

Rokesly Junior School Rokesly Junior School Curriculum Statement



Ratified By Governing Body
Date: October 2019

Rokesly Junior School Curriculum Statement

At Rokesly Junior School we follow the National Curriculum in all subject areas. The Curriculum Statement sets out in more detail information for each subject area.

English

At Rokesly, we aim to equip our children with both skills and passion for the English language, be it written, read or spoken.

We teach writing through the Talk For Writing approach, a hands-on, interactive and immersive method which encourages children to investigate, analyse and understand a range of genres. This enables them to write confidently, with technical precision and creative flair, for a range of purposes. We use the Nelson handwriting scheme to help children develop neat, joined and legible handwriting. Our spelling programme encourages children to identify and apply the rules of the English language.

We teach reading through The BIG Read, a whole-class approach which is founded on the enjoyment of high-quality texts from a range of genres, including fiction, non-fiction and poetry. Children are taught a range of skills to aid comprehension, inference and retrieval, encouraging them to develop confidence in reading for pleasure and research.

Overall, our aim is for our children to be confident communicators who are in command of the English language.

Maths

At Rokesly we believe that mathematics equips pupils with the uniquely powerful set of tools to understand and change the world. These tools include logical reasoning, problem solving skills and the ability to think in abstract ways. We also believe that maths is a creative subject that is integrally linked to the areas of science, technology and engineering.

We believe that all children have the ability to be mathematicians. In order to equip children with the skills with which to succeed, we believe in a concrete-pictorial-abstract approach to the teaching of maths. This ensures that all children have a firm grasp in the deep concepts of maths, enabling them to understand more complex mathematical ideas further on in their education. We also believe that fluency of number facts is vital to building confidence and speed in solving mathematical problems. In order to ensure that we cover all of the areas of the National Curriculum, we use the Maths No Problem scheme as a basis, which we feel offers both the support for enabling conceptual understanding, and the coverage of the 2014 National Curriculum which is required.

Science

We passionately believe that at the root of effective science teaching is the ability to create a sense of awe and wonder in children about the world around them. We aim to teach science using practical, hands on approaches wherever possible and to enable children to follow their own lines of enquiry. We also aim to link our teaching of science to the wider world of STEM subjects to enable children to see the interconnectivity of these.

At Rokesly our aim in science is to not just teach science, but to create scientists. We teach the key subject areas of science through the lens of working scientifically, as specified in the National Curriculum. The children learn how to develop their own questions, plan their own investigations and make sense of results and data. In doing this, they get to understand that science is a vibrant subject that allows open ended thinking and creative solutions.

Computing

Rokesly Junior School recognises that current and emerging technologies enhance the learning experience for pupils. We aim for our children to be confident, capable and discerning users of digital technology, preparing them for participation in a rapidly changing world. We strive to keep children safe online and work with parents and carers to provide them with the knowledge and tools to do so. Adults model how to use technology safely, respectfully and responsibly.

Rokesly Junior School makes use of shared resources such as laptops and Chromebooks to support learning both in computing lessons and across the curriculum. Classrooms are well resourced with touch screens, PCs, cameras and visualisers, all of which are used to enhance children's learning.

At Rokesly Junior School we aim for our pupils to become creative, logical and critical thinkers who reason systematically and work collaboratively. We follow the national curriculum for computing, which encompasses three core strands: Computing and digital skills, Information Technology and Digital Literacy.

History

At Rokesly our aim for the children, by following the National Curriculum objectives, is for the children to develop historical knowledge and understanding about local, British and world history. We want the children to understand that History is learnt through an active process of inquiry-based learning that encourages learners to build on prior knowledge through experience and to search for new information and relationships.

We give the children enriched opportunities throughout the teaching of the history curriculum such as wow days, trips and visitor workshops in school.

In addition at Rokesly we incorporate Black History Month into our planning each year. Children study a range of topics from immigration to the struggle for equality and the campaign for civil rights.

Geography

At Rokesly Geography is a valued part of the curriculum, providing a purposeful means for exploring, appreciating and understanding the world in which we live and how it has evolved. We get the children to understand that Geography explores the relationship between the Earth and its people through the study of place, space and environment. In Geography lessons we want the children to learn the skills of understanding a locality and how and where people fit into its overall structure. Our aim in Geography is to encourage the children to learn through experience, particularly through practical and fieldwork activities.

