

# Graham James Primary Academy



## Curriculum Policy

Agreed: September 2022

Next Review Date: July 2023



# Curriculum Policy

## Graham James Primary Academy



### Curriculum Intent:

At Graham James Primary Academy, we aim to provide a curriculum for children that is engaging, exciting and empowering and equips them for the next phase of education and beyond. Our curriculum continues to develop with regards to whole school topics which create fantastic engagement and outcomes for our learners.

Our curriculum provides opportunities for all children to develop a growth mind-set as independent, confident and successful learners, with high aspirations, who know how to make a positive contribution to their community and the society around them. Our shared vision is to create a stimulating learning environment for the children in partnership with their parents and the wider community. Graham James is a caring, listening school and we take into consideration the needs and character of our children: the children's prior learning, children's experiences, the surrounding community, the National and Early Years curriculum and educational research that is relevant to our school.

Key Skills underpin our curriculum, these are the foundations for preparing our children to become the adults of tomorrow, We aim for our children to be: Resilient, creative, positive, inquisitive, sociable, respectful, confident, responsible, compassionate, independent and safety aware.

We have designed a curriculum that teaches what matters so that children know more, remember more, understand more, and enjoy themselves more whilst learning.

A large number of children start at Graham James with poor language skills and as a result, our curriculum focuses on speaking, listening, vocabulary development, reading and writing. Our curriculum aims to enable children to be fluent readers by the time they leave key stage 1 with a progressively rich vocabulary that can be transferred into confident communicators.

Graham James serves a mainly white British community, this means that cultural and religious awareness is important to support pupils to be prepared for life in modern, multi-cultural Britain – this is reflected in our curriculum.

See Appendix A for a subject by subject intent breakdown.

### Curriculum Implementation:

#### Engaging

We provide whole school topics, led by subjects important to our children and the society we live in, we do this within lessons that provide a range of learning experiences, and encourage children to be proud of their own achievements. We encourage our children to work in different ways and with different people to develop their confidence and result in them being sociable.

To ensure that children have an understanding of the society around them visitor's lead special assemblies and visit when related to topics, children take part in educational visits to further their learning and see it applied in reality. This teaches our children to understand and be compassionate towards their immediate community and have a better understanding of modern Britain.

We understand the needs of our children, and that children learn in different ways, therefore we provide concrete and visual learning throughout the school as well as challenging children in all subjects to reach greater depth and to challenge themselves to make their best better.

We provide a range of engaging resources to support the children's learning, from the use of technology, practical lessons using tools and equipment developing children's skills across the years.

Our school promotes reading to all children in order to develop a love of reading across the genres by our reading environments being stimulating, engaging and enticing. Reading is encouraged and celebrated throughout the school and this is reflected in our consistently high levels of writing.

## **Exciting**

The Children at Graham James are inquisitive and excited by the topics that the whole school are sharing alongside topics that are required within the National Curriculum.

Children want to learn more due to their first hand experiences, which support their learning and the rich environment in which they undertake these. Children are able to use their environment around them within their learning such as using the Playground area to support their Phonics and Maths, as well as within Physical Education.

We also provide a variety of extra-curricular activities that the children enjoy and we participate in events outside of school. This can vary from sporting events, the choir singing within the locality, children helping to decorate the town centre at Christmas, these events foster an attitude of community and appreciation towards each other as well as being a celebration of their own achievements.

Our children are rewarded for their achievements, their perseverance, their attitude and their manners with in class rewards, whole school Step Awards and Gold Awards, this encourages children to be positive in their approach to learning and respectful at all times and in turn giving them confidence in themselves.

## **Empowering**

At Graham James we encourage the children to develop the skills towards independence, we provide resources that will support them and give them opportunities to practice key skills and apply these within their learning. Lessons encourage children to take risks and build their resilience whilst we also challenge them to explore their own creative interests.

To ensure that children have a voice within their school we hold focused buddy assemblies, giving children the opportunity to share their opinions as to what matters to them, this makes the children the decision makers for matters such as charities to donate to and future topics.

Children throughout the school are given responsibilities, and all children are expected to follow our Golden Rules, which are embedded within our assemblies with a focus on being responsible for yourself. All classes regularly take part in class assemblies sharing their work with their families as well as Christmas Performances always encouraging our children to share their work with pride and helping them to understand that they are part of a wider community.

## **Curriculum Impact:**

Through delivering a broad and balanced curriculum our children are observed to be independent and confident learners, happy to share their successes. They are motivated to learn and challenge themselves and willing to take risks. This secures improvements in outcomes for all pupils, including disadvantaged and those with SEND relevant to their starting points.

We continue to work hard to ensure good outcomes across all phases of learning. As a result of our curriculum, our results are consistently high and above national comparisons in the vast majority of areas. .

