

ELMHURST CURRICULUM POLICY

Elmhurst curriculum aims for balance and breadth. It encompasses the meeting of the needs of pupils in Foundation Stage, KS1 and KS2. It also prepares pupils effectively for entry to other schools by competitive examination.

The curriculum therefore reflects the meeting of Early Learning Goals and embodies QCA curriculum guidelines at KS1 and KS2 for core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science. Foundation subjects taught include: History, Geography, Religious Education, ICT, Art, Design Technology, Music, Physical Education and Games, French, PHSE/Citizenship. Elmhurst regularly achieves excellent entry results to a wide variety of independent and maintained schools, by incorporating preparation for examination entry in Mathematics, English and Science to a level above that expected in the National Curriculum and inclusion of teaching in Verbal and Non-Verbal Reasoning.

Specialist teaching in Music, Art/Design Technology and Physical Activity provides for the breadth of study that will give pupils choice and scholarship opportunity. French is studied from reception classes through to year 6. Increasing competence to communicate is emphasised.

The timetable for the teaching of this curriculum in Key Stage 1 consists of seven lessons and in Key Stage 2, eight lessons.

All pupils from year 3 are taught to read music and play the recorder to widen their musical interest and identify musical talent. Opportunity exists for extra curricular activity by opting to learn to play additional musical instruments or by participating in the after school clubs and games which vary from term to term (for example Art, Orchestra, Cookery, Choir, ICT, Sports and Creative Writing).

The timetable for the teaching of this curriculum in Key Stage 1 consists of seven lessons and in Key Stage 2, eight lessons.

Regular sporting fixtures are included in the curriculum for teams in a range of year groups, in a variety of sports against other local schools (football, rugby, swimming, cricket) and swimming is taught on a weekly basis to all year groups. The extended curriculum is further enriched by father and son golf days and an annual outward bound activity weekend for year 6.

To inform parents on pupil progress through the curriculum there are tests in English, Mathematics, Science at the end of each term for all pupils from years 3-6 and at the end of the academic year. Standardised Reading Tests are taken once a year by all pupils. Results are shared with parents at parental consultation evenings. Writing assessments are scheduled twice a year (September and April) to monitor and help track pupil progress. Pupils in year 6 take Standardised Tests in Verbal Reasoning.

