planned topics, ensuring that children make good progress in the wider subjects of Science, History, Geography, Religious Education (RE), Computing, Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE), Physical Education, Art and Design, Design and Technology and Music.

Key Stage Two (KS2)

In KS2, children continue their daily curriculum of maths, reading, writing and SPAG lessons. In Year 5 and Year 6, children are gradually prepared for the transition into Year 7.

In the afternoons, children deepen their understanding in the subjects taught at KS1 and learn a foreign language. French is taught at Woodside, with a focus on speaking, reading and writing.

Termly themes are led usually by history and geography topics, although discrete subject vocabulary and skills are taught (eg chronology and enquiry in History; mapping and field work in Geography). Cross-curricular links are made where suitable, for example art and design may link to the History unit. If a subject does not link to a topic it is taught as standalone. Relationship and Health education are taught throughout the school, following a scheme of work which introduces new learning at age-appropriate stages.

Subject specific information:

Subject leaders co-ordinate curriculum areas and monitor children's progress carefully. WGSP organise subject leader sessions and cluster meetings with advisers/experts, so we can share good practice and learn continually from others too.

Reading

Teaching a child to read is vital. We use a range of strategies in addition to phonics, such as decoding methods; teaching high frequency words through sight recognition; discussion through picture books and modelling.

Our school has a good track record of results in reading and we are lucky to have volunteers who regularly come to school to hear children read out loud.

From Reception to Yr6, reading is taught through a mixture of group guided reading; whole class reading and comprehension activities. One to one reading occurs in the younger classes and vulnerable readers are identified in each class throughout school for individual reading, to ensure progress and to promote a love of reading.

During the reading sessions, there is an emphasis on vocabulary, the retrieval of facts and inference. Novels are used to teach reading as well as a range of non-fiction texts. These texts are carefully chosen to ensure that there is progression and challenge across the school. We aim to develop a love of reading, so children are encouraged to read for pleasure at home and school. Teachers read a variety of high-quality texts to the children on a regular basis.

Children have a school reading book (a scheme book or banded free reader when ready from Y2 upwards) to take home and share with parents/carers. Books are initially matched to the phonics teaching sequence for early readers and a sharing book is also loaned, for parents to read to their child to expand vocabulary, general knowledge and interests of each child.

Phonics

We accessed our English Hub at Mangotsfield Primary School in Bristol in 2019-20 for phonics advice and training. At Woodside Primary we follow the Essential Letters and Sounds scheme of phonics teaching. Each child in Reception and Yr1 has a daily phonics lesson, following the teaching sequence of revisit/ review – teach – practise - apply. In Yr2, children access a balance of both phonic and spelling punctuation and grammar (SPAG) lessons based on their individual needs and attainment. Reception and KS1 children are either taught as a whole class or sometimes put into small groups, based on regular assessments so that children's learning needs are accurately matched to the correct provision. Small phonic sessions or interventions are delivered by teaching assistants and overseen by the class teacher, to provide complimentary teaching.

Sessions are lively, fast-paced and fun. In a session, children are taught either phonemes/ digraphs/ trigraphs, high frequency and/or tricky words and these are consolidated through reading and writing. There are lots of opportunities to speak and listen, as well as to read and write the sounds.

At the end of Year 1 children take the national Phonics Screening Check, which tests children's phonic knowledge. Here, they are required to read real and nonsense words, applying the skills they have learnt. Ideally children will have completed and consolidated Phase 5 during Year 1 and Phase 6 during Year 2, so that they can focus more on higher-level comprehension using increasingly challenging texts. Any child that does not complete the phonics programme will continue learning phonics throughout Year 3/4 during interventions.

Writing

Our staff have benefitted from working with Integra advisers and experts who have proven records in developing pupils' learning in writing. We use resources to finely tune provision, share good practice and offer whole school staff continuing professional development (CPD).

