



Sussex Road Primary School Curriculum Policy Statement

Intent

Sussex Road Primary School is a community school in the heart of the town of Tonbridge in Kent. We have strong relationships with our parents who are supportive and aspirational for their children. Our school community support our values and learning ethos: as a result, we maintain high attendance of our children through the year. Our families have diverse cultural backgrounds and life experiences. We have specifically designed our school curriculum to reflect our school community in its design and intent.

Our curriculum embraces our values, learning ethos and learning behaviours. We create learners who **question** the world around them, **challenge** themselves to think more deeply and **explore** the answers to their questions. We use metacognitive strategies to develop learners who constantly plan, monitor and evaluate their learning in order to reflect on both their successes and areas for improvement.

Our aim is that pupils will leave Sussex Road equipped with the curriculum skills, knowledge and learning dispositions needed to be successful throughout their onward education and into lifelong careers. Our curriculum fosters a thirst for enquiry alongside a rich aspirational drive for the future. At the heart of our curriculum is a focus on the development of the whole child with a strong emphasis on the importance of wellbeing and inclusion. We encourage our pupils to thrive personally, socially and academically with a love for the great outdoors.

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Our subject leaders understand the needs of our pupils and the context of our school. They have developed their curriculum, drawing on current research, to reflect this. They can articulate how the intent of their subject meets this context. For example, our design and technology curriculum includes a focus on food technology, reflecting our aspiration that pupils will develop healthy eating habits for life. Our science curriculum reflects our aspiration that girls at Sussex Road will view themselves as the STEM professionals of the future: We specifically teach about the role of women in science. Our geography curriculum enables pupils to create an emotional connection to the wider world, fostering their engagement with current and future global issues. Our PE curriculum enables pupils to develop physical literacy with an understanding of how exercise influences our lifelong physical and mental health.

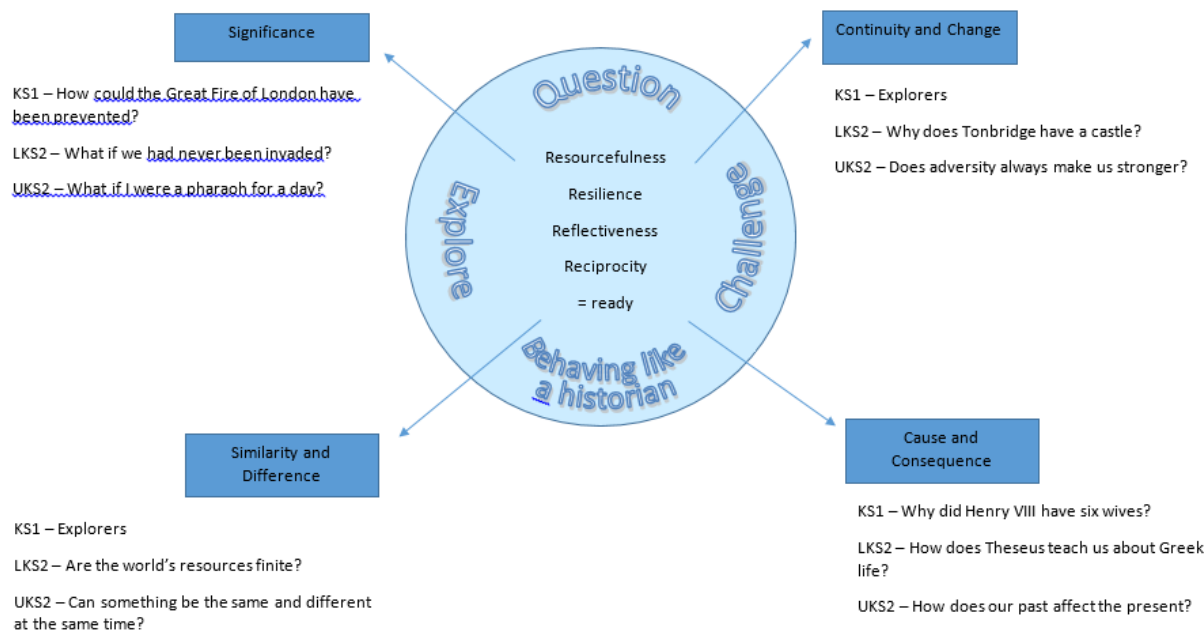
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Our forest school learning promotes an appreciation of the local, national and global environment including the unique role each of us has to play in sustaining the world around us.

Implementation

The bespoke curriculum at Sussex Road has been designed with reference to current research about best educational practice. Our curriculum includes the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum 2014.

