



MOORFIELD
SCHOOL

CURRICULUM POLICY



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AIMS

At Moorfield, we aim to:

- help each child reach their potential and inspire them to achieve their personal best in every subject by providing a broad and enriched curriculum, encouraging a love of learning which goes beyond what is taught
- ensure pupils develop essential literacy, speaking and listening, and numeracy skills
- provide pupils with a full and rounded entitlement to learning
- foster pupils' creativity
- develop essential skills, including learning skills
- promote a healthy lifestyle
- give an informed perspective about the role of the individual within the community and the wider world
- inspire pupils to embrace a positive work ethic which will last a lifetime
- prepare for the future in an increasingly technologically dependent world
- encourage pupils to become self-motivated, independent learners and confident communicators
- prepare pupils for opportunities, experiences and responsibilities in the next stage of their education and beyond.

AREAS OF EXPERIENCE

The school curriculum aims to give pupils a broad and balanced learning experience, building linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative skills. Each of these areas of learning is covered in the following ways:

Linguistic

This is largely covered by our core curriculum in English, drama and modern foreign languages, although effective communication comes into every aspect of life at Moorfield. Pupils are taught key skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening, with an emphasis on building strong phonic awareness in the lower school, which allows pupils to access high quality literature later on, forming a key part of the English curriculum in the upper school. In addition to timetabled lessons, pupils have numerous opportunities to develop their linguistic skills, for example: annual 'Week of Words' theme week incorporating a whole-school poetry recital, World Book Day celebrations, prose reading in the Wharfedale Festival, reading 'owl' awards to encourage children to read classic literature, peripatetic lessons for LAMDA exams, annual nativity for lower school, annual play for senior school, language theme days such as our whole-school Languages Day, annual handwriting prize in each class, creative writing prize in Senior 6, book club.

Mathematical

This is largely covered by our mathematics curriculum, with input where appropriate from subjects such as computing, geography, art and DT, music and science. Pupils follow the National Curriculum 2014, exploring the topics of number and place value; calculation; measure; shape; fractions, decimals and percentages; ratio and proportion; algebra and statistics.

Scientific

This is largely covered by our science curriculum, and enhanced by lessons in bushcraft, geography, PE, maths and DT. Much of the focus is on practical investigation, with pupils taught to plan, hypothesise, carry out a fair test and evaluate their findings. A biannual science fair brings this subject to life as pupils develop not only their own understanding of a specific area of science, but their ability to explain this to their fellow pupils in a clear and concise way. Visitors to school greatly enhance pupils' scientific learning, for example, a visit from a dentist, whole-school planetarium experience and a microbiologist visit in Senior 6.

Technological

This is largely covered by lessons in DT and computing, with valuable input from science and bushcraft. In DT, pupils cover a range of skills across year groups, ensuring an effective balance of work with textiles, mechanisms and structures. Pupils are taught to plan, make and evaluate their work effectively. Our computing curriculum equips pupils with the modern skills of programming and coding, along with teaching pupils how to use technology safely in our ever-changing world.

Human and Social

This is largely covered by lessons in humanities (Form 2), geography and history (Form 3 to Senior 6) and RE, although the curriculum is regularly enhanced by coverage of current affairs in assemblies and other timetabled lessons as appropriate. Pupils cover a range of historical time periods, exploring the way people lived, and the impact this had on their lives and the future. Developing skills in historical enquiry forms a key part of lessons. Geography lessons ensure a balance of factual knowledge and thoughtful consideration for the geographical issues of our day, such as sustainability. A variety of school trips build children's understanding of geography and history topics in a more hands-on way, as well as visitors in school, such as our visiting Victorian school mistress. In RE, pupils explore all major world religions, with significant festivals acknowledged and often celebrated in assemblies and individual classes.

Physical

This is largely covered by our PE curriculum, along with outdoor residentials such as Bewerley Park and Robinwood. All lessons are taught by specialist teachers and sports coaches, with an emphasis on building practical skills in balance, control, tactics and co-ordination, along with the personal skills of sportsmanship and perseverance. Timetabled lessons include: netball, hockey, dance, golf, football, cricket, athletics, gymnastics and rounders (*see PE policy for more detailed coverage*). Statutory swimming requirements are enhanced, with pupils in Forms 1 to 4 having weekly swimming lessons, and pupils in Senior 5 and 6 continuing their development with fortnightly lessons. Regular sporting fixtures are organised against other schools and numerous opportunities are given for pupils to develop their skills in this area outside of timetabled lessons: running club, regular cross country competitions, lunchtime clubs for netball and tag rugby, gym club, sports club, Sport Captain prefect role in Senior 6, annual Sports Day, annual staff vs. pupils netball and rounders matches, swimming galas, inter-house hockey, netball and rounders tournaments. Through lessons in PE, science and PSHE, pupils are taught about the importance of good hygiene and living a healthy lifestyle.

