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## Curriculum Policy

*The Corporation of Oundle School includes both Oundle School, a boarding and day School for pupils aged 11 – 18 and Laxton Junior School, a day School for pupils aged 4 - 11. This policy applies solely to Laxton Junior School.*

### Introduction

Our curriculum is designed, planned and delivered to ensure that every child at Laxton Junior School develops a love of learning that begins in our Reception classrooms and extends long after they have left Year 6. We offer a vibrant, engaging and wide-ranging academic and co-curriculum that provides bespoke support and challenge to every child - irrespective of ability, interest and learning need - and offers equality of opportunity in all that they do. We have the highest expectations of our children with regards to their attainment and progress, and - through our mastery approach - believe always that every child is capable of significant achievement across and beyond the curriculum.

Our curriculum is layered in order to promote not only learning but personal growth and development, too. It includes the 'hidden curriculum' – what the children learn from the way in which they interact with their lessons and the people around them. We want children to grow into positive, responsible people, who can collaborate with others while developing their individual passions, knowledge, independence, resilience and skills in order to be happy and make a successful contribution to society in the future.

### Aims

Our curriculum aims to:

- Ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to learn and make progress
- Promote a positive attitude towards learning, so that children enjoy coming to school, acquire a solid basis for lifelong learning to ensure they approach all that they do with a sense of pride and care
- Enable children to be creative and to develop their own thinking
- Teach children about the developing world, including how their environment and society have changed over time
- Prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in British society
- Appreciate and value the contribution made by all members of our multi-cultural and diverse society
- Teach children to have an awareness of their own spiritual development, and to distinguish right from wrong
- Help children understand the importance of truth and fairness, so that they grow up committed to equal opportunities for all
- Enable children to have respect for themselves and high self-esteem, and to live and work cooperatively with others
- Develop children's independent learning skills and resilience to be ready to enter their senior school with confidence

## Our Values

The curriculum is underpinned by our School Values, which represent what we believe to be our absolute priorities both now and in the future. They are the qualities that resonate throughout all aspects of our education and are our guiding principles for behaviour and decision-making. Our values are:

- **A Love of Learning:** we believe in a love of learning, where children and adults happily take risks and overcome challenges together, united by a shared motivation to acquire, share and celebrate new knowledge, skills, ideas and expertise.
- **Opportunity:** we believe in the provision of opportunity, which enables positive participation in a wide variety of events and activities and the development of passions and talents that will last a lifetime.
- **Care:** we believe in caring for each other, ourselves, the community in which we live and learn, and the world around us; this is reflected in a positive sense of personal wellbeing, cohesive relationships and the valuing of diversity.
- **Community:** we believe in supporting, contributing to and being inspired by our community; children, staff, parents and governors are integral to the education we provide, and their input and involvement is encouraged and appreciated.
- **Quality:** we believe in delivery a consistently excellent quality of educational provision in all that we do as well as having the highest expectations of ourselves and each other.

## Our Mission

Our mission is to prepare our children for both their chosen senior school and the life that lies beyond, developing a series of essential characteristics that will enable them to thrive in whichever direction they wish their lives to take. These characteristics are woven into our curriculum so that all children receive a rich provision of academic and co-curricular opportunities. We want our children to be:

- **Confident and Resilient:** where a love of learning ensures challenges are embraced and obstacles are overcome
- **Kind and Respectful:** where the development of social and emotional skills ensures all relationships are positive and caring
- **Open-Minded and Well-Rounded:** where new, challenging or preferred, are embraced with enthusiasm
- **Collaborative and Independent:** where the knowledge of how to work together, both within and beyond the School community, is balanced with a strong sense of who they are and what they can achieve as an individual.

## Key Skills

Our curriculum provides children with the opportunity to develop a wide range of skills, including:

- **Linguistic:** we develop children's communication skills and increase their command of language through listening, speaking, reading and writing. Our highly interactive lessons encourage children to question adults and peers alike, listen to each other and structure their thoughts verbally and in written form.
- **Mathematical:** we help children understand and appreciate relationships and patterns in number and space, and develop their capacity to think logically and express themselves clearly. Our mastery approach, high challenge and responsive teaching methods develop targeted and deepened learning.