Children are eager to learn and keen to arrive in the morning with children confident that they will be in a caring environment and have established friendships, develop responsibilities and know that they will be cared for.

Children have the support to try, the confidence to fail and the encouragement and challenge to reach their potential in a safe, stimulating and happy atmosphere.



# Curriculum Intent

## for each curriculum area

APPENDIX A

**MATHS** - Our math's curriculum is in line with the National Curriculum and follows a mastery approach which enables all children to have rich and meaningful mathematical understanding. Our aim is to ensure that all pupils become fluent in the fundamentals of mathematics with a key focus on number so that pupils develop solid conceptual understanding and the ability to recall and apply knowledge rapidly and accurately. Children are taught to reason mathematically by following a line of enquiry, finding connections and establishing relationships whilst using mathematical language. They become confident and resilient learners and are encouraged to investigate mathematical problems further by selecting their own resources to promote independence. Variation is a key component in our mathematical teaching and children are empowered to choose and explore a varied range of concrete manipulatives, pictorial representations and abstract methodologies within each session. We follow the White Rose Maths Scheme of learning and use the NCETM materials to support mathematical teaching.

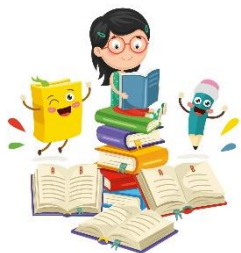


### ENGLISH:

**Writing** - Our aim is to deliver an exciting and engaging curriculum that helps develop a love of writing and inspires children to be writers. We aim to provide children with the essential skills in grammar, spelling and punctuation that will be life long. We aim to support children to be creative during writing sessions and develop resilience, this is promoted through our enquiry based learning curriculum. To create a culture where children love to write and are proud of their accomplishments. We aim to support children to be articulate and confident communicators who express themselves and enhance their learning when engaging in discussions.

**Reading** - To foster a love for reading by listening and interacting with a variety of literature, non-fiction and poetry. To provide children with life-long skills to ensure they can read confidently and with a secure understanding. To build a community of engaged readers who read for meaning and pleasure by engaging parents. To provide plenty of opportunities to read for pleasure. To create a resilient mind-set across different purposes. To ensure reading is a transferable skill that children are reading across the curriculum. To develop a consistent approach to reading teaching in order to close any gaps and to target the highest number of children attaining the expected standard or higher.

**Phonics** - Deliver daily phonics through a high quality phonic programme and consistently implement it to equip children with the skills to decode and become fluent readers. Provide children with books that are closely matched to their phonic phase. Support children in catching up quickly and making assessments to target interventions. Ensure the highest number of children possible pass Year 1 phonics screening check.



**Science** - Children develop a sound base of scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding on which to 'hook' all further learning. An inquiry based learning approach is at the heart of the curriculum. Children are inquisitive and are able to use scientific skills to understand the uses and implications of science in the world in which we live. They become independent and resilient learners through self-selecting opportunities to carry out research, experiment and pursue their own lines of enquiry.

Children develop a positive love of science and scientific enquiry in order to encourage higher numbers studying science to a higher level and working in STEM based careers in the future.





**Design & Technology** - At Graham James our Design & Technology curriculum is inspiring, exciting, and practical. We want our children to use creativity and imagination, to design and make products that solve real and relevant problems within a variety of contexts, considering their own and others' needs, wants and values. We intend for all children to acquire appropriate subject knowledge, skills and understanding as set out in the National Curriculum. It is our aim to create strong cross curricular links with other subjects, such as Mathematics, Science, Computing, and Art. We want Design and Technology to prepare our children, to give them the opportunities, responsibilities, and experiences they need to be successful in later life.

**Religious Education (RE)** - Over recent years, Corringham has seen an increase in population and as a result has become positively more diverse with regards to nationality and religion. This means that cultural and religious awareness is important to support pupils to be prepared for life in our modern and multicultural Britain. The aim of our RE curriculum is to ensure that the children understand that not everyone has the same beliefs as themselves and the importance of understanding different faiths and beliefs. Our curriculum has been constructed through a skills approach focusing on the following areas:

The beliefs and teachings  
Expressing meaning  
Meaning and purpose

Practices and lifestyles  
Identity and experience  
Values and commitments



**History** - The school serves a mainly white British community and this means that cultural awareness is important to support pupils to be respectful and compassionate and prepared for life in modern, multicultural Britain.

To ensure children are taught a sense of chronology and through this develop a sense of identity and cultural understanding. Encourage curiosity through an enquiry approach to the teaching of history.

**Geography** - It is our intent for the Geography curriculum to inspire pupils with a curiosity and fascination about the world around them locally and beyond Thurrock. For those children who have travelled abroad, many visit close European countries, therefore lack experiences from further afield. Teaching should equip pupils with knowledge about diverse places, people, resources and natural and human environments, together with a deep understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes.



