

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW **KS3 CONNECT**

Purpose of the Curriculum

The purpose of the Connect curriculum is to reawaken natural curiosity and a love of learning in our children, in order to support their achievement at school and to help produce happy, knowledgeable and well-rounded citizens for the 21st century. To support our children's achievement, Connect will support them to reach the minimum standards in literacy and numeracy.

All children start life as curious and resilient learners. Unfortunately for some, negative early years and primary school experiences can lead to children who fall short of the expected progress markers at the end of Key Stage 2. They often lose their curiosity, resilience and positive attitude to school. Connect aims to narrow the attainment gap between these children and their peers by concentrating on supporting numeracy and literacy skills, alongside a knowledge-rich curriculum that seeks to develop their cultural capital.

KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Year 7 and 8 Connect will be made of topic units that have a focus on a particular area of knowledge. Each unit will be comprised of various set tasks that will allow students to develop:

- Numeracy skills, particularly basic number work such as operations, times tables and fractions;
- Spatial awareness;
- Writing skills, focussed on creativity and redrafting skills;
- Literacy skills, particularly the simple grammar skills that aid expression;
- Vocabulary, focussed on developing vocabulary for thinking;
- Oracy, particularly tasks that aid inquiry and critical thinking;
- Knowledge acquisition, based on basic general knowledge with an even mix of science and humanity areas.

The individual subjects of the topics are open to change as they will follow individual and class interests, as they arise through the year. They will lay the basis for the new Humanities Entry Level Pathway at KS4. However, as a guide, previous topics that have been used as themes are:

- Hallowe'en, Samhain and the Day of the Dead;
- The Iron Man;
- Sharks;
- Human Evolution;
- Astronomical Constellations;
- Changes in the seasons;
- Dirt bikes and mechanics;
- Desert island survivals
- European & world cultures

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW (KS3 CONNECT)

KEY CONCEPTS

Connect encourages pupils to develop 'soft skills' alongside their academic learning, designed to help them access the curriculum, including:

- Literacy and Numeracy
- Resilience
- Creativity
- Critical thinking
- Self-control and discipline
- Team work
- Confidence
- Positive attitude

Assessment will take place throughout a unit as children are encouraged to draft and re-draft, try and retry on their work until they achieve the best possible product for each piece of work.

In support of this, each child will receive a PRAG rating for the unit that will take into account both attitude and attainment, so that progress is personalised.

SEQUENCE OF LEARNING

Work on the key objectives, both in terms of skills and knowledge is ongoing and runs throughout each topic. However, there are some distinct areas of difference as pupils move through the Key Stage.

Year 7 will start with tasks that are aimed at assessing strengths and weaknesses for each child, as well as building relationships with the class. Relationships are incredibly important to this group of learners, as is understanding the full context of the child. Tasks within each topic can then be focussed on particular skills that both the class and individuals need. This will mean that each pupil will meet a variety of academic challenges, some of which are easy to achieve and will build confidence, while some are more challenging and aimed at correcting misconceptions and filling in gaps in knowledge.

Year 8 will move more towards readying pupils for the Y9 transition year and the specific tasks that they will have to fulfil in order to successfully complete the Humanities Pathway course to ensure that they have a broad and balanced understanding of the world.