

The Park Federation Academy Trust

Curriculum Statement 2017/18

Overview

Our curriculum will play to the inherent curiosity of children. We will plan and provide a range of first-class learning experiences that draw the children in to the world of personal discovery and fulfilment, while allowing them to benefit from the cumulative knowledge, understanding and skills which our diverse societies and cultures have accumulated overtime. Our curriculum will, moreover, provide stimulus and challenge for all children irrespective of their individual starting points. We will make the most of cross-federation working by bringing together - physically or virtually via the internet - children from across our academies for special curriculum events. From day one in the nursery to the Leavers' Assembly in Year 6, we will offer exciting, relevant and memorable learning for the children to savour, to learn from, and to be inspired by. We want each child to build through their engagement with our curriculum a secure sense of belonging to the learning community in his or her academy and to a larger learning community across the federation.

Early Years Foundation Stage

In the Nursery there will be an emphasis on social and emotional development, and the building of positive learning attitudes, which will underpin the children's present and future education. These features will be combined with a strong and determined focus on speech, communication, early literacy, and emergent numeracy. Through a judicious mix of child-initiated and adult-initiated play, informal one-to-one interaction, and group work, the children will establish themselves both as individuals and team members within a learning community outside of the home. There will be many opportunities for the children to lead their own learning. Self-discovery, gently facilitated learning, and independent enquiry will be plentiful indoors as well as outdoors. When the children join their Reception classes, the best integrated practice of the Nursery will continue while class-based and more formal learning will begin to play a significant part in their day, especially as the Reception year progresses.

Key Stage One and Key Stage Two

In Key Stage One and Key Stage Two much of the learning will be through separate subject teaching such as English, Maths, Science, Art and PE. We will utilise the National Curriculum when we can see benefits for our pupils now and for when they leave us to start their secondary education outside of the federation. By providing a broad range of subjects, the needs of the whole child will be met. Our curriculum values physical, spiritual, moral, technological, expressive and aesthetic learning as well as traditional academic progress. To complement separate subject teaching, we will deliver rigorously planned cross-curricular studies which purposefully link individual subjects. Such thematic learning will be prized as it offers rich opportunities for children to experience the interplay of separate subjects. It, moreover, presents meaningful contexts for applying and practising basic skills linked to effective communication, and confident use of number.

On the timetable will be lessons in all subjects but at the heart of our curriculum will be Reading and Phonics, Writing, Speaking, Listening, and Mathematics. They are the keys to the learning kingdom and as such will command about 40% - 50% of the timetable either directly through dedicated lesson slots or indirectly by being applied and practised in other subjects such as science or in thematic project-based learning. Homework will be used to consolidate and extend school-based learning.

Our curriculum will, of course, emphasise knowledge and understanding but, of equal significance, will be the teaching of skills, including basic skills like communication and numeracy. Children find learning new skills exciting. They are motivated by applying them creatively and independently across their studies and in life beyond school. In addition, we will teach and develop key life skills (e.g. healthy eating, staying safe, positive lifestyles).

Classroom learning will be integrated with a planned programme of exciting and motivational school trips, school journeys and extra-curricular events, including before and after school, lunchtimes, weekends and holiday clubs. The curriculum will be further enriched by inspirational visits from special guests such as artists, poets, scientists, dancers, actors and musicians. We aim for each major thematic project to include a school trip or a visit from an expert guest. These special events will be stimulating catalysts accelerating immediate learning while simultaneously heightening expectation for learning yet to come.

The federation curriculum - like the federation itself - aims to be a springboard to success!