

*'Learning and Growing Together'*

Westgate, Lincoln,  
LN1 3BQ  
01522 528308



# Curriculum Overview

# 2019/2020



## **CURRICULUM OVERVIEW**

Our curriculum focuses on the development of basic skills, providing children with a range of stimulating, inspiring and exciting learning experiences.

Through our broad, balanced and rich curriculum we aim to:

- promote the spiritual, moral cultural, mental and physical development of pupils
- prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life
- provide essential knowledge that pupils need to be educated citizens
- provoke an appreciation of human creativity and achievement

## **YEAR 3 TO YEAR 6**

We follow the National Curriculum, which is skills based and age appropriate for our children. Our curriculum is topic based, encouraging cross-curricular links between all subjects if pertinent to the needs of the children. Each topic is planned to inspire curiosity and inquisitive thinking through providing a variety of activities where children will have the opportunity to learn and apply new skills. Enrichment forms an essential element of our curriculum; we ensure that visits, visitors and celebration events enhance topics.

## **ENGLISH**

Our high-quality English curriculum is threaded through all other learning at Westgate. We believe it is essential that we teach all children to speak, read and write fluently so that they are able to communicate their ideas and emotions to others and can fully participate in society.

Our English curriculum is comprised of spoken language, reading, writing and SPAG (spelling, grammar and punctuation).

### **Writing**

We aim for each child to experience a stimulating, relevant and interactive environment in which they can enjoy being creative and purposeful writers. Children develop the skills to communicate clearly with a range of audiences and in a variety of contexts. We endeavour to equip children by providing enjoyable experiences related to their needs and the wider requirements of society.

In each year group, children are taught all text types which include:

- narrative
- non-chronological reports
- discussion
- explanation
- instructions

- persuasion
- poetry
- recount

English units have cross-curricular links to Topic learning, so that children have an understanding of the subject which they are writing about, as well as a clear purpose for their texts.

'Take One Book' units are planned at least three times a year with a focus on a quality text to inspire writing. The teaching within these units focuses on specific text types or is used to address grammar and punctuation skills.

### **Reading**

At Westgate Academy, pupils have a chance to develop culturally, emotionally, intellectually, socially and spiritually through reading. We develop their love of literature through widespread reading for enjoyment. We believe that reading is a valuable and rewarding experience and that the importance of laying a firm foundation in this crucial area will allow children to access all areas of the curriculum successfully. We believe that success in reading opens doors to a world of knowledge.

The teaching of reading at Westgate develops children's competence in both word reading and comprehension. Within English units, children have opportunities to answer comprehension questions about the text types they are studying. Guided Reading takes place every day and each child has the opportunity to discuss texts and answer questions with their class teacher at least once a week.

### **Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar**

We aim to build children's knowledge of grammar through focusing on this in reading, speaking and writing. Children are taught the appropriate terminology and after they have been introduced to the grammatical rules, they are encouraged to use this in their own speaking and writing in order for it to become more sophisticated. Spelling, punctuation and grammar are incorporated into English units so that children have a context for learning.

### **Phonics and Spelling**

Each child will have the opportunity to learn phonic and spelling skills to help equip them for life in and out of school.

On entry to Westgate Academy, in Year 3, a baseline phonic assessment determines children's phonological awareness. Using the results from this, children are grouped appropriately. The teaching of phonic skills is based on 'Letters and Sounds'. It is delivered as a daily discrete 30 minute lesson.

Children in Years 4, 5 or 6 who have gaps in their phonological awareness, access phonics sessions in other year groups.

Where children have a secure knowledge of phonics, spelling is taught each week based on age related spellings and linked to the Rising Stars spelling list; this does not occur in isolation, but is also taught within English lessons as a starter, a plenary or mini activity.

We believe that spellings and spelling rules need to be learnt and therefore, spelling Home Learning is set every week for consolidation. These spellings are then reviewed the following week. Spelling of high frequency and common exception words is revisited regularly throughout the school.

## **MATHEMATICS**

Mathematics is essential to everyday life, critical to science, technology and engineering, and necessary for financial literacy and most forms of employment. We therefore provide a high-quality maths education at Westgate.

We aim to provide opportunities for children to:

- become fluent in the fundamentals of mathematics, through varied and frequent practice of problems with increasing complexity over time.
- reason mathematically by following lines of enquiry, making relationships and proving answers using mathematical vocabulary
- solve problems by breaking them down into series of simpler steps and persevering to seek solutions

Teaching is informed by White Rose Maths Hub and follows our school calculation policy. Maths objectives from each topic are blocked to allow for opportunities for children to gain greater depth at their own level. Where possible, links are made across topics and to real-life. Enactive, iconic and symbolic stages of learning are included for all children.

In addition to the daily hour of Maths, children also have a discrete 30 minute arithmetic lesson once a week.

## **SCIENCE**

Children at Westgate are taught the essential aspects of the knowledge, methods, processes and uses of science. They are encouraged to understand how science can be used to explain what is occurring, predict how things will behave, and analyse causes. As children move into upper key stage 2, they develop a deeper understanding of a wide range of scientific areas.

'Working scientifically' is always taught through, and clearly related to, the science units of learning. Accurate use and spelling of scientific vocabulary is encouraged throughout.

Children are either taught science weekly over the term, or where appropriate, the subject may be blocked over a series of lessons in order to promote better understanding.

## **P.E./GAMES**

We aim to ensure that all pupils:

- develop competence to excel in a broad range of physical activities
- are physically active for sustained periods of time
- engage in competitive sports and activities
- are enthused to lead continued healthy, active lives within and beyond our school.