In Early Years and Key Stage 1, we incorporate the Talk for Writing model into the teaching of writing. Children are taught writing skills through studying a range of both fiction and non-fiction texts including teacher produced models. Children are encouraged and supported to learn texts by heart, before trying to innovate them and gradually apply more independent changes to the model until they can write freely with confidence. In Key Stage 1, picture books and wider curriculum learning are used as a stimulus for writing. In Key Stage 2, children are taught to write through text-based units of work. Units of work are designed around the children's needs and inspired by resources from The Literacy Shed, Literacy Tree, Pobble 365, class book sets and non-fiction texts (linked to the class' wider curriculum where appropriate). Challenging texts are chosen to ensure that children have an excellent model for their own writing.

The principles of 'slow writing' and 'big writing' underpin our provision, with an emphasis on drafting, editing and improving sentence work.

During their time at Woodside, children are exposed to a range of classic and contemporary poetry. They have the opportunity to use these poems as a model for their own writing.

Maths

At Woodside, we believe that mathematics should be fun and rewarding for all children. As such we endeavour to make our work in mathematics engaging for all learners.

Rainbow Maths/fluency activities are carried out daily. This helps children to focus on arithmetic questions to reinforce and consolidate the arithmetic skills that have been previously taught. We believe that this plays an important role in the children becoming fluent in the fundamentals of mathematics and develops the children's ability to recall and apply knowledge rapidly and accurately. This has had a positive impact on our Maths success, along with Times Tables Rockstars in KS2, My Maths and resources on Emile. The NCETM Mastering Number project began in Oct 2021. The Mastery approach is embedded throughout the school due to working with the Glowmaths Hub.

Our curriculum is mapped out using the White Rose scheme of work. We focus on a progression from concrete resources, to pictorial representations and finally into the numerical abstract to aid our children's conceptual understanding. As a result, we are seeing a growth in confidence in all our learners, especially in areas of problem solving and reasoning. Due to our mixed class structure, the teacher teaches one year group for half of the session whilst the other year group is consolidating their learning or completing independent problem solving activities under the supervision of a teaching assistant. The groups then swap so all children have high quality extended teaching in each session.

Science

We follow the National Curriculum for science ensuring all pupils develop their scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding through specific disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics. Science is hands on where possible; pupils are given the opportunities to experience science in the real world. Our

extensive field, nature garden and pond are invaluable resources. We use the Collins Snap Science scheme of work and Twinkl resources to ensure excellent coverage and progression throughout the school. We use e-Bug resources to promote good hygiene.

Computing and Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

We use Purple Mash and a robust scheme of work throughout the school. Each year group builds on the skills taught during the previous year, to ensure that by year 6, children are confident using technology, including a range of different programs, apps and websites.

Apps on the iPads are utilised to teach skills such as animation, music creation and e-books. Office software are embedded in the curriculum.

Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE) and Relationship and Health Education (RHE)

At Woodside, we use resources from Gloucestershire Healthy Living and Learning (GHLL); SCARF and Gloucestershire's Relationships and Health schemes of work. Topics covered include the following:

- careers, financial capability and economic well-being;
- physical health and well-being;
- keeping safe and managing risk;
- identity, society and equality;
- drug, alcohol and tobacco education;
- mental health and emotional well-being;
- sex and relationships education.

We also cover safeguarding themes through:

- anti-bullying week which takes place in the Autumn Term;
- E Safety week and a constant reminder through weekly assemblies the importance of staying safe on line.

The teaching of British Values and School Values are at the core of our school and curriculum. We have achieved the GHHL Health Schools Award and Mental Health Champions Award. We are a Trailblazer school, offering Young Minds Matters counselling and we have qualified ELSAs (Emotional Literacy Support Assistants).

Religious Education (RE)

We follow the Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus scheme throughout the school. This provides a broad and balanced programme of RE. The principal aim of religious education is to explore what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live, so that pupils can gain the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to handle questions raised by religion and belief, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living.

The Local Agreed Syllabus for RE requires all pupils to investigate:

- the beliefs and practices of religions and other world views, including:
 - Beliefs and authority: core beliefs and concepts; sources of authority including written traditions and leaders
 - Worship and spirituality: how individuals and communities express belief, commitment and emotion.