**Music** - At Graham James Primary Academy we have a passion for music! Our intent is for children to develop a strong set of music skills which will provide all with the opportunity to take a love for learning further in the future. At Graham James Primary Academy, children have chances to independently make creative and inquisitive decisions, working in groups to listen and appraise also to enhance a positive music experience. Through music lessons, children will gain better knowledge of music around the world and different cultures - having respectful discussions and listening to live and recorded music.

'Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity' - Nat. Curriculum.

**Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)** - At Graham James Primary Academy, children are given the opportunity to develop their French language skills as well as learn about French culture and traditions.

Children will learn to express their thoughts and ideas in French and be able to respond through speaking and listening and in reading and writing. We believe that foreign language learning is full of rich opportunities to develop pupil's spiritual, moral and cultural experiences.

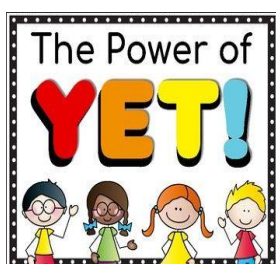
Why French? From our position in Corringham, France (Calais) is only 103 miles away - therefore, France is the closest country to our learners (of note - Wales 174 miles away).



**PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education)** - PSHE enables our children to become healthy, independent and responsible members of society. It aims to help them understand how they are developing personally and socially, and tackles many of the moral, social and cultural issues that are part of growing up.

PSHE is integral to the development of children's values in order for them to become a positive citizen in a forever changing community.

PSHE is an important part of school assemblies and collective worship where children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural curiosity is stimulated, challenged and nurtured.



**Physical Education (PE)** - The intent of teaching Physical Education is to give children the tools and understanding required to make a positive impact in their own physical health and well-being. We want all children to experience a wide variety of sports and physical skills which will enhance life-long fitness and life choices. PE can challenge and promote self-esteem through the development of physical confidence and problem solving. It can teach children to cope with both success and failure in competitive, individual and team based physical activities.

Our curriculum is enhanced by carefully selected extra-curricular clubs whereby children can further develop skills via specialist coaches/ teachers. In order to promote lifelong participation, all of our curricular & extra-curricular clubs can be continued within the local community (e.g. football clubs - East Thurrock United, netball clubs, athletics clubs Basildon/Thurrock Harriers, gymnastics - Basildon sporting village, Swimming - Corringham Impulse etc.)



**SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disability)** - We believe in early identification and have the aim of supporting children with SEND to engage within the whole curriculum. With support, resources and appropriate learning tasks we aim for our children to become confident and increase their independence. We support our children to increase their understanding of their emotions and the world around them so that they can become responsible, respectful and sociable as well as having a positive attitude towards themselves, their learning and challenges they may face.

**EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage)** - Due to increasingly low on entry levels of speech and language, our focus is on speaking, listening, vocabulary development, reading and writing. We aim for all children to be confident communicators and to use a wide range of vocabulary. Our curriculum enables children to learn to segment and blend words in order to read simple sentences which prepares them positively for the next phase in their learning. Our curriculum is vitally important to set the foundations for the schooling that follows, therefore we make sure that our themes are engaging, inspiring and motivate children to achieve their potential.



**Art & design** - At Graham James Primary Academy, we value Art & design as an important part of the children's entitlement to a broad and balanced curriculum. Art & design provides the children with the opportunities to develop and extend skills and an opportunity to express their individual interests, thought and ideas.



Art, craft and design embody some of the highest forms of human creativity. A high-quality art and design education should engage, inspire and challenge pupils, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to experiment, invent and create their own works of art, craft and design. As pupils progress, they should be able to think critically and develop a more rigorous understanding of art and design. They should also know how art and design both reflect and shape our history, and contribute to the culture, creativity and wealth of our nation. Our curriculum will introduce artists and styles of art which many children at Graham James have not been exposed to or experienced before.

**ICT** - Our ICT and Computing curriculum provides children with the skills and knowledge to keep them safe and prepare them for a technology rich future. It provides all children the opportunity to access , laptops and iPads and learn how to use them with increasing independence through the years of their time at Graham James.

Our curriculum meets the needs of the children living in the local area. In the area, there have been issues with children keeping safe online; therefore our curriculum intends to create resilient, confident and safety aware children who know what to do if they are faced with something they think is not right. At present, there is an increasing safeguarding risk to our children being exposed to gang culture and activity; we address this by looking at internet safety every term and having whole school assemblies (sometimes from outside agencies) so the children know how to keep themselves safe.

Our curriculum teaches children the skills they need to be successful in the future, preparing them for future careers they may endeavour to have and giving them the confidence to go into these fields of work.



*Caring to learn, learning to care*