Aesthetic and Creative

This is predominantly covered by lessons in art, DT, music, PE (dance), drama and English. Children have many opportunities to be creative at Moorfield! The art curriculum ensures a balance of skills and work with different media, and the recent addition of a school kiln opens up exciting opportunities for work in pottery and 3D art. Visiting artists regularly enhance this provision, with felting and watercolour workshops a particular highlight. The annual Ilkley Art Trail provides a stimulating environment outside of school to explore the work of local artists. Outside of timetabled lessons, pupils have numerous opportunities to further explore their aesthetic and creative skills: individual and group entries in the Skipton Music Festival, weekly choir (Form 3 to Senior 6) with regular performances at Harvest, Christmas, Easter and in summer, band and individual music entries at the Wharfedale Festival, peripatetic music lessons in numerous instruments, annual music concert, 'Play in a Day' for Senior 6 (introduction to Shakespeare).

**Humanities is taught as a single subject in Form 2, then replaced with separate Geography and History lessons in Form 3 – Senior 6*

***French is taught to all pupils from Reception – Senior 6. German is taught in addition to this in Form 4 – Senior 6. Latin is taught for one term in Senior 5 and Senior 6.*

CURRICULUM FOR EYFS PUPILS

Pupils in our EYFS are empowered to lead their own learning through a wholly child-led ethos. We are inspired by the Reggio Emilia approach and follow each child's interests on a daily basis. Provocations encourage deeper investigation or the development of key skills. Staff observe and support children to ensure that there is always a focus on the prime areas of Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Physical Development and Communication and Language, along with the specific areas of Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design. Pupils in nursery enjoy a short, daily 'group time' to share a story, or explore Phase 1 phonics. They also attend weekly Bushcraft and Music sessions, taught by subject specialists. Pupils in Reception also have a daily reflection/sharing time, with the addition of systematic synthetic phonics lessons 4 times per week. Learning is also enhanced each week with lessons in Bushcraft, French, Computing and Music, taught by subject specialists.

Currently, no child in our funded early years provision has been recognised as having special educational needs.

CURRICULUM FOR FORM 1 PUPILS

Pupils in Form 1 build upon the child-led ethos developed in the EYFS, with the addition of specific, adult-led maths and phonics lessons. Learning is also enhanced each week with lessons in Bushcraft, French, Computing, PE and Music, taught by subject specialists. Learning is focused on children's interests, while staff observe and support children to ensure thorough coverage of all curriculum subjects and key skills. Staff in Form 1 are consistently searching for teachable moments to enhance learning and deepen knowledge, while ensuring pupils are motivated and enthusiastic.

TEACHING TIME

Currently, all pupils attend Moorfield on a full-time basis. The school year constitutes a minimum of 175 teaching days each year. Teaching time per day (excluding breaks for lunch and playtimes) totals:

Reception – approx. 26 hours per week

Form 1 and Form 2 – approx. 27 hours per week

Form 3 to Senior 6 – approx. 28 hours per week

BRITISH VALUES AND PREPARATION FOR LIFE IN BRITISH SOCIETY

Wherever possible, the curriculum at Moorfield aims to teach the British values of tolerance, mutual respect, democracy, the rule of law and individual liberty. Further information on this can be found in the document *British Values Statement*.

Beyond timetabled lessons, pupils are given many opportunities to develop the appropriate skills and attitudes needed to make a valuable contribution to society, both now and in the future. Such opportunities include (but are by no means limited to):

- Residential trips in Form 4, Senior 5 and Senior 6, to develop independence and a sense of adventure
- School council as an introduction to voting, democracy and government
- Lessons on democracy justice in Senior 6, led by a local magistrate
- Young Entrepreneur Project in Senior 6, run in conjunction with local business, Arc Retail Consultancy, to understand the concepts of branding, profit and leadership
- Prefect roles in Senior 6: Head Girl, Office Prefect, Sports Captain, Music Prefect, Reception Prefect, House Captains
- Numerous class monitors to encourage pupils to take responsibility and develop their organisational skills.

TEACHING STAFF AND LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

All lessons are supervised by a teaching member of staff, with additional support from teaching assistants as necessary throughout the school. With the exception of French, German and Latin lessons, all lessons are taught in English.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

Individual subject policies

EAL Policy

SENDA Policy

Learning Support Policy

Gifted and Talented Policy

British Values Statement

Equal Opportunities Policy

Drafted by:

Assistant Head (Academic)

Date:

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