

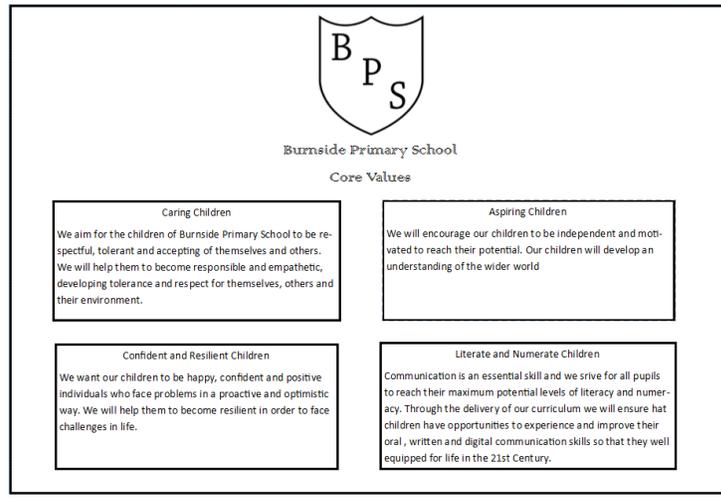
Curriculum Policy

Headteacher: Mrs L Armstrong

Date: October 2016

Date for review: Annually

The Curriculum at Burnside Primary School



Early Years

In Nursery and Reception, we follow the Early Years Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage, published in March 2014 by the DfES. This Framework specifies the requirement for learning and development in the Early Years and provides specific areas of learning we must cover in our curriculum.

These areas are:

1. -Personal, Social and Emotional Development
2. -Physical Development
3. -Communication and Language development
4. -Literacy
5. -Mathematics
6. -Understanding the World
7. - Expressive Arts and Design

The National Curriculum for Years 1-6

The National Curriculum in England is currently in a process of transition. At Burnside Primary School we are currently following the timetable for transition, between the National Curriculum (2000) and the National Curriculum (2014), as set out by the Department of Education.

[To explore our current curriculum please click here.](#)

The Curriculum

Since September 2014, the school has adopted and taught programmes of study set out in the National Curriculum (2014) for Foundation subjects: (Art & Design, Design Technology, Computing (formerly known as Information Technology), Music, History, Geography and Physical Education. Children in Years 1 to 6 will follow the National Curriculum 2014.

[To read the 2014 Curriculum in its entirety please click this link.](#)

Built around these core skills, is the wider curriculum; stimulating, varied, challenging, localised, environmentally aware and most of all exciting for our children.

Enhancing this curriculum, throughout the course of each school year, are regular field excursions and residential trips to local attractions and places of interest such as The Centre for Life and Beamish Museum. Children in Year 6 attend a residential trip to Howtown (near Penrith).

Sport and Physical Education

Sporting provision at Burnside ensures that our children have the chance to participate and excel in a wide range of sports delivered by both teaching staff and professional coaches. As a result, teams from Burnside regularly compete in local inter- and intra-school competitions in disciplines such as tag rugby, football and cricket. Additional sports, such as skipping and multi-skills, are also offered as lunch time and after school clubs.

The Arts

Performing and visual arts also play a significant part within our curriculum. Drawing upon our rich and varied regional culture we frequently welcome local artisans to help enhance our Art's curriculum. Furthermore, one only needs to take a walk around the corridors of our school to see the wealth and variety of visual artwork on display, created throughout the course of the school year.

In addition, Burnside Primary school ensures a vibrant performing arts curriculum. Throughout Key Stage 2 children are offered the chance to attend instrument lessons such as flute, clarinet (funded for 'pupil premium' children), choir, after school art club, ukulele group and 'the School of Rock'. Classes in Key Stage Two develop their subject knowledge and performance skills when they participate in a 'Play in a day'. These exciting days help the children to showcase their new-found knowledge and drama skills! Furthermore, children are given a wide variety of opportunities to perform in Christmas plays and end of year assemblies.

Curriculum in the Community

Burnside Primary School plays a key role in the life of our local community. Each year we host a Christmas and Summer Fair. We also take every opportunity to work with local businesses and charities resulting in some unique and exciting learning opportunities. For example we participate in the Durham 'brass' festival each year and enjoy a live performance from a brass band at the school. At Harvest time the food that is collected is also delivered by year 6 pupils to the homes of elderly people from the local community.

Environmental Learning

Developing a sense of social consciousness also forms an important part of our curriculum. We want all our pupils to become more aware of the impact they have on their environment and how they can protect it for generations to come. We participate in the 'WOW' scheme which encourages children to walk to school once a week and also have 'JRSOs' – Junior Road Safety Officers who encourage road safety. Furthermore, the school has an eco-team who monitor the school's energy use and look for opportunities to reduce the amounts of energy used e.g. through having 'light monitors' in each year group.

Phonic programme

At Burnside Primary School we follow the 'Letters and Sounds' phonic programme with Jolly Phonics' actions and pictures to support this. In Reception, our phonic skills begin with speaking and listening and oral segmenting and blending skills. We practise listening for sounds at the beginning, in the middle, and at the ends of words. We also practise blending sounds together verbally to make words.

When these basic skills are secure we begin teaching children single letter sounds through Jolly Phonics. Children learn the sound, the action and the formation of each letter. As the children become more confident, we teach them how to put these single sounds together to read and write words. Throughout the year, we constantly reinforce the importance of correct formation of these letters, practising in different ways, such as using glitter, sand and play dough. We also focus on High Frequency words, such as home, we, look, I, where the children learn these by sight.

In Key Stage 1 the children continue to follow the 'Letters and Sounds' scheme but we enhance and support this with a wide range of resources such as whiteboard writing activities, card games, flash cards, interactive on-line and published games, as well as the many interactive activities suggested in the scheme itself. We have found that following the structure and guidance of the 'Letters and Sounds' scheme ensures a full coverage of phonic sounds and skills and that the enhancement activities allow the children to apply and consolidate their knowledge in a variety of contexts. This then allows them to link phonic rules and strategies to their writing and reading tasks more effectively.

In Key Stage 2 (or when children are developmentally ready) the children move onto regular small group sessions for spelling, punctuation and grammar. Each class also teaches the end of year spellings for their year group.

Religious Education

Our school follows the Durham Local Agreed Syllabus for RE which is detailed in our long term plans. (see above). Visits to different places of worship regularly take place.

Supporting children with additional needs (SEND)

At Burnside Primary School we believe that all children are entitled to a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum. All children are encouraged to achieve their full potential and to be included in the social and academic life of the school. We aim to provide educational experiences that take into account the individual needs of all children, appropriate to their level of ability.

[To view our SEND policy, please click this link.](#)

Provision for children with additional needs

At Burnside Primary school support for children with additional / special needs is implemented through a wide range of interventions, supporting specific pupils.

Teaching Assistants, supporting those with additional / special needs, are deployed throughout the school. There is also a designated Teaching Assistant who supports children with speech and language difficulties.

P.E. and Sports Premium

From 2013, for a three year period, Schools have been allocated funding known as the 'P.E. and Sports Premium' to improve physical education (PE) and sport in primary schools over the 3 academic years 2013 to 2014, 2014 to 2015 and 2015 to 2016. The spend plans below, describes the rationale behind our spending of the premium; amounts allocated under the premium; provision and continuous professional development paid for by the premium; intended impact.

[For a full breakdown of our Sports Premium Spending please click this link.](#)