



Wicklea Academy Curriculum Intent

Our Academy Mission Statement

To enable our pupils to be independent, confident members of the community who are equipped with skills to be lifelong learners to engage with their dreams and aspirations.

Our Curriculum Intent

At Wicklea, we believe that our curriculum is one that is broad and balanced and is ambitious for all. It is exciting, relevant and meaningful and responds to the needs of the children, enabling them to shine academically and flourish socially, emotionally, morally and culturally.

We believe that our curriculum should be seen in its widest sense – as the entire planned learning experience, including formal learning opportunities as well as events, routines and enrichment activities that take place outside the classroom.

In addition, permeating our curriculum are our core values ~ *Respectful, Ready, Resilient* ~ together with the British Values of Individual Liberty, Mutual Respect, Democracy and the Rule of Law.

Our curriculum at Wicklea is designed to allow each one of our children to:

- Achieve the best possible academic standards, demonstrating growth, whatever their ability
- Be confident, creative and resilient, displaying a thirst for learning
- Be kind and honest, showing empathy and compassion whilst valuing diversity and equality
- Develop skills and personal qualities for lifelong learning, preparing children for the challenge of the secondary school curriculum and beyond, so they can make an active contribution to society
- Have aspirations for the future and know that these can be reached through hard work and commitment
- Be culturally knowledgeable about our community, country and world
- Become mentally and emotionally happy and resilient citizens, ready for the challenges of the 21st Century

Our curriculum at Wicklea has been designed to take account of the statutory requirements of the Primary National Curriculum, which has been used as the basis for the content and the expectations of our own curriculum. Our curriculum also incorporates other experiences and opportunities that best meet the needs of the children in our school.

The full range of core and foundation subjects have been carefully mapped out across the academy in clear progression frameworks, so that knowledge, understanding, skills and concepts build and are reinforced over time enabling children to embed knowledge.

As a result, our aim is that all children leave Wicklea having mastered a wide range of concepts and skills and gained the knowledge that gives them a love of learning. We believe this will prepare them for their next steps, develop an understanding of the world in which they live and provide them with the confidence to make aspirational choices and experience success beyond their time at Wicklea.

As part of our carefully mapped out curriculum, we also ensure we provide all children with opportunities for experiential learning, through things such as residential visits, extra-curricular sports, arts, music clubs, drama festivals, music lessons in school, French lessons for all year groups, cooking etc.

Our Curriculum Implementation

Our curriculum at Wicklea is built around the following core features:

1. We have adopted a thematic approach to our curriculum and throughout the academic year. Each year group designs learning around five key topics, usually driven by History or Geography. Every topic is always relevant to the children and is designed to be exciting and engaging for that particular cohort. Whilst these subjects are the main drivers, the topics are cross-curricular and other subjects are taught as part of it. To prevent the creation of tenuous links however, discrete subjects are taught where necessary. PSHE lies at the heart of the curriculum and is taught following the Jigsaw scheme of learning.
2. To engage, immerse and 'hook' the children in their learning experiences, each topic begins with a 'launch' event. For example, if the topic is The Romans in Britain, the children are invited to dress up for the day and take part in drama, art and practical activities that introduce key knowledge in which to build.
3. As part of every topic, all children engage in a memorable experience to enhance their learning and further develop their knowledge and understanding. This could be for example, a visit to a place, a visitor into school or a practical activity or experience led by school staff.

4. Quality texts are integral to our curriculum approach, as we recognise that fluency in reading enables children to have access to the full curriculum entitlement. We believe it is our role to ensure children leave us being able to articulate themselves clearly, and read and write confidently and effectively. Quality texts are chosen to drive learning in English and as the basis for the teaching of our writing sequences. We want pupils to develop a love of reading during their time at Wicklea and be exposed to a range of classic and contemporary literature. The use of the school library, reading week and class shared texts are pivotal to this.
5. We endeavour to ensure that children see relevance and a purpose to their learning, planning lessons and activities that build towards a purposeful outcome at the end of the topic. This is an opportunity for children to showcase their learning to a wider audience, for example through an exhibition to the school community, or through the publication of learning.
6. Children are expected to work hard and demonstrate positive learning behaviours to both maximise their own individual learning potential as well as contribute to the school and wider community. Our school values and behaviour curriculum enables us to reward the behaviours we strive to develop. We have high expectations of attendance, academic achievement and pupil behaviour. We are committed to working in partnership with parents, as we believe that when home and school work closely together we get the best outcomes for our pupils.
7. We work closely with our feeder infant school to ensure transition is as smooth as possible for each child. This includes an open day and induction programme for parents, as well as whole year group visits, class visits and vulnerable pupil attendance within lessons at Wicklea. Our teachers have shared curriculum progression plans with their infant colleagues to ensure they have a strong understanding of the skills and knowledge the children have gained prior to joining Wicklea.
8. Central to all of the above, and to our curriculum design, is an expectation of well thought out quality first teaching and learning, delivered by all. Teaching staff use our curriculum progression documents and planning format to ensure that learning is sequenced so that children build knowledge and skills over time – both within the year group curriculum, but also building on, and making connections with, prior knowledge from other years in school.

Continuing Professional Development for all staff is a priority to ensure they have the skills and knowledge necessary to deliver the highest standards across the entire curriculum. Subject leaders have the necessary expertise to play a pivotal role in both the design and delivery of their subject area; ensuring a clear progression of both skills and knowledge across all year groups. They can confidently articulate how learning is revisited and developed year on year, to ensure a real depth of learning across the school.

At Wicklea, we have high expectations for the quality of teaching across school. We ensure that continued improvement is the focus of our monitoring schedule by focusing on how staff can share good practice between each other, what areas for improvement they have and what high quality CPD can be provided to support their development.

The Impact of our Curriculum

As a result of our well-planned and implemented curriculum, we would expect the impact to be that:

- Our children show kindness, compassion and empathy along with our school values
- Our children are able to form meaningful relationships based upon mutual respect and trust, recognising and celebrating difference, not only within the school community, but in the wider world as well
- Our children demonstrate confidence, independence and a real thirst for learning
- Our children achieve well – all making good progress from their starting points and achieving at least the expected standard across the curriculum by the end of Key Stage 2. They will have the knowledge, skills, understanding and vocabulary that empowers them as citizens in the 21st Century
- Our children have access to a wide and varied curriculum, enabling each of them to excel as individuals and be the best they can be
- Our children are well prepared to access the challenge of the secondary school curriculum
- Our children have high aspirations for the future and know that these can be realised with hard work and determination
- Our children are mentally and emotionally happy and resilient learners
- Our families work in partnership with us to ensure their child's journey at Wicklea is a positive one and prepares them to contribute positively to the world in which they live

