



Teaching Foundation Subjects

The National Curriculum of England for Key Stage 1 and 2 has 3 core subjects, English, maths and science, and 8 foundation subjects. These comprise of history, geography, computing, art and design, design technology, languages (in key stage 2), music and physical education (PE). Alongside these, there is an expectation that the school will offer a curriculum which is balanced and broadly based and which: 'promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, and prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.' Religious education (RE) is also a taught component in primary school, and there is an expectation that an agreed RE syllabus is taught in all maintained Primary Schools.

An overarching aim of the National Curriculum is: To provide pupils with an introduction to the essential knowledge that they need to be educated citizens. It introduces pupils to the best that has been thought and said; and helps engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement.

Within the Early Years Foundation Stage children are working towards the Early Learning Goals as set out by the government in the statutory framework for the early years foundation stage. This document states there are 7 areas of learning. There are 3 Prime areas-Communication and Language, Physical Development and Personal, Social and Emotional Development. Alongside the Prime areas providers must also support children in four specific areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied. The specific areas are: Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Art and Design. For more information regarding teaching and learning in EYFS, please see our EYFS Statement published on the website.

At Thorp Primary school we want all our children to have the knowledge and skills to become responsible adults who aspire to achieve in their lives. The curriculum that we teach at Thorp will give our pupils experiences that enable them to develop independent thinking skills, foster a love of learning and give them a broad knowledge base to ensure that they are fully equipped for the modern world. Through our curriculum we want our children to be proud of their heritage, to be knowledgeable of the local community of Royton, and how that is connected to Oldham, Britain and the world. We will utilise the local environment and ensure that visits to other locations or visitors to the school, and the use of different technologies and mediums are all tools used by the teachers at Thorp to deliver memorable learning experiences. In addition, through the teaching of the foundation subjects the key skills of the core subjects can be enhanced and further developed.

At Thorp, as part of the Oak Trust for Inspirational learning and leadership, we want all children to be school ready, work ready, life ready. The foundation subjects are bound together within a theme for every term, to enable children to see connections and develop skills and knowledge along broad themes. Subjects such as computing and design and technology enhance thinking skills and are key areas in professions such as engineering and those in the science arena. History, geography, RE and languages promote an understanding of where we come from as a nation and our place in the world, as well as teaching children enquiry skills and critical thinking which are crucial in many professions. Music and art and design enable children to be creative and develop skills in imagination, critical thinking and composition. These are tools that all children need to become rounded adults with high aspirations. Physical Education ensures that children are healthy, have a good understanding of teamwork, are given the opportunity to explore competitiveness in a positive manner and experience a wide variety of games, dance and gymnastics.

In the summer term of 2019, the school commissioned an outside consultant to support the school in developing a child centred, values based curriculum that ensures that as children progress through school they develop knowledge and understanding of their local area, the wider community, Great Britain and the world. This consultant will continue to work with the school throughout the 2019-20 academic year. From autumn 2019 we will begin the roll out of our curriculum where each year group will have a year long enquiry thread that is delivered each term through a key theme.

For detailed curriculum information, each year group plan can be found within the pages for each year group on the school website, or on request from the school office.