



Our Curriculum

Westlands Primary
School

Swale
ACADEMIES
TRUST



thrive 

Our Curriculum at Westlands Primary School

At Westlands Primary School, our curriculum enables learners to develop a rich and deep subject knowledge with clear links between different aspects of learning. Our curriculum provides a coherent and progressive framework, enabling pupils to understand the purpose and value of their learning and see its relevance to their past, present and future. Our full curriculum coverage is available on our school website and it is shared termly with parents and carers in curriculum newsletter.

Our children are immersed in a range of learning experiences beyond the regular learning environment, such as Forest School. This provision develops pupils' understanding of the world around them and their place and responsibilities within it. Forest School promotes the holistic development of all involved, fostering resilient, confident, independent and creative learners. Forest School offers learners the opportunity to take supported risks appropriate to the environment and to themselves. As part of our Design and Technology curriculum offer, we provide cooking lessons to pupils in years 2-6. We believe in developing the whole child and feel that life skills, such as cooking and a knowledge of healthy eating, start children on a pathway towards lifelong learning and self care in adulthood.

Our Curriculum at Westlands Primary School

Our curriculum provides children with enrichment experiences both in and out of school, as well as linking with home and within the wider community to provide a wealth of meaningful experiences which form the building blocks of learning and knowledge acquisition.

Our curriculum is based on the DFE Primary Curriculum 2014 and, in our Reception class, the Early Years and Foundation Stage curriculum is supported by Development Matters. We provide for the comprehensive academic, personal and social development of every child, while encouraging each one to work and think independently and to make decisions and choices around their learning, social interaction and self-care.

The thinking behind our curriculum

We recognise that the children at Westlands Primary School represent a highly diverse group of individual learners. We live in a culturally diverse world and our school community is a reflection of this. We know that as our school is fortunate to be so diverse, communities must learn to live and share with each other and have an understanding of the protected characteristics that make us all unique. Using British values as our core ethos, we aim to equip children for lifelong learning and enable them to live harmoniously with the whole community.

At Westlands Primary, we are preparing children to become future citizens and aim to give them the skills and understanding to make a positive contribution to the school and wider society. We develop their independence and awareness of others from the very start of their school career. Pupils are taught about social, global, political and environmental issues; how to question, contribute and crucially how to make a difference. We encourage children to broaden their horizons and set themselves aspirational goals.

Our curriculum is developed to foster resilience and determination when approaching learning and developing relationships with others. It is designed to promote self-esteem and an appreciation of themselves and others.

How learning is organised

Our teachers strive to plan children's learning which promotes perseverance, high engagement, self-discipline and independent thinking and learning. We have designed our curriculum so that children are able to develop key skills, to apply them across all subject areas and to make connections between aspects of learning. Children are taught in parallel, single age groups classes of mixed ability. Subjects are often drawn together or integrated so that the children are provided with a more cohesive, meaningful learning experience, rooted in context and life skills. SMSC and British Values are interwoven into the fabric of our ethos at Westlands Primary.

Reading is given a high priority in our curriculum, as the ability to read and understand opens up learning for children and understanding of the world around them. We expect children to read twice a week outside of school and also have reading workshops so that parents can come into school each term and share books with their children. We believe that a love of books and reading is crucial and like to have 'Book Banter' as a termly feature of classroom guided reading sessions - just to give children the time to have a session which is devoted entirely to sharing books with friends. We understand that children's vocabulary is a key in learning and broadening understanding in all areas of the curriculum and to this end, vocabulary development and reading are priorities in our school development plan.

Planning

In order to ensure consistency and an equal offer across year groups, teachers plan together in year group planning sessions. Curriculum Maestro is used to inform and direct effective knowledge-rich planning for History, Geography, Religious Education and Design and Technology. Curriculum Maestro effectively addresses National Curriculum requirements, and enables teachers to deliver a wide range of knowledge and skills in these curriculum areas. Teachers use this curriculum platform in conjunction with their own professional subject knowledge - and draw upon understanding the needs of their year group and class, in order to tailor the learning offer to meet pupils' needs.

Curriculum Maestro consists of Knowledge Rich Projects and Imaginative Learning Projects as well as companion projects which supplement individual projects to enhance the learning provision. Nursery, Early Years Foundation Stage and Year 1's curriculums are based mostly upon Imaginative Learning Projects, as we strongly believe that this is the best way for children to learn at this formative stage. Key Stage 2 curriculum is built upon Knowledge Rich Projects, as we feel that children have acquired many learning skills throughout EYFS and Key Stage One, which enable them to deepen their understanding and knowledge base.

Planning

Art is planned and taught under the direction of our Art Lead and it is indeed something which we are very proud of here at Westlands Primary School. The curriculum for Art builds on their skills year-on-year as it develops their skills of appreciation, technique and skills as well as appraisal and evaluation. PHSE and RSE are delivered using the Jigsaw program which teaches children how to have successful relationships with others, how to make healthy choices and understand their individuality and encourage a sense of worth and belonging.

Teachers design their own English Curriculum, drawing upon the interests of the class as well as the cross curricular subjects being taught when choosing class texts. Children are encouraged to write as authors from the very start of their time here at Westlands Primary. They are encouraged to engage in low-stakes writing on large paper, in pairs and even in small groups, so that they can make changes and discuss authorial choices such as vocabulary choices and sentence structure. They are encouraged to edit their learning and make improvements - knowing that it is good to be authors who write to engage the reader and that it is part of being a writer to make mistakes and change their minds.

Learning in the EYFS

At Westlands Primary School, we strongly believe in giving children the best start in life and we have heavily invested in our EYFS provision.

We believe that the children need the best foundations to be able to grow into lifelong learners. In order to do this we have developed a provision where children are immersed in a play based curriculum that is built around the interests of the children with a core book focus.

