

The Rushcombe Curriculum and the National Curriculum

At Rushcombe First School, we provide a highly stimulating curriculum, which aims to develop children's creativity and individuality as learners, whilst also providing a strong focus upon the development of key skills, understanding and knowledge. The Rushcombe curriculum ensures that children are provided with an appropriate breadth of experience across all National Curriculum subject areas.

National Curriculum Subjects

English

Opportunities for the development of children's English skills are provided through a cross curricular approach across all Learning Adventures. A range of spoken language activities are provided, which aim to develop children's ability to raise questions, debate ideas and develop reasoning skills. In addition, the curriculum provides a wide range of purposeful writing activities i.e. writing a letter to a specific character or writing a report about something they have experienced directly. When exploring different writing genres, teachers plan for the development of key skills (grammar, vocabulary and punctuation) in preparation for extended writing activities.

Children's reading skills (word reading and comprehension) are developed on a weekly basis. Teachers hear children read regularly and also provide a range of reading experiences through the school's curriculum. Opportunities for children to develop their phonic, spelling and handwriting skills are provided through discreet sessions across the year.

The school uses a wide range of materials to support the development of children's phonics skills, including the use of *Letters and Sounds* (DfES). Whenever materials are utilised by the school, they are adapted to meet the needs of the children. The school also uses a range of reading schemes to support children's reading development, including Oxford Reading Tree, Collins Big Cats and Rigby Stars.

The school follows the National Curriculum Programmes of Study for English. Details of coverage for each year group can be found by accessing the curriculum at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum>

Mathematics

Mathematics is a fundamental part of the Rushcombe curriculum. We aim for children to become fluent in the fundamentals of mathematics, enabling them to develop conceptual understanding and the ability to recall and apply knowledge with increasing speed and accuracy.

The Rushcombe curriculum seeks to support all children to develop a sound understanding of the number system, including the skills to calculate confidently using all four operations using both mental and written methods. Children develop their understanding across a range of mathematical areas, including fractions, decimals, measures, data handling and shape and space. The school's Mathematics curriculum also provides regular opportunities for children to develop their mathematical reasoning skills through the provision of regular problem solving activities.

Children's mathematical development is supported through the provision of daily Mathematics sessions. Wherever possible, opportunities are taken to link mathematical problem solving and investigational activities to the context of the school's Learning Adventures.

The school follows the National Curriculum Programmes of Study for Mathematics. Details of coverage for each year group can be found by accessing the curriculum at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum>

Science

The Science curriculum provides opportunities for children to develop their scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding across a range of themes, including plants, human and animal biology, materials, the seasons, rocks, light, forces and magnets, states of matter, sound and electricity.

A key aspect of the Science curriculum is the development of children's skills to 'work scientifically' – this aspect is embedded across all of the scientific themes that children will explore. Working scientifically concerns the approaches and skills that children require to carry out a scientific enquiry and to answer relevant scientific questions. During their time at Rushcombe, children will develop their skills to: observe over time; look for patterns; identify, classify and group; carry out comparative and fair testing (controlled investigations); and research using secondary sources.

The school follows the National Curriculum Programmes of Study for Science. Details of coverage for each year group can be found by accessing the curriculum at

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History

The school provides a highly innovative history curriculum, which enables children to learn about historical development through a 'hands on' approach to history. Over recent years, the school has developed a unique relationship with The Ancient Technology Centre, which enables us to bring historical learning to life for the children. Past projects have seen a Stone Age camp developed on the school field, the development of a Bronze Age farm in the school woodlands and the building of our very own Iron Age roundhouse. As a result of this innovative approach, the school is able to provide a history curriculum, which is both inspirational and highly effective in developing children's historical understanding.

During their time at Rushcombe, children will learn about ancient Britain, through in depth explorations of the Stone, Bronze and Iron Age periods. In addition, they will learn about the Roman invasion of Britain, as well as another ancient civilisation, such as the Egyptians. Their historical learning will also be supplemented by an opportunity to learn about an aspect of British history since 1066, such as the reign of Queen Elizabeth I or the Victorians. Children will also carry out a local historical study, such as exploring evidence of Roman Britain in the local area.

