



Curriculum

Updated Sept 19



Cornerstones

The aim of Aqueduct's curriculum is to offer exciting learning opportunities for every child to be able to develop and grow within a range of stimulating, challenging and nurturing experiences. Many of these experiences will originate from the National Curriculum however, they will be taught as part of a cross-curricular, thematic approach deriving from the 'Cornerstones' ILPs (Imaginative Learning Project).

The National Curriculum

In their first year of school, your child will follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum which is the same curriculum that they followed at nursery. This allows for continuity during their first year of school and ensures a smoother transition into life at primary school.

By law, each child aged 5-11 years must be taught a range of subjects that make up the National Curriculum. These subjects are English, Science, Mathematics, Design and Technology, History, Geography, Music, Art, Information Technology and Physical Education. For each of these subjects a description of what children will be taught is detailed in the appropriate schemes of work which are based on nationally approved guidelines.

In addition to these subjects, children will be taught Religious Education and a range of cross-curricular ideas such as Sustainable Education, Health Education, Education for Citizenship and Economic and Industrial Understanding.

French is taught to all children across Key Stage 2.

Key Stage One children must be taught for a minimum of 21 hours per week and Key Stage Two children for 23.5 hours per week.

How Is The Curriculum Taught?

Classes are of mixed ability. Sometimes it is necessary, because of numbers, to have mixed age groups in a class. However, all the teaching in the school is based on the needs of the children so; being in a class with older or younger children will not affect the learning and development of any child.

We endeavour to ensure that the curriculum offered to your child is creative and enjoyable. Our curriculum is based on the National Curriculum (2014) and provides real-life contexts for learning, so that children are motivated to learn and see the importance of their learning. Our aim is to develop your child into an independent and lifelong learner, with the appropriate knowledge and skills.

Religious Education is taught in accordance with the Local Education Authority's agreed syllabus (September 2014) - a copy of which is available in school for parents to see. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Religious Education lessons, as they do from daily collective worship.

Information On The School Curriculum

Each term, your child's curriculum will be based on a theme which will match your child's interests and age. There will be opportunities for your child to have an input into the curriculum as well as to have first-hand experiences through educational visits and practical activities. Each week your child will bring home details of their homework, which will link to the Theme and to their current learning. This means you will be able to talk to them about their learning at home.

Religious Education

Religious Education is provided in accordance with current legislation and the recommendations of the Local Authority. We encourage children to develop a caring and tolerant attitude towards people with beliefs, regardless of whether they are different from their own. We introduce the children to all important world religions including Christianity.

Assemblies, in accordance with current requirements, contain a broadly Christian act of worship. We believe it important to support parents in developing the spiritual and moral values of their child and we respect the beliefs and faith of all families. If parents wish to withdraw their children from worship or R.E., we ask that they visit the school to discuss our policy. They will be given opportunities to be involved in appropriate alternative activities.

Relationships and Sex Education

Governors have agreed that children will be taught relationships and sex education from Reception to Year 6 based on the Living and Growing programmes. Your child will be taught age appropriate content to ensure that they have a realistic understanding of their developing and changing bodies. Aspects of Sex Education are contained within the Science National Curriculum Programmes of Study, for example developing knowledge of the parts of the body and how they work. These are included within our normal curriculum planning.

Should you wish to withdraw your child from the school's Sex Education Programme we ask you to come into school to discuss our policy (which is also available on the school's website).

How Children Are Assessed?

Children are assessed on their work as part of their daily activity in the classroom. This includes responding to the teacher's marking and opportunities to be involved in peer and self-assessment. Teachers are consistently able to describe the progress that the children in the class are making.

In addition to this kind of continuous teacher assessment, there is also a more formal assessment that schools are required to carry out as part of the National Curriculum. This comes at the end of Year 1 (when your child is 5 or 6), and they complete the Phonic Screening Test in June; in Year 2, at the end of Key Stage One (when your child is seven, in Year Two); and at the end of Key Stage Two (when your child is eleven, in Year Six). At these times, assessments will be made on your child's progress in English and Mathematics through assessments made by the teacher and by Standard Assessment Tasks taken by your child in the Summer Term. The results of these assessments are shared with you.

Copies of the National Curriculum and school subject policy documents are available for parents to see by arrangement with the Headteacher.

[Click here](#) to read some success stories on the Cornerstones website.