

## **Curriculum Policy**

The school curriculum delivers creative and enriching activities to promote learning, personal growth and development of the children. It includes the formal requirements of the National Curriculum which is designed to be broad and balanced with continuity and progression through all aspects of learning. Creative learning is encouraged through the provision of a wide range of teaching and learning opportunities. As part of our commitment to enrich the children's experiences whilst at Peaslake School, we provide a range of extra-curricular activities such as Forest School, sports clubs, swimming, music and school trips.

Our curriculum promotes the social, emotional, moral and physical development of our pupils and prepares them for opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. It enables children to grow into resilient, positive and responsible adults, who can work and co-operate with others while developing knowledge and skills, so that they achieve their true potential.

### **Curriculum Aims and Objectives:**

- To enable all children to learn and develop their skills to the best of their ability.
- To encourage curiosity and foster a love of lifelong learning
- To teach children the skills of literacy, numeracy, science and computing.
- To enable children to be creative, to become independent thinkers.
- To teach children about their developing world, including how their environment and society have changed over time.
- To help children understand Britain's cultural heritage.
- To enable children to become positive and participating citizens in a rapidly changing technological society.
- To enable children to understand that people belong to different religious groups and respect their differing spiritual needs and beliefs. (see footnote)
- To teach children to have an awareness of their own spiritual development and to understand right from wrong.
- To help children understand the importance of truth, kindness and fairness, so that they grow up committed to equal opportunities for all.
- To enable children to have respect for themselves and high self-esteem, so they can live and work co-operatively with others.
- To learn collaboration in the school environment, but also the wider community through class, whole school and community projects.

### **Curriculum Planning**

Our curriculum is designed to incorporate all the subjects within the National Curriculum and to encourage the children to develop their imaginative and creative skills through a more diverse range of learning activities and projects.

- Our long and medium term plans from Reception to the end of Key Stage 1 indicate the subjects and topics taught each term, as well as the small

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incremental steps of progression in each subject area. The key knowledge and skills are also defined within each subject. This is reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that there is an appropriate balance of curriculum subjects over the year.

- A half termly overview is created which includes the learning the children will engage in and gives an insight into the half term's activities.
- Class teachers complete a weekly (short-term) plan. This lists the specific learning objectives for each week and gives details of how the lessons will be taught. It also includes details of what each group of children will be learning. The class teacher keeps these individual plans and discusses them with other teachers on an informal basis.

### **Early Years Foundation Stage**

Teaching and learning in the EYFS starts with the child. Through careful observations, interests, learning behaviours and next steps of learning are identified. The classroom is set up so resources are easily accessible so children can learn independently both inside and outside. Children have long periods of time to explore activities that interest them through our continuous provision resources and activities. During the day there are short adult led sessions where children are taught skills such as phonics, mathematics and knowledge related to our topics. Stories are shared as a class and in smaller groups.

The seven areas of learning are:

- Communication and language
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding of the World
- Expressive arts and design.
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At Peaslake Free School we know that high quality interactions with adults are vital so that children feel nurtured, safe and cared for and to promote their thinking. The characteristics of effective learning underpin our early years curriculum and time is given to children to talk about and reflect on their learning. Time is spent on children's executive function which includes, working memory, flexible thinking and self-control. as we know that it is one of the best predictors of a child's later success in the crucial areas of reading and mathematics. Strong executive skills are also linked to better emotional well-being and better behaviour in school.

Footnote: In accordance with the law parents may ask to withdraw their children from RE lessons and indeed from the daily act of Collective Worship. Should parents make such a request their child will be supervised during that time by a member of staff elsewhere in the school.

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Implementation of the Curriculum policy will be overseen by the Head Teacher, SLT team and Governing body, through learning walks, lesson observations, book checks and the Overview plan for the year.

Date: November 2025

Review Date: February 2027.