- how religions and other world views address questions of meaning, purpose and value, including:
 - The nature of religion and belief and its key concepts
 - Ultimate questions of belonging, meaning, purpose and truth.
- how religions and other world views influence morality, identity and diversity, including:
 - Moral decisions: teachings of religions and other world views on moral and ethical questions, evaluation, reflection and critical responses
 - Identity and diversity: diversity among and within religions and other world views; individual and community responses to difference and shared human values.

History and Geography

Our curriculum leaders for History and Geography co-ordinate our curriculum design and monitor outcomes, checking on progress throughout the school.

History and Geography form an important part of our curriculum. We follow the National curriculum and embrace a broad spectrum of topics, underpinned by progression, skill development and subject specific knowledge. As a school we aim to wholly develop each child's geographical and historical skills, understanding and knowledge. Consequently, our lessons are well planned, highly engaging and challenge all abilities. Other curriculum areas are incorporated into learning to ensure high levels of motivation and interest from the children.

Physical Education

Our curriculum is enhanced by Prostars coaches, who teach our KS2 children weekly. Children have two blocks of swimming teaching as they progress through the school-one in Year 2 and one in Year 6. Year 5 children have cycling proficiency lessons. We usually participate in inter-school events such as a Pentathlon, a gymnastic competition, county dancing festival and events at feeder secondary schools. Residential trips for outdoor adventurous activities take place every other year, so children have the opportunity to participate in either Y5 or Y6. After school clubs include ballroom dance, gymnastics and multi- sports. Our annual Aspirations Week traditionally includes a variety of new activities for the children to experience (eg Mini-Marines obstacle and team building activities; Paralympic sports.)

Modern Foreign Language

French is taught in KS2 in readiness for secondary school, using a scheme of work covering a wide range of topics and vocabulary. Our progression document highlights the importance and speaking and listening, so there are lots of opportunities for repetition and practice. Children are encouraged to become confident speakers and competent in writing in French at greater length as they move through the school.

Art and DT

As well as being taught through termly topics, skills and outcomes are also celebrated through specific Art/DT weeks. Children use sketch books in KS1 and KS2. Children use a range of media and techniques (eg watercolours, pastels, collage, clay modelling). They learn about the work of artists from around the world and this helps to promote diversity too.

Music, drama, trips, clubs and celebrations: Pupils learn to play an instrument in Y1/2 and in Y3/4 through Gloucestershire Music specialists. These lessons cover the entire key stage curriculums, but children have plenty of other opportunities during their time at Woodside. Children develop their

rhythm, body percussion and vocal control in singing assemblies led by our music subject leader. Children perform to parents and families at key events throughout the year (e.g. Harvest Festival, Christmas plays or KS2 end of year performance). The Christmas plays include dedicated curriculum time for drama skills, speaking and listening skills, performance etc. Hands on learning and experiences are key to children being able to write with meaning. We are proud that trips are always well received and subsidised through PTFA fundraising. Children experience at least two different Places of Worship to study faiths practically. We have invested in Now, Press, Play which gives virtual experiences, which children listen to and interact with. We have a range of after school clubs for children to enjoy such as drama and Lego.

Cultural Celebrations Living in a small rural setting, we expand children's experiences deliberately eg a Pantomime visit every Christmas, a whole school trip to a beach, Black County Museum trip. We also recognise the need for children to appreciate their local heritage and surroundings, so trips include visits to our local heritage museum. Our Aspirations Week is when we invite in a range of visitors to help children appreciate the range of opportunities open to them in the future and the importance of working hard at their learning in order to succeed. Our partnership with Gloucestershire University increases the number of teachers that children have access to as they go through the school.

We believe we have created a bespoke curriculum, drawing on a wide range of high quality resources which meets the needs of our children and reflects the setting of our school. There will be a greater focus on promoting diversity during 2021-22.

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