Each subject has a set of recurring skills. This unique set of skills is revisited and developed across the school. For example, the recurring skills in history are significance, continuity and change, similarity and difference and cause and consequence. (See below)



In addition, each subject has a specific set of key skills, which detail the progression pupils make in their learning during their education at Sussex Road. The skills are described within a 'Behaving like a' framework e.g. Behaving like an artist, behaving like a geographer, behaving like a scientist. These skills are allocated across blocks of learning – Years 1 and 2, Years 3 and 4 and Years 5 and 6. Our pupils embed these key skills over time to become experts in each curriculum area.

Most subjects are taught within our enquiry led by an overarching enquiry question such as: Does adversity always make us stronger? The enquiry question encourages, engages and promotes thinking and discussion amongst pupils. The enquiry learning starts with an initial 'hook' experience, the aim of the hook is to develop the open-ended questioning element of the enquiry. The hook is innovative and engaging so that pupils are motivated to develop a line of enquiry and consider aspects of learning they wish to explore. Examples of hooks that pupils experience at Sussex Road include dissection of a pig heart as a precursor to an enquiry about the human body, a crime scene investigation as a precursor to a study of materials and an immersive Viking day as a precursor to a study of the Viking period.

Each enquiry unit embraces the teaching of a number of curriculum subjects. The subjects are interwoven to enable pupils to make vital links between subjects so that skills and knowledge can be transferred. Differentiation ensures that all learners, including those with special educational needs, have full access to the curriculum. Learning is secured overtime so that it becomes embedded within long-term memory. This deeper learning will be vital to our pupils throughout their education.

Each enquiry ends with an outcome. The outcome might be a performance, exhibition, demonstration, model or art piece. The outcome highlights the learning achieved during the enquiry and is shared with parents and the wider community.

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Some curriculum subjects are taught independently of the enquiry unit. For example, religious education follows the Kent syllabus, physical education incorporates elements delivered by the local Sports Partnership and music follows the Music Express programme. Where possible, aspects of these subjects will be incorporated within the enquiry learning. However links are only included when we can ensure that key curriculum skills can be taught accurately and with integrity.

We offer a variety of opportunities for extra-curricular learning through clubs and off-site visits. We offer our pupils equity of access to new and varied learning experiences.

We are proud of our commitment to learning that is inclusive for all pupils. Our curriculum meets the needs of all learners. Differentiated learning opportunities ensure that all pupils experience a broad and rich curriculum relevant to their interests and abilities.

Impact

The impact of the curriculum at Sussex Road is measured and demonstrated in a variety of ways.

Our pupils are the ambassadors of the success of our curriculum and pupils demonstrate knowledge that is secure and transferable. Pupils embed and model learning behaviours which enable them to achieve success. Pupils connect emotionally with learning, so they understand its' relevance to their present and future selves. Pupils are active, responsible citizens who promote inclusion and equality for all. Pupils know how to maintain healthy lifestyles, which sustain both their physical and mental health.

Subject leaders are responsible for maintaining standards across the curriculum. They monitor and evaluate the quality of teaching and learning in their subject. Subject leaders support colleagues through continuing professional development so that all members of staff have the necessary skills to teach subject content effectively.

Subject leaders oversee assessment of pupil outcomes. Assessment outcomes are measured against the objectives of the National Curriculum. Pupil outcomes are reported annually to parents.

Parents engage pro-actively with the curriculum at Sussex Road in the best interests of their children. They fully understand the importance of the shared role that school, and home have in securing successful outcomes for children. The enquiry overviews published on the school website enable parents to understand the content of the curriculum taught each term. Parents can support their children with learning vocabulary and subject knowledge through everyday conversations and practical experiences. We actively encourage parents to support our more vulnerable pupils by providing them with relevant books before the start of each enquiry unit. These books foster opportunities for shared interest and engagement.

As a community school, we are committed to exploring links with our wider community and stakeholders. We utilise the parent community and local networks to enhance the relevance of our curriculum. Local organisations such as Tonbridge Library, Tonbridge Leisure Centre, the Tonbridge Lions group and Tonbridge House Care Home contribute to our enquiry learning. Our pupils understand the importance of community and networking.

The impact of the curriculum at Sussex Road Primary School is demonstrable through the learning ethos of our school. It is evident through the learning environments and learning conversations that take place in school every day. From Year R to Year 6, pupils will engage with a vibrant, relevant curriculum that enhances their lives and connects them to the world beyond our school. Learning for life and a life of learning.

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