

2c. Curriculum Policy

Rational

The Lyceum School takes pride in providing a rigorous and creative curriculum that enables every child to succeed and achieve their best academically, in sports and in the arts. We take the best from the National Curriculum and covers the syllabus required for independent schools entrance exams. Children work within broad topics which draw on history, geography and science and incorporate all areas of the curriculum; providing a holistic approach to education which enables vital links to be made so that children's understanding of the world can be fully developed.

Relationship to the National Curriculum

The Lyceum does not formally follow every aspect of the National Curriculum for pupils from Year 1 onwards, but takes due note of revised statutory frameworks for English and Mathematics.

Our Aims

The aims of The Lyceum Curriculum are:

- To promote a positive attitude towards learning from which children can derive pleasure and enjoyment
- To develop a strong work ethic emphasising independent learning skills and critical thinking
- To provide a robust, topic-based curriculum which pays considerable concentration to reading, writing and mathematics
- To place a strong emphasis on the arts and creativity
- To enable children to partake in a physical activity every day with an emphasis on dance and sports
- To develop the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of each pupil

Planning – Schemes of Work

There is a two year cycle of topics for each Key Stage: The Early Years Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1, Lower Key Stage 2 and Upper Key Stage 2. Each year, there is a Whole School Curriculum Plan (2b) which structures the class teacher's planning by naming the topic and laying out the estimated number of lessons for each subject. The topics covered in each curriculum area are clearly stated within the Long Term Plan for each year group.

At the beginning of each term, class teachers create a Medium Term Plan for Maths and a Medium Term Plan for topic-based lessons including English. They can create additional plans in whatever format they find helpful. These plans are stored on the online shared drive-School Data.

11+ Preparations

All children are offered appropriate teaching for preparation for entrance examinations at 11+, including tuition in creative writing, maths, reading comprehension and reasoning (verbal and non-verbal). We do not routinely prepare children for 7+ examinations.

Homework

All children are expected to complete homework beginning with reading tasks from Reception age.

Parents are asked to support their child with homework. Children remaining at the homework club are expected, nevertheless, to take their work home for parents to share.

PE

We use Golden Lane, The Artillery Ground, Bunhill Fields and Finsbury Leisure Centre for sporting activities. In addition children are taken to local parks. In the Autumn Term, Year 6 attend a sailing course at West Reservoir. We aim for children participate in a physical activity each day. As well as sports, this may be dance, gymnastics, drama, yoga or small games.

Music

The school has a thriving music department which enables pupils to learn a range of musical instruments. In addition, all children in Key Stage 2 perform in the school choir, with some children in the chamber choir, orchestra and school big band.

Languages

Starting from Reception, all children have weekly Spanish lessons. In Year 6, pupils are also taught Latin.

Trips

Using the Medium Term Plans, teachers organise school trips (for example galleries, museums, theatre shows) to enrich the pupils experience of the topic. The trips are used to consolidate pupils' understanding of the topic and where possible give them a first-hand experience of that time period/theme, for example visiting Milden to live as Tudors. All trips approved by SLT beforehand.

Extra-Curricular Activities

The Lyceum is very proud of its extensive programme of extra-curricular activities which offers a range of opportunities for enjoyment, involvement and improvement in both cerebral and physical activities. Activities take place before, during and after school and are led by members of staff and external coaches.