- **Scientific:** we increase children’s knowledge and understanding of nature, materials and forces while developing the skills associated with science as a process of enquiry such as observing, forming hypotheses, conducting experiments and recording findings.
- **Technological:** we develop children’s ability to use IT throughout the curriculum, developing their ability to research, communicate and present, as well as mechanisms for programming, coding and working with robotics.
- **Human and Social:** we develop children’s knowledge and understanding of how human action in the past has influenced events and conditions.
- **Physical:** we develop the children’s physical control and coordination as well as tactical skills and responses to improve performance. Our children have the opportunity to participate in all sports regardless of gender.
- **Aesthetic and creative:** our art, music, dance, drama and study of literature develop the process of making, composition and inventing. Our children are immersed in activities throughout the curriculum to foster a love of creativity, opinion and independent or collaborative composition.
- **Spiritual:** is taught discretely to provide human and social education while promoting spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. This is taught by one of our subject specialist teachers.
- **Environmental:** Our Eco-Team span represents all of our children from Reception to Year 6 we ensure that their voices are heard. We hold a Silver Flag eco status which represents the importance we place on this area of our curriculum. Our children have developed a committee, eco board, action plan (which includes objectives, time frames and a process of monitoring and evaluation) and evidenced links across our curriculum.

## Organisation

Our curriculum is broken down into the following subject areas, which are given, on average, the following number of teaching hours each week.

Average Teaching Hours Each Week Per Year Group														
Year	English	Maths	Humanities	Computing	MFL	PE/Games	Science	Art/Design	Music	RE	Drama	PSHE	Swimming	Library
1	12	10	4	2	1	4	2	3	2	1		1	2	1
2	10	10	4	2	1	4	2	3	4	1		1	2	1
3	9	10	3	2	2	6	3	2	2	1	1	1	2	1
4	9	10	3	2	2	6	3	2	2	1	1	1	2	1
5	8	10	3	2	2	6	4	2	2	1	1	1	2	1
6	8	10	3	2	2	6	4	2	2	1	1	1	2	1

Our timetable is organised into nine daily periods, with each period lasting 30 minutes. Most lessons are taught every week; however, some lessons - e.g. Drama, RE and MFL - are taught every other week to enable a double lesson. Key Stage 1 Drama, and the development of speaking and listening skills, is built into our English curriculum and this is reflected in the greater number of allocated lessons each week.

For further details of how we organise and deliver our EYFS curriculum, in Reception, please see the relevant section below and our EYFS Policy.

## Individual Subjects

All Form Teachers teach English, Maths, Humanities and PSHE to their own Form. Music, MFL, RE, Science, Computing, Drama (in Key Stage 2), Swimming, Games, PE and Latin (in Year 6) are all taught by specialist teachers.

Alongside subject based learning, some time is spent outside the classroom learning through our Outdoor Learning Programme which is designed to complement our classroom-based learning.

## Planning

We plan our curriculum in three cohesive phases – EYFS, KS1 and KS2. Each phase leads to the next ensuring the skills are layered throughout all year groups and viewed as a whole entity. The skill set needed for our children to succeed in their senior schools are identified and fed down through the school to ensure a systematic approach to building knowledge and skills that are applied to a variety of contexts.

Each curriculum subject is overseen by the Subject Head or Lead, who is responsible for the delivery of the subject across the school. Individual subject policies outline how this is achieved. Policies are reviewed in accordance to the Policy Review Schedule and the subject Strategic Plans reflect developments within these areas.

Long term plans are written by the Subject Heads or Leads for the academic year ahead and provide an overview of our curriculum. Medium term plans give clear guidance on the objectives of each topic. These are produced by the subject teachers every term. Many of our schemes of work are based on, but not beholden to, National Curriculum guidelines.

Our short-term plans are based on the framework of the medium-term plans and are written on a weekly basis. However, these are adapted to respond to the learning needs of the children in accordance to formative assessment of learning in each lesson.

## Delivery

For more information about how we deliver our curriculum, please see our Teaching and Learning Policy, the key aspects of which are shared below.

### Responsive Teaching

Our curriculum enables our children to progress in accordance to their next learning steps. Our formative assessment process within the classroom enables teachers to identify what our children have understood and respond accordingly through carefully adapted planning. Our short term curriculum planning is then adapted to enable this responsive approach.

### Mastery

We do not set our children within subjects but allow for a fluid classroom that enables the needs of each child to be met in accordance to their pace of learning. Our children receive support and instruction on a topic by topic basis to enable them to understand concepts before moving on. For instance, Maths lessons have two members of staff supporting the children in their learning and implementing mastery learning in each year group. Our teaching assistants are also integral to offering additional support across the curriculum.