We are lucky enough to have an extremely well resourced indoor and outdoor environment and dedicated EYFS forest school site, to support independent learning. The provision encourages children to explore by showing curiosity, initiate ideas and seek challenge, persist and bounce back after difficulties and be creative whilst thinking critically. Children are immersed in texts, in a language and number rich environment.

Positive relationships between staff and families are formed as children start school to ensure the transition between nursery and starting school is smooth.

Outdoor Learning - Forest School



A Forest School is an area of woodland which acts as an outdoor learning environment where children can explore, investigate and discover the natural environment. Forest School provides an excellent opportunity to bring learning to life, allowing the children to explore and learn in a constructive way. We are fortunate enough to have two Forest School areas; one on the main field and one in the EYFS area. Forest Schools build on a child's innate motivation and positive attitude to learning, offering them the opportunities to take risks, make choices and initiate learning for themselves. The Forest School learning environment provides opportunities for children to:

- develop self-esteem and self-confidence
- to form positive relationships with others
- to develop a growing awareness of their emotional needs and the needs of others
 - to learn to cooperate and work with their peers and adults
- to develop strategies in order to take risks within the boundaries of safety

Forest School is about exploring and experiencing the natural world through practical activities. The children go out in all weathers (except thunderstorms and high winds), all year round, exploring and learning from the seasons and environment changes.

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Outdoor Learning - EYFS Forest School



Our EYFS Forest School is just outside our Den provision. This provision provides our youngest learners to access the Forest School program at the earliest opportunity.

Children learn to:

- **Boost self-esteem and confidence**
- **Build positive relationships**
- **Understand emotional needs**
- **Collaborate effectively**
- **Take calculated risks**

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Outdoor Learning - trips and residential



Here at Westlands Primary, our Year 6 children take part in a residential experience every year. Currently, we are using a residential provider which specialises in outdoor Bushcraft and team building activities as well as camping. This is a perfect experience for our Year 6, as it builds up their Forest School experience and provides learning.

Year groups also take part in school trips which are planned to enrich classroom learning. Teachers are encouraged to take their class out of the classroom to explore the wider community beyond the classroom. Trips are planned for a variety of experiences including fieldwork, to support the arts, science, geography, sports, supporting British values, historical research and much more. The trips are used to enrich learning, develop skills, knowledge and understanding. Trips and visitors have included museums, story tellers, WW1 and Tudor experts and sports people.

Visits and Visitors



Trips to the O2 for pupils in Y2-6; a Shorne Woods trip for Yr 1 and also meeting some semi-professional footballers too!

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Assemblies



Assemblies take place every day at Westlands Primary, to help us understand pupils' place in the wider world. Assemblies consist each week are: School Leadership lead, Thrive in-class, Singing and Phase Celebration assemblies, which focus on school values, rules, festivals, wider community and global themes of interest. Assemblies foster a sense of community membership and encourage children to reflect upon their place in the school and wider community.

Occasionally, guests such as the local magistrate, community police officers, the fire service or road safety officers will come into school to speak in special assemblies. We also have assemblies with a specific theme or focus, such as assemblies for Black History Month, to enable pupils to deepen understanding of other cultures.

Wrap-around care: Breakfast Club



The Breakfast Club Zoo created by pupils who attend.



At Westlands Primary School we are passionate about supporting parents, carers and children to have a great start to their day. We believe that when children start their day the right way, they have more energy and are happier to learn. We have everything you need to create a great start to a child's day with our breakfast club provision.

Our breakfast club provides a safe and fun environment where children can start the day having a healthy breakfast, as well as giving them time to socialise and relax, meaning they are emotionally and physically equipped for the day.

Provision is in the dining hall, between 7.30am – 8.30 am. During the hour, children are free to help themselves to our self-service breakfast bar, as well as having hot foods served by our staff to enjoy.

Wrap-around care: After School Club



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| ● Drawing | ● Biscuit decorating |
| ● Painting | ● Playing outside - weather permitting |
| ● Free Craft | ● Team games |
| ● Topical/Seasonal craft | ● Wii - on occasion |
| ● Board games | ● Reading area |
| ● Top trumps | ● Play in 'The Leaky Cauldron' role play area |
| ● Puzzles | ● Table top football |
| ● Word searches | ● Pool Table |
| ● Film watching via YouTube | ● Just Dance |
| ● Listening to music | |

Little Gems is our after school provision and it is held in our dining hall after school each day. Sessions run from 3.30 - 4.45pm , or 3.30 - 6pm. There are fun and engaging activities within this safe environment.

Children are provided with yoghurt and fruit when they are booked for an early slot and a healthy light meal when they are booked for a late session.

Wrap-around care: Extra Curricular Activities



At Westlands Primary School, we offer a range of extra curricular clubs. These include football, computing, art, multi-sports, after school revision booster, lacrosse and a performing arts group.

The clubs are run by staff and external providers and they are open to all year groups.

The Thrive Hive & The Den

The Thrive Hive



Our Thrive Hive and Den are dedicated and designed to support pupils who are experiencing emotional challenges and finding the school environment difficult. In this nurturing space, students can engage in sensory and enriching activities based on the Thrive approach. The Thrive Hive and Den provide a safe and calming environment where pupils can:

- **Regulate Emotions:** Develop strategies to manage and understand their feelings.
- **Build Resilience:** Learn coping mechanisms to navigate challenges.
- **Enhance Social Skills:** Improve interactions with peers and adults.
- **Foster Self-Esteem:** Gain confidence and a positive sense of self.

Through personalised support and tailored activities, these bespoke rooms help pupils thrive and reach their full potential.

The Den - Thrive provision



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