

The Curriculum at Hemyock Primary School



Key statutory curriculum requirements for academies:

Academies are required to have a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

For pupils in the Foundation Stage, academies are required to follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

While academies are not required to follow the National Curriculum they are required to ensure their curriculum:

- includes English, maths and science;
- includes Religious Education, although the nature of this will depend on whether the school has a faith designation;
- includes sex and relationship education

In light of the curriculum freedoms we receive as an academy, we have been developing a more creative approach to teaching and learning. We teach through topics and work with the children to take account of their interests, making links between subjects, developing knowledge, skills and positive attitudes to learning in a range of contexts. We have chosen not to follow the 2014 National Curriculum.

A TOPIC-BASED APPROACH

We use the skills identified within the National Curriculum (pre 2014) as the basis of our teaching, as we recognise them as key skills for life-long learning, and we apply them through topics that will interest and engage the children. We are currently working with Professor Mick Waters as part of an exciting project to enhance our curriculum.

Real life experiences underpin the topics we teach and set the children's learning into real life contexts, helping them to make sense of it. These real life experiences may include trips, visitors to school, community based projects or topical events. Each topic culminates in a final project which showcases the children's learning, which they share with parents through regular open events.

We value the 'Arts' at Hemyock and the teaching of and access to high quality music, dance, art and drama are integral parts of our school curriculum.

We place a great emphasis on how children learn at our school and the work of Guy Claxton's 'Building and Learning Powers', is imbedded in every aspect of school life.

We recognise that learning is not just about subjects and knowledge, but also about developing a child's personal and social qualities: our school aims and values of respect, community and creativity are encouraged and modelled by staff, volunteers and visitors throughout the school day and beyond.

ENGLISH, MATHS & SCIENCE

All children receive daily maths and English lessons. We use the new national curriculum to scaffold the planning of our English lessons; teaching is delivered through high quality texts offering rich opportunities to explore and develop oral and written language, which are set in rich context driven by the theme of our topic. We use Rising Stars as the core planning tool for maths lessons; these are adapted to meet the needs of the children in each class and are enhanced with daily opportunities for using and applying.

Science is taught through a hand on investigative approach, which links closely to the key skills identified in the National Curriculum (pre 2014).

PE

From reception until Year 2 our children take part in a daily half an hour PE lessons following the 'Leap into Life' programme. At Key Stage 2 the children have two hours a week of taught PE throughout the year; they cover invasion games, athletics, dance and gymnastics.

Through partnership with our feeder secondary school the children have the opportunity in an extensive competitive sports programme. We offer a variety of after school clubs throughout the year that are aimed at keeping our children active.

LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Outdoor learning is important to the children at Hemyock. Opportunity is given for our children to use our extensive school grounds in their learning and they regularly visit our off-site Forest School woodland. We are in the process of developing fruit and vegetable beds in our school grounds and tending to these will become an integral part of our school curriculum.

We also offer a variety of after school and lunchtime clubs which the majority of our children attend. Over half of our children take up the opportunity to learn a musical instrument at school. There are 8 different types of instruments to choose from.