

Leechpool Primary School

National Curriculum

Leechpool Primary School follows The National Curriculum. The National Curriculum is made up of three core subjects: English, mathematics and science.

The other subjects taught are the Foundation subjects and these are made up of: art and design, computing, design and technology, geography, history, languages, music, physical education (PE), and design and technology (DT). Our school also has a programme of Religious Education and PSHE and (Personal, Social, Health, Economic Education). Parents have the right to withdraw their children from religious education and collective worship. Sex Education is taught in Years 5 and 6 but all aspects of the curriculum is shared with families before it is delivered.

Pupils in Reception and Key Stage 1 will normally remain with their class teacher for most lessons, although teachers in each year team are encouraged to use their specialist talents to teach across the whole year group. This happens increasingly in Key Stage 2. At certain times and for particular subjects the children may be taught in flexible groups.

Teaching programmes are carefully planned to follow the programmes of study for each subject, outlined in the National Curriculum, and the school also develops basic skills, to ensure that our pupils are learning essential skills for life.

At Leechpool Primary School we are keen to connect the children's learning and we value our developing cross-curricular strategies, which help to bring learning alive for our pupils. In this way, the natural links and relationships between subjects are made clear to the children, so that their interest and enthusiasm for learning can be developed in a relevant, exciting context.

EYFS Curriculum in the Foundation Stage

The children in Foundation Stage follow the EYFS curriculum. The Reception classes, begin their learning through Developmental Stages and the Early Learning Goals; which covers communication and language, physical development, social and emotional development, literacy, mathematics, understanding the world, expressive arts and design. Use of computers and ipads are introduced in Reception and becomes an integral part of each pupil's learning throughout the school.

Within the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum, much of the learning is through play and is flexibly structured, in order to cater for all children. Children enter Leechpool Primary School at very different stages in their learning and we cater for a wide variety of differing needs. Children who already have a grasp of reading, writing and counting will be stretched and challenged, while other children will need to be guided initially to a degree of independence and sense of security. Our team of teachers and Learning Support Assistants work hard to create a happy, purposeful and stimulating learning environment, where all children are guided into achieving their best, by the end of their first year in school.

Our 'Learning to Learn' Culture and Leechpool's Learning Experiences

We value our 'Learning to Learn' culture, where we place emphasis on involving children in their learning, including encouraging them to understand, assess and evaluate their learning. Our pupils regularly discuss their 'next step' personal targets with teaching staff and each other, and reflect upon what helps and hinders them to learn.

At Leechpool, the National Curriculum is mapped out in carefully crafted concept, knowledge and skill-based learning experiences, with activities designed to motivate and stimulate children. We share every step of these experiences with our pupils and families, which means that they are engaged and can understand and value the process of learning.

English (Communication, Language & Literacy)

English is the thread weaving through every aspect of our lives. At Leechpool Primary School we aim to give our children the very best teaching and learning opportunities, in order that they develop confidence in their ability to communicate and express their feelings, views and ideas creatively and imaginatively.

The school is guided by the National Curriculum, which develops children's abilities to listen, speak, read and write for a wide range of purposes and audiences. Our pupils are given opportunities to become critical readers of a rich variety of texts – such as stories, poetry, non-fiction and media texts. This is enhanced by our extensive selection and variety of texts, accessible not only in the library, but also on interactive media such as kindles, iPads and MP3 players.

We use a variety of learning and teaching styles in our literacy lessons with first hand experiences to develop children's understanding. We value drama and give it a high profile at Leechpool, as we realise the part it plays in helping children to gain empathy with other people, characters and situations. Drama helps in visualising descriptions and leads to high quality work in English, as well as promoting confidence in our pupils. It also enables children to orally rehearse their ideas before starting the writing process.

English lessons include shared activities, focused word and sentence work, guided groups and independent tasks. In addition, English is studied and practised through cross-curricular activities, which encourages our children to apply their learning right across the curriculum.

The three main areas in English are:

- Speaking and Listening
- Reading
- Writing

Mathematics

At Leechpool Primary School the teaching of mathematics is taught in accordance with the new National Curriculum and is given high priority in the school. During the maths lessons, children learn a range of mathematical skills through a mixture of whole class teaching, group work and individual study.

We develop children's mental strategies throughout the school to help them build on previous knowledge and to tackle new mathematical problems independently. Much

of our class work is of a practical, investigative nature and opportunities for using and applying mathematics are taken across the curriculum.

From Year 1 upwards, children in each year group are taught in sets. Reception children are set for mathematics in the summer term. In Year 5 and 6, a specialist maths teacher is used to teach the children in three sets. Some children are also given opportunities to extend their learning in booster lessons to help them to meet national expectations or alternatively to help them progress towards higher level mathematics.