The school follows the National Curriculum Programmes of Study for History. Details of coverage for each key stage can be found by accessing the curriculum at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum>

Geography

The Geography curriculum aims to inspire in pupils a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people. During their time at Rushcombe, children will develop their knowledge about a diverse range of places and people, both from the UK (including their own locality) and other parts of the world. The curriculum will develop children's locational and place knowledge, along with their understanding of human and physical geography and opportunities to engage in map work and field work.

The school follows the National Curriculum Programmes of Study for Geography. Details of coverage for each key stage can be found by accessing the curriculum at

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RE

The principal aim of the RE curriculum is to engage pupils in enquiring into big questions arising from the study of religion, belief, philosophy and ethics. In so doing, Religious Education aims to support pupils' own personal moral, philosophical, ethical and spiritual development and to promote respect for others.

The Ruschombe RE curriculum follows the guidance provided by the Dorset SACRE Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education. The agreed syllabus provides a broad and balanced Religious Education curriculum, ensuring that Christianity is studied at each key stage and that children have the opportunity to learn about other principle world religions. The syllabus also allows for schools to include material from other worldviews as appropriate to their curriculum or context.

During their time at Rushcombe, children will have the opportunity to carry out in depth studies of Christianity during each key stage and will also have the opportunity to learn about Judaism and Hinduism.

As part of providing a balanced RE curriculum, children are given opportunities to 'learn about religion' and to 'learn from religion'. Learning about religion concerns a study of the beliefs, teachings, practices and expressions of religion. Learning from religion is concerned with exploring questions such as identity, meaning, truth and values.

Computing

The Computing curriculum aims to ensure that pupils 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. Focused skills sessions enable children to develop their computing skills in line with National Curriculum expectations. As part of the Computing curriculum, children are taught to use technology safely and respectfully. Opportunities are provided for children to utilise and develop their computing skills in a range of meaningful contexts linked to the school's Learning Adventures.

The school follows the National Curriculum Programmes of Study for Computing. Details of coverage for each key stage can be found by accessing the curriculum at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum>

Art and Design

The Rushcombe curriculum provides a wide range of opportunities for children to develop their art and design skills. During their time at Rushcombe, children explore ideas and produce creative work across a range of art disciplines, including drawing, painting, sculpture and printing. We seek to develop children's confidence to talk about different art forms, by encouraging them to become increasingly evaluative and analytical when engaging with creative works. The curriculum provides regular opportunities for children to explore the work of the world's great artists, enabling them to develop their knowledge and understanding of the history of art. In addition, children are provided with regular opportunities to work with a range of professional artists.

The school follows the National Curriculum Programmes of Study for Art and Design. Details of coverage for each key stage can be found by accessing the curriculum at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum>

Music

During their time at Rushcombe, we aim to inspire children to develop a love of music and to develop their talent as musicians. The school's music curriculum provides regular opportunities for children to develop their singing voices and to create and compose music. They are encouraged to explore how music is communicated through exploring aspects such as pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture and structure. The school's curriculum also provides frequent opportunities for children to listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians.

The school works with the Dorset Music Service to provide The Musicianship Programme to all children in Year 4. As part of this programme, the children work with a music teacher from the Dorset Music Service (alongside their class teacher), who leads a sequence of music sessions across a term to develop the children's musicianship skills.

During the school year, children are provided with opportunities to rehearse and take part in a range of musical performances, including singing assemblies, class assemblies and Christmas performances. Our children in Year 4 also prepare a special leavers performance.

In addition to the musical opportunities provided as part of the school's curriculum, there are a range of extra-curricular opportunities on offer to children. Children can learn to play the guitar or violin through tuition provided by the Dorset Music Service. There are also a range of after school and lunchtime clubs available, such as the school choir, recorder club and samba club.