## Differentiation

To ensure every child is given the precise support and challenge they need and are provided with equal opportunity to succeed and make outstanding progress, we adjust our curriculum and its delivery; this includes a differentiated approach to the:

- Type of tasks set
- Choice of learning activities offered
- Extent of teacher input, support and challenge
- Provision of different types of resource
- Organisation of the classroom
- Expectations of outcome
- Enrichment opportunities offered in class and out
- Questioning used to stimulate learning and understanding
- Learning objectives and success criteria

## Opportunity

We encourage our children to take ownership of their learning and as such provide them with the opportunity to learn in different ways; these include:

- Investigation and problem solving
- Group, pair and independent work
- Self and peer review
- Asking and answering questions
- Use of technology to engage with the curriculum
- Fieldwork and visits to places of educational interest
- Imaginative, creative and design activities
- Responding to, and playing, musical material
- Debates, presentations and drama
- Participation in physical activity

## Adult Support

In Reception and Key Stage 1, each class benefits from a Teaching Assistant whose role is to assist with the delivery of the curriculum; in Key Stage 2, classes share a Teaching Assistant. Our maths curriculum, in Years 3 to 6, is delivered through team-teaching, having two adults leading and supporting learning.

## Learning Environment

Our learning environments celebrates the children's work within the classrooms, corridors and outside; teaching resource to support their learning are also found on the walls and through the provision of appropriate resources. We arrange our desks to support collaborative and independent learning while also enabling our teachers to deliver on the spot feedback during each lesson.

## Homework

Homework consolidates and extends learning and is an opportunity for children to further explore their own knowledge and understanding. As our children move towards Year 6, they are encouraged to manage and organise their time in preparation for their senior schools and beyond. Teachers support by ensuring responsibility rests with the children and by helping them plan their homework around extra-curricular activities.

## Assessment

Purposeful assessment and communication between members of staff and children is key to ensuring excellent progress. The formative and summative assessment processes in place provide our teachers with a deep understanding of each child's learning and therefore how to adapt short-term curriculum planning to enable challenge and support for each child. Further details can be found in our Assessment Policy.

## EYFS

Our EYFS curriculum is divided into three prime areas and four specific areas. The three prime areas are particularly important for igniting curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building children's capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive; they are:

- Communication and Language
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development

The prime areas are strengthened and applied through four specific areas, which are:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

A number of areas are enhanced by the delivery of discrete subject teaching by specialist teachers, namely:

- Expressive Arts – Music
- Physical Development – PE and Swimming
- Understanding the World – MFL and Computing

For further details about our EYFS curriculum, please see our EYFS Policy.

## PSHE, RSE and SMSC

We provide Personal Social Health Economic (PSHE) education from the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) to Year 6. It gradually expands and enriches key concepts, increases knowledge, deepens understanding, and enables children to rehearse and develop key skills.

Primarily, for Years 1 to 6, planning for PSHE is taken from the PSHE Association's programme builder, thematic approach. The termly programme is created by Form Teachers, alongside the Assistant Head Pastoral, to ensure that the curriculum is bespoke, and meets our children's needs. We use a variety of resources to support this curriculum, including an interactive and online teaching tool, 1decision. For further details, please see our PSHE Policy.

We provide Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) from EYFS to Year 6. It gradually expands and enriches key concepts, increases knowledge, deepens understanding, and rehearses and develops key skills through a thematic approach. RSE focuses on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships, including: families and people who care for me, caring relationships, respectful relationships, online relationships and being safe. For further details, please see our RSE Policy.

Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural (SMSC) education can be found in most areas of the curriculum and cross-curricular themes, but can especially be found throughout the Religious Education and PSHE

curriculums and Votes for Schools programme, which incorporate teaching and learning on aspects of relationships, pupil voice, equality, diversity and feelings as well as touching on religious knowledge and elements of worship. For further details, please see our RE and SMSC policies.

## **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

### **Equal Opportunities**

We are an inclusive school and ensure that all children - irrespective of gender, race, religion and belief, cultural background, linguistic background, SEN or disability - have equal opportunity to access our curriculum.

We are committed to improving our curriculum, learning environment, provision of resources and mechanism for sharing information to enable all children to participate fully in our curriculum. Further details of our work, in this regard, are set out in our Accessibility Plan, with some of our ongoing strategies outlined below:

- Small class sizes enable greater personalisation of the curriculum
- Key Stage 2 children can choose which sport they play each term, with no gender restrictions in place
- Individual Education Plans enable staff and children to work on specific targets relevant to their needs
- Staff deliver a differentiated curriculum using a variety of appropriate resources to tailor the learning to all children
- Regular progress reviews take place with children and parents
- Target setting takes into account the needs of children who require support
- Educational Support staff identify and support children with a range of learning and accessibility needs
- The curriculum is regularly reviewed to ensure it is appropriate for all children
- Educational trips are accessible to all current students
- Curriculum resources include examples of disabled children
- Specialist, one-to-one teaching assistants support children with specific needs
- LJS has a Mental Health Lead and designated Health Centre
- External learning specialists work in conjunction with teachers and Educational Support staff

### **Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)**

Teacher observation, ongoing assessments and pupil progress meetings support the identification of children in need of additional support as they engage with the curriculum; this is provided by our Educational Support team. Support for accessing the curriculum varies depending on the need and is developed, in conjunction with the teaching staff and Educational Support teachers, and weaved into all lessons. For further details, please see our Educational Support Policy.