We aim for the children to learn through a variety of ways. We do this through a mixture of whole-class teaching and individual/group activities. Within lessons, we give children the opportunity both to work on their own and to collaborate with others, listening to other children's ideas and treating these with respect. The curriculum is enhanced through enrichment activities such as trips locally or further away i.e. visits to Queens Wood, Pendarren in Wales etc. Here they are given creative opportunities to practise, consolidate and extend skills. We are developing the children's skills in being able to critically evaluate their own work and that of others. They have the opportunity to use a range of materials and resources, including IT.

Arts

Children deserve an education rich in the arts. As a whole school, we believe that the arts – in its many forms (art, music, drama and dance) – supports the development of the whole child and prepares each individual for a life filled with opportunities for learning and enjoyment. We aim to provide an environment that is purposeful, creative and dynamic, and a place where children develop a thirst for learning that will stay with them throughout their lives.

Our children participate in regular two hour art/D&T lessons (once every two weeks), which are generally linked to their history or geography topic lessons. The teachers prepare lessons based on

clearly defined objectives. Through learning about and experiencing the work of prominent artists, the children are provided with the opportunity to explore the impact art has had on the spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspect of the wider community.

As well as art/D&T sessions, separate music and dance sessions are also included as part of children's weekly sessions. Additionally, drama and art is included within other subject areas (cross curricular links).

At Rokesly, we recognise the importance of celebrating the children's work by displaying it around the school (in corridors and the hall). This also contributes to a visually exciting and welcoming learning environment. Our aim is for the children, parents/carers and visitors to the school to see and feel the importance we place on visual arts as they move around the building.

The children also participate in 'Art Week', where they have an opportunity to work with local artists. During this period parents also deliver presentations about the creative industries they work in. In addition, the children work with their class teachers to create a piece of artwork on a set theme. Every single child will have their individual work displayed in an art exhibition, where parents/carers are invited to view and celebrate their children's achievements.

At Rokesly, children have the opportunity to attend many clubs including: art, craft, knitting, choir, dance and drama. Additionally, many children are provided with the opportunity to take part in a Performing Arts Showcase at the end of the year, where they are able to display their creative talents (singing, music, dance and drama). This further helps the development of the children's self-confidence, social skills and meta-cognition. We believe that an education rich in the arts nurtures the skills and attitudes that are required in the workplace.

Physical Education

At Rokesly Junior School, we believe that physical education is a vital, unique and exciting part of the curriculum. We aim to educate children on the importance of health and wellness and promote positive attitudes towards choosing a healthy lifestyle throughout their lives. Physical education allows children to explore the impact of team building and collaboration through physical group activities, as well as facilitating an environment for healthy social interactions.

Lessons are blocked in units of work to promote greater depth of understanding, development of skills and contextual application of these skills. Through a combination of co-operative and competitive activities, children are able to develop a sense of sportsmanship and to prepare themselves for sport outside of the school curriculum.

One lesson a week is delivered by the class teacher, alongside the support of a Sports TA and the other session is taught during PPA by an experienced teacher. Swimming lessons are always taught by a specialist swimming instructor.

Religious Education at Rokesly Junior School

We believe that Religious Education encourages children to value diversity in Britain as well as learn about the wider teachings and traditions of different religions to enhance their own life. Religious education provides children with the opportunity to question and understand the 'big questions' in life and how religious education is linked to our own wellbeing and social morals. We follow the agreed Haringey SACRE syllabus

Personal, Social and Health Education

At Rokesly Junior School, the development of the whole child lies at the heart of everything we do. Our main aim is to ensure that children leave our school with the skills and confidence they need to continue to succeed in life and contribute to their community and the wider world.

The PSHE programme of study brings together citizenship with personal well-being through a values-based education. Lessons are centred around the core themes of health and well-being, relationships and living in the wider world. We believe that these values must be embedded into all curriculum areas, as well as given allocated curriculum time. It is intended to support the school in developing a coherent whole-school approach to personal, social, health and economic well-being.

We encourage our children to play a positive role in contributing to the life of the school and the wider community. In so doing, we help develop their sense of self-worth and responsibility. We teach them how society is organised and governed and we ensure that they experience the process of democracy in school, through the school council and classroom culture. We teach them about rights, respect and responsibilities, so that they learn to appreciate what it means to be a positive member of a diverse multi-cultural society.