In Key Stage 2, pupils at Westgate apply and develop a broad range of skills, learning how to use them in different ways and to link them to make actions and sequences of movement. They enjoy communicating, collaborating and competing with each other. They develop an understanding of how to improve in different physical activities and sports and learn how to evaluate and recognise their own success through following the 'real P.E.' scheme of learning. Children also engage in weekly games activities where they learn the rules of and the skills required in particular sports.

### **Swimming and water safety**

We provide swimming instruction and aim to ensure that:

- all pupils swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres
- all pupils are taught to use a range of strokes effectively (breast stroke, back stroke and front crawl)
- children who can swim competently are provided with the opportunity to be taught to perform safe self-rescue in a variety of water-based situations

## **COMPUTING**

At Westgate, we aim for children become digitally literate - able to use, and express themselves and develop their ideas through, information and communication technology - at a level suitable for the future workplace and as active participants in a digital world.

Through an hour of teaching a week following the Purple Mash schemes of work, plus incorporating skills into other lessons with cross-curricular links, children learn how digital systems work and put this knowledge to use when programming. Time is spent within the units of learning to address the importance of e-safety.

In addition to this, all year groups receive a term of support from our ICT provider, Infotechdirect.

## **TOPIC**

We have recently launched a new topic based curriculum. Our 'Topic' learning is split into 3 areas over the course of an academic year: past, place and pick. By focusing on three themes a year, we create a better depth of understanding as time can be spent addressing the key subject skills. Classroom displays reflect the importance of linking areas of our learning across the curriculum.

### **Past (Autumn Term) - History focus**

Through our 'Past' topics, children's curiosity is inspired to know more about history. Teaching equips children with the ability to ask perceptive questions, think critically and weigh evidence.

We place high importance on developing a good overview of the period of time being studied and as a result, children move into the next year group being able to talk about key events and significant people from that era. In addition to this, links are frequently made to our local history and we place high value on the use of sources, discussion and giving opinions.

### **Place (Spring Term) - Geography focus**

Geography teaching at Westgate inspires pupils' curiosity and fascination about the world and its people. Children are equipped with knowledge about diverse places, people, resources and natural and human environments, together with a deep understanding of the Earth's physical and human processes.

Pupils extend their knowledge and understanding beyond the local areas in Year 3, to include national locations. As children move through the school, they look at our continent, followed by other continents and finally, by the end of Year 6, they gain a global perspective. During their time at Westgate, pupils understand the location and characteristics of a range of the world's most significant human and physical features.

### **Pick (Summer Term) - Various subject foci**

This topic has, at its focus, another area of the curriculum. The topic will either concentrate on children's interests, current affairs or a need of the cohort of children which has been identified by teaching staff.

## **ART**

Our art curriculum aims to inspire and challenge pupils so that they acquire the knowledge and skills to experiment, invent and create their own works of art, craft and design.

Topics are launched through the use of a 'Picture This' image. Children are given an image linked to their topic and spend time using their inference and deduction skills to

consider the context of the picture. This is then followed by sessions where they reproduce the image using specific artistic skills.

Children are taught about great artists and the historical and cultural development of their art forms. Where possible, these artists link to the topic - the time in history or artists with a particular nationality.

Year groups are taught art either in a series of lessons across the term or in blocked sessions to allow for quality pieces to be produced.

## **MUSIC**

We engage and inspire children to develop a love of music. During their time at Westgate, children develop a critical engagement with music, allowing them to compose, and listen with discrimination.

Pupils receive weekly music lessons. When in Year 4 and Year 5, children have the opportunity to learn to play a variety of different instruments through teaching from the Lincolnshire Music Service.

Weekly singing assemblies promote a love of music and song.

## **LANGUAGES**

We aim to create a love for learning languages which provides an opening to other cultures. Teaching allows for children to begin to express their ideas and thoughts in another language and be able to respond to its speaker in speech and writing.

At Westgate, pupils explore a range of languages including French, Spanish and BSL (British Sign Language). Links are made to topic areas across the school and lessons are either delivered over the course of a term or in blocked sessions.

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

We aim to encourage pupils to learn from different religions, beliefs, values and traditions while exploring their own beliefs and questions of meaning. They are challenged to reflect on, consider, analyse, interpret and evaluate issues of truth, belief, faith and ethics and to communicate their responses. During their time in Key Stage 2, we encourage pupils to develop their sense of identity and belonging, enabling them to flourish individually within their community and as citizens of the world.

Children receive an hour of teaching each week following the Lincolnshire Agreed Syllabus for R.E. This is currently a syllabus which focuses on four core concepts:

- Celebration
- Religious Beliefs and Lifestyle
- Authority
- The Sacred

with ultimate questions woven into the syllabus as a whole. The teaching of R.E. at Westgate develops pupils' knowledge and understanding of Christianity, other principal

religions and religious traditions, world views and non-religious belief systems. British Values and social, moral, spiritual and cultural understanding are referred to throughout.

### **PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION (P.S.H.E.)**

We take a proactive approach to P.S.H.E. at Westgate by ensuring children receive at least one session of P.S.H.E. per week. Our P.S.H.E. curriculum is divided into three core themes and each theme has been divided into three general topic areas.

#### Core Theme 1: Health and Wellbeing

- Healthy lifestyles
- Keeping safe
- Growing and Changing

#### Core Theme 2: Relationships

- Healthy relationships
- Feelings and emotions
- Valuing difference

#### Core Theme 3: Living in the Wider World

- Rights and responsibilities
- Taking care of the environment
- Money matters

Children revisit these areas in a variety of contexts throughout their time in Key Stage 2. Where relevant, P.S.H.E. lessons have cross-curricular links, but are also delivered in discrete lessons.