### **English as an Additional Language (EAL)**

All children have an equal opportunity to access our curriculum and receive, if required, individual language support internally or externally depending on their first language. Our teachers are well supported by our Educational Support team to ensure that the adaptation of the curriculum is purposeful and appropriate. For further details, please see our EAL Policy.

### **Able, Gifted and Talented**

Our curriculum is also adjusted for those children who are identified as Able, Gifted and Talented; this ensures that significant challenge and opportunity is provided, which supports these children to make the

very best progress possible. Further details of how this is achieved can be found in our Able, Gifted and Talented Policy.

## **Co-Curricular Enrichment**

### **Sport**

Through our programme of Physical Education, we provide the opportunity for pupils to develop both physically and socially. Team sports develop qualities of leadership, cooperation and sportsmanship and we ensure that every child will have the opportunity to represent the School. We have timetabled use of the outstanding facilities at our Senior School which allow pupils to develop their skills in a variety of sports. Boys and girls have an equal opportunity to develop in all sports. All children at our school swim and are taught by specialist swimming coaches.

### **Music**

We have numerous ensembles which allow our musicians the opportunity to play together. These groups perform regularly in school assemblies and recitals. Expert tuition is provided by between 10 and 15 visiting teachers. Pupils are encouraged to sit external music exams. Music Exhibitions and Scholarships are offered to exceptional pupils and talented musicians by Senior Schools.

### **Drama**

Drama enriches our curriculum through a wide range of learning and challenge. Our children develop their skills such as language, performance, analysis of text, intonation, exploration of characters and script, production. Each child from Years 3 to 6 performs in a Year Group assembly and all children have the opportunity to perform in our in-house speech and drama competition. Our Year 6 production at the Stahl Theatre is the opportunity for our children to put their many skills into practice.

### **Outdoor Learning**

Our outdoor learning curriculum has been tailor-made for us and is delivered by two fully qualified Forest School leaders. Reception children enjoy a weekly outdoor learning session while Year 1 and 2 have fortnightly opportunities to take their learning outside. Years 3 to 6 enjoy a designated outdoor learning day every term. These sessions, supported by staff across the School, provide specific experiences and challenges that learning indoors cannot achieve alone. Outside of the programme, our teachers take learning outside as much as possible, encouraging children to be physically active and giving them valuable time and space to deal with challenges and develop problem-solving skills.

### **After-School Clubs**

Co-curricular clubs further enrich our curriculum, and we pride ourselves on a wide and varied after-school club programme that is designed to extend and enhance the children's learning. Led by our staff or by appropriately qualified and experienced experts, these opportunities enable children to develop new passions and talents, learn new or practise existing skills. Catering for all age-groups and as many interests as possible, the programme varies from term to term.

### **Trips, Visitors and Residentials**

Every trip has a purpose of introducing, inspiring or consolidating learning. This ensures that our children benefit from the experience in such a way as to question and extend either previous or future learning. A wide range of activities is on offer, from visiting local nature reserves and theatres to residential trips to France and many other places in between. Religious and cultural experiences encourage children to question and indulge their natural curiosity. Outdoor pursuits trips offer numerous leadership and team working skills, whilst museums and even trips into town can open up a world of learning. Throughout every opportunity, children are encouraged to visualise, experience and discuss, with every experience considered an extension of the classroom.



## Monitoring Arrangements

Subjects Leaders are responsible for the monitoring of their subject to ensure that our curriculum meets the needs of our children. This includes ensuring that resources, CPD, long term and medium term planning are in place. Subject Leaders also conduct peer observation, team teaching and training to ensure that our curriculum challenges and supports all of our children.

## Linked Policies

This Policy links to the following:

- EYFS Policy
- Teaching and Learning Policy
- Assessment Policy
- Educational Support Policy
- EAL Policy
- Able, Gifted and Talented Policy
- Marking and Feedback Policy
- Subject specific policies
- Accessibility Plan
- PSHE, SMSC, RE and RSE Policies

<b>Reviewer</b>	SAH
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