The school follows the National Curriculum Programmes of Study for Music. Details of coverage for each key stage can be found by accessing the curriculum at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum>

Design and Technology

The Design and Technology curriculum provides opportunities for children to design and make products that solve real and relevant problems for a wide range of users. During their time at Rushcombe, children begin to develop their creative, technical and practical expertise to design and make high quality prototypes and products. They are also supported to critique, evaluate and test the ideas and products that they develop. Another important aspect of the Design and Technology curriculum belongs to the exploration of nutrition and food preparation.

The school follows the National Curriculum Programmes of Study for Design and Technology. Details of coverage for each key stage can be found by accessing the curriculum at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum>

PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education)

The school's PSHE curriculum enables children to develop the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to manage their lives, now and in the future. In addition, PSHE develops the qualities and attributes children need to thrive as individuals, family members and members of society.

A key aspect of the school's PSHE curriculum is the use of the Rushcombe Learning Heroes, which aim to develop children's understanding of key learning dispositions, such as resilience, teamwork, adaptability and curiosity. The school's curriculum is also underpinned by the teaching of key values (such as respect, toleration and forgiveness), which are introduced through school assemblies and reinforced during class sessions.

The school's PSHE curriculum supports children to make healthy lifestyle choices, by teaching them about the benefits of eating a balanced diet and engaging in regular physical activity. Children are

taught about how to prevent the spread of infection / germs, including the importance of good hygiene and cleanliness. They are also equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to make safe and informed decisions / to deal with risk effectively i.e. in areas such as road safety and dealing with peer pressure.

Supporting children to develop positive relationships with their peers is another crucial aspect of the school's PSHE provision, enabling children to explore themes such as friendship and bullying. In addition, children are supported to recognise their own self-worth and to develop strategies to manage a range of emotions.

PE

Foundation

Children in Foundation follow a structured programme, which supports the development of effective motor function, large muscle movement, eye-hand co-ordination, balance and rhythm. In addition to these skills, teachers also plan specific sessions for the development of team games.

Years 1 and 2

Children in Years 1 and 2, explore the following areas:

- basic movements including running, jumping, throwing and catching (applying these skills in a range of contexts)
- development of balance, agility and co-ordination (applying these skills in a range of contexts)
- participation in team games, developing simple tactics for attacking and defending
- use of simple movement patterns to perform dances

Children in Years 3 and 4, explore the following areas:

- running, jumping, throwing and catching in isolation and in combination
- participation in competitive games, modified where appropriate (for example, basketball, cricket, football, hockey, netball, rounders and tennis), and application of basic principles suitable for attacking and defending
- development of flexibility, strength, technique, control and balance (for example, through athletics and gymnastics)
- performance of dances using a range of movement patterns
- participation in outdoor and adventurous activities

Wherever possible, links are made between the PE curriculum and the school's Learning Adventures i.e. an exploration of India can lead to a focused unit of work on Indian dance.

The school follows the National Curriculum Programmes of Study for Physical Education. Details of coverage for each key stage can be found by accessing the curriculum at

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Languages - French (KS2 only)

Children begin to learn a foreign language (French) when they enter Year 3. These sessions are taught discreetly and develop children's language skills in line with the expectations as outlined in the National Curriculum.

The French curriculum at Rushcombe provides a balance of spoken and written language in a fun and interactive way, with the aim of laying the early foundations for further study. The curriculum

enables pupils to understand and communicate simple ideas, facts and feelings in speech and writing, using their knowledge of phonology, grammatical structures and vocabulary.

The school follows the National Curriculum Programmes of Study for Languages. Details of coverage for each key stage can be found by accessing the curriculum at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum>

Discreet Subjects

In addition to the subjects delivered through the school's Learning Adventures, some subjects are delivered discretely (i.e. not as part of the Learning Adventure theme):

Maths – Daily Maths sessions take place in all year groups across the school.

English – Aspects such as reading, phonics, spelling and the development of grammar skills are built into the weekly curriculum.

Computing – The development of computing skills is an integral part of the children's curriculum across all Learning Adventures.

Physical Education – children participate in 2 hours physical education each week.

French – Key Stage 2 children learn French as part of their regular curriculum.