The school has trained staff who lead nationally recognised small intervention groups including Every Child Counts.

Science

Science is divided into the following areas:

- Experimental and investigative science
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics

Biology, chemistry and physics elements of science are underpinned through working scientifically.

Our aim in science is to stimulate and excite pupils' curiosity about the world around them. Children are encouraged to question and discuss science-based issues, and to develop an understanding of the contribution that science makes to technological change and to improving the quality of life. Aspects of natural science, such as the human body, plant growth, weather, electricity, sound, light, magnetism and movement are covered at a level appropriate to the ability of the developing primary child.

Art and Design

The developments of art and craft skills, together with an appreciation of the aesthetic aspects of life, are important areas of learning. At Leechpool Primary School, our children are given experience of a range of artistic styles and artists. Children have the opportunity to learn to observe closely and develop an awareness of colour, pattern and shape. The children work in a variety of media, and sketch books are used throughout the school. Children are given opportunities to develop skills in after school clubs.

Computing (Information, Communication Technology) and Eschools

The school computers are connected to a main server and the internet, and all classrooms, from Foundation Stage to Year 6, have smartboards, which impact positively on children's learning experiences. The school has a website, and all classes have digital and video cameras for pupil and staff use. The school has two laptop trolleys, containing a total of 32 laptops, which are used in the children's own classrooms on a timetabled basis. Each year group also has a set of at least 6 I pads and 6 Acer tablets in their classrooms. The children also have access to the virtual learning platform 'Eschool', which is used by primary and secondary schools throughout West Sussex. Eschools can be accessed at home by pupils and parents. Please ask your child's teacher about Eschools. We have high expectations of our children's safe use of

computer equipment and services, and all children and parents are asked to sign our Internet Permission Form and Acceptable Use Policy.

The teaching of computing skills forms an integral part of our teaching programme across the whole curriculum at Leechpool Primary School. Children are taught computing skills both directly and discretely, through other subjects. We seek to enhance children's confidence and learning by developing their skills and encouraging them to use these skills widely. We teach children control and data logging, graphics and design, simulations and modelling, data communications, information handling and word processing.

Design and Technology (DT)

Our work in design and technology spans other curriculum areas, linking them together, through the two attainment targets of designing and making. Pupils will experience working with a range of construction materials, mechanisms, structures and food. They will be taught how to consider their most suitable application as well as learning to use tools safely and confidently.

History

Our History curriculum aims to provide the children with an understanding of their own past. It also encourages them to be curious about people, places and events from beyond their own living memory. This knowledge then helps the children to develop a greater understanding of today's society.

Through visits, visitors, drama and a range of resources and sources, children learn that the past can be represented in different ways.

Geography

Our Geography curriculum aims to help the children understand their place in the world. This is achieved through the study of people, the land and the effects that people can have on their environment.

Our children study the local area, as well as different cultures and societies from across the world, allowing for comparisons to be made. Within the geography curriculum our children are given opportunities to use and understand a range of maps and to develop their investigative and problem solving skills.

Music

The music programme within the school is designed to raise children's awareness and foster a love of music. Music is often combined with movement and drama and children have opportunities to share their music making with one another. The children regularly take part in singing, particularly in assemblies and our Year 5 children take part in the Horsham Schools' Music Festival. Specialist music tuition in woodwind, violin and guitar, is available for pupils in Years 4-6. Fees are payable termly for these lessons, from the West Sussex Music Service.

In Key Stage 2 pupils have the opportunity to do the Key to Music Scheme allowing them to experience various instruments such as African drumming and the clarinet. Fee

playing recorder and music skills clubs are run by a specialist teachers, for pupils in Years 2-6.

Religious Education (RE)

All LA schools are required by law to provide religious education for pupils in accordance with the agreed syllabus. The syllabus reflects the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are, in the main, Christian, whilst taking account of other principle religions. During RE lessons, we aim to develop an awareness of the child's own worth, while creating an understanding of others, fostering the realisation that we all have a place and that it matters how we behave and what we do. This helps to encourage a sense of belonging to the school and the wider community. A daily act of collective worship provides a special focus for celebration and reflection on social, moral, spiritual and cultural experiences. We have regular visits from our local All Saints Church, and our Year 3 and 4 pupils perform their Christmas celebration concert at the church. We welcome visitors from other faiths into the school, to share their beliefs and experiences with our children.

We respect parents' rights of withdrawing their child from the daily act of collective worship and / or lessons in Religious Education - please speak with the Headteacher. Alternative provision will be made in these cases.

Physical Education (PE)

All children benefit from our range of PE resources, our large hall and spacious site. They are taught the knowledge, skills and understanding of key elements of the national curriculum through dance, games, gymnastics and athletics. Included in our Years 3, 4 and 5 curriculum is a choice between having a weekly swimming lesson for one term, which takes place at The Pavilions in Horsham Park, or an on-site health and fitness session.

Our Year 6 pupils are invited to take part in an extra-curricular long weekend in the summer term, where they experience exciting adventurous activities, such as climbing, orienteering, archery, BMX ing and raft building.

Pupils at Leechpool are given opportunities to take part in a number of after-school sports clubs, such as: football, athletics, cross-country running, rugby, stool ball, tennis, netball, dance, gymnastics, cricket, golf, karate and country dancing. We liaise closely with Horsham Leisure Link and other local facilities, for the benefit of our pupils.

Competitive events are regularly arranged, such as friendly and league matches in football and netball and Leechpool Primary School takes part in the annual Horsham District Sports, the Country Dancing Festival, Indoor Sports Hall Athletics, table tennis competitions, Horsham and District Cross country Event, Tag Rugby Festival, swimming competitions and the District Rounders' Tournament, hosted by Leechpool. The children also take part in "inter-house school competitions.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE)

The teaching of personal, social, health and economic education is a planned and integral part of children's work. Through a range of activities, our children develop the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to help them lead happy, confident and healthy lives, both at school and throughout life. Our 6Rs values (Resilience, Responsibility, Reflectiveness, Relationships, Risk Taking, and Resourcefulness) are included in our PSHE education work through the school.

Our overarching school rule of Respect is reflected in the children's learning about the world around them and the similarities and differences in people.

We value the views of our children and 'Pupil Voice' is a strong part of the ethos at Leechpool Primary School. We listen to what our children say. Their ideas count and have a visible impact throughout the school.

Leechpool's School Council meets regularly, and plays an important part in the life of the school. Councilors are democratically elected in each class and represent their peers across the school. Branch School Counselors, from Years 4-6, work directly with the Headteacher to address school issues. Dragon Team Captains and Playground Monitors are also democratically elected. These children work hard through their playtimes and lunch times, to guide and support pupils, both inside the school and on the playground.

Sex and Relationship Education (SRE)

Sex and relationship education is a key part of the school curriculum and it gives our pupils important opportunities to learn how to make responsible and well informed decisions about their lives. Our programme, within the framework of the National Curriculum, is embedded in the PSHCE and science programmes of study. SRE helps our young people to learn respect for themselves and others, and to move with confidence from childhood to adolescence.

The curriculum is tailored to meet the age, emotional and physical maturity and understanding of pupils. It closely follows KS1 and KS2 programmes in the National Curriculum for science. Sex and relationship education is taught directly within a PSHCE and science topic in Years 5 and 6. It includes knowledge of how the body functions, how we grow and how we change physically and emotionally, how a baby is born and puberty – for both boys and girls. In all cases these issues are handled sensitively by the class teachers.

We liaise closely with parents, particularly over the materials being used. Parents are invited into school to view the materials beforehand, and to have any questions answered by staff. Parents are informed when sex and relationship education is taking place, so that they can be prepared to answer questions within the cultural and moral setting of their home. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from sex and relationship education; please speak with the Headteacher about this.

SEN Special Educational Needs and disabilities (SEND) and Additional Educational Needs (AEN)

The school has regard to the 2014 Special Educational Needs Code of Practice, when meeting children's learning difficulties, behavioural and/or emotional difficulties and/or

disabilities. The school's Special Educational Needs Policy document is available to you via the school website. The school has a policy of full inclusion and responds to the requirements of the Single Equality Policy 2010. We strive towards making our school accessible for all. The category of Additional Educational Needs (AEN) covers: English as an Additional Language (EAL), gifted and talented and 'looked after' children.

Our children are well supported by our SENCO / Inclusion Manager and all staff. Our SENCO / Inclusion Manager liaises with class teachers in the early identification of need. Class teachers are responsible for creating programmes of support for children and for writing Individual Pupil Profiles, with guidance and support from our SENCO / Inclusion Manager. We invite parents in to school to co-produce targets with us, as part of our co-production approach to children's learning. We also work closely with a wide range of specialist services from outside agencies, within the Local Authority.

Provision is made for able pupils, in identifying them, planning extension activities and ensuring their needs are met. Some more able pupils may join older children for specific lessons, either at our school or at secondary school. Enrichment activities are sought from outside agencies when appropriate.

In the context of the Government's 'Every Child Matters' agenda, we aim to promote the highest possible individual achievement, for all our pupils, across the whole spectrum of life at Leechpool Primary School:

- be happy and healthy
- stay safe
- enjoy and achieve
- make a positive contribution
- achieve economic wellbeing