

Our Vision

Meadowdale Academy aims to provide a creative, inclusive, challenging and real-world curriculum that inspires future thinkers, innovators and problem solvers in an immersive environment that stimulates and supports high quality learning. To ensure that all learners exceed their potential academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually with their families, in their communities as in the wider world ensuring that they become ambitious lifelong learners.

Principles and Purpose

Our curriculum is customised, tailor-made and structured so that the development of knowledge, skills and vocabulary is completed in a systematic and logical sequence, with big ideas being re-introduced throughout Key Stages in a variety of projects, making links between subjects and content. The curriculum is organised to support pupils growing depth of learning using a project-based, thematic approach, it provides children with a range and breadth of rich and memorable learning experiences which promotes SMSC and British Values.

When designing our curriculum, we have ensured a well-planned program which recognises the knowledge and skills, pupils will need for later life taking into account our local coal mining heritage. Meadowdale Academy places the community at the heart of all it does, we strive to leave a legacy for future learners and generations to come.

Aims

- Provide a highly inclusive environment where pupils enjoy learning*
- Develop pupils' confidence to speak and to present publicly*
- Develop resilience to overcome problems pupils may face*
- Expose children to a wide range of cultural experiences*
- Offer a curriculum which allows children to challenge their thinking*
- Develop a love of learning*
- Create meaningful links between subjects*
- Develop children's ability to work both independently and as part of a team*
- Invite children to enquire about their learning by encouraging them to ask and answer questions to develop their understanding*
- Encourage pupils to make positive contributions to both our school family and to the local community*



Depth, Balance and Breadth

Our curriculum at Meadowdale Academy is carefully designed, organised and planned for depth of learning:

Our definition of progress is; the widening and deepening of essential knowledge, skills, understanding and learning behaviours. We design, organise and plan our curriculum to ensure that children are not merely covering content but achieving a depth to their learning which enables them to use their skills and understanding in all areas of the curriculum.

Our careful curriculum design and planning means that we build in many opportunities for repetition and practise opportunities for essential knowledge, skills and understanding in every subject. This ensures that children are able to revisit previous learning, which allows them to gradually develop a deeper understanding of the skills and processes within subjects, at their own pace and in the best possible way for each individual child.

Our curriculum is meticulously designed and planned to move the nature of children's thinking to a higher order deep level of understanding rather than just acquiring new facts and knowledge.

At Meadowdale Academy we carefully design, plan and implement a curriculum to provide balance for every pupil:

It is our underlying belief that every child should feel valued and experience the feeling of success in a wide range of curriculum areas. We believe that through the curriculum we can impact on what is in children's head and how they feel about themselves, so that they feel clever, confident and ready to tackle any challenge they may face.

We have designed, organised and planned our curriculum to ensure every child receives an appropriate mix of academic and personal development which means that in practice our curriculum places equal importance on core and foundation subjects.

At Meadowdale Academy we place high priority on ensuring children's physical and mental wellbeing are met. We understand that children will not be successful learners unless they are emotionally secure, therefore we carefully design our curriculum and adopt a flexible approach to timetabling to ensure that we can meet and respond to any issues which may arise. Children's physical and mental wellbeing are as valued and important as academic development.

We carefully monitor children's progress with their personal development and our well planned and thoughtful approach to SMSC helps to ensure that every child is well cared for and supported.

Our balanced approach to the curriculum is not at the expense of high standards in core subject areas. High standards and enabling children to reach national expectations and above is of vital importance if they are to succeed at the next stage of their education and go on to achieve full and happy lives and careers.

Our full and rich curriculum, with its excellent range of experiences, ensures that every pupil at Meadowdale Academy makes good progress both academically and personally. Our unique curriculum ensures that every child is given the opportunity to shine and flourish.

At Meadowdale Academy we carefully design, plan and implement a curriculum which provides breadth for every pupil:

Through careful discussion and analysis of our pupils' backgrounds, cultures and learning behaviours, we have prioritised the following areas which drive our curriculum design. We believe our children must have the building blocks to be ready to successfully meet the challenges of the next stage of their education and their lives.

- 1. Aspiration** – we want all children to achieve their potential, so we aim to provide experiences that show them the wide range of possibilities available for their future, including further education and the World of Work.
- 2. Initiative** – we want all children to develop the learning habits they need to be the best that they can be, so we aim to offer enquiry-based experiences that help them to build on the characteristics of effective learning to become curious, independent and resourceful learners.
- 3. Environment** – we want all children to become responsible citizens, so we aim to provide real, meaningful experiences that help them to value their environment and understand their responsibilities towards sustaining their local, national and global environment.

Entitlement and Enrichment:

Our rich and engaging curriculum takes into consideration all that children are taught and experience. This includes those activities and learning experiences that take place outside of the classroom and outside the National Curriculum. At Meadowdale Academy our pupil offer:

- Provides on and off site subject or topic related activities
- Ensures opportunities for children to learn outdoors
- Develops partnerships with external providers that extend children's opportunities for learning
- Welcomes parents and carers to take part in children's learning experiences
- Holds specialist curriculum days or weeks
- Uses quality resources in and out of the classroom.

Our broad and balanced curriculum takes into account the range and frequency of these activities and experiences and we ensure they are planned for in a rigorous and meaningful way.



Our Curriculum Design

Our curriculum is a broad and balanced, knowledge-rich curriculum. Its content is delivered through a range of subject-specific projects, which last either a full or half term.

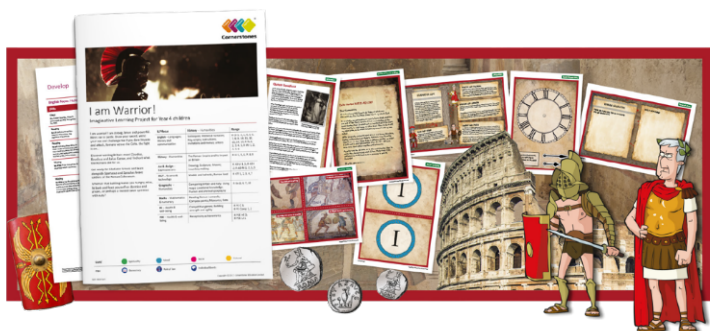
To ensure coverage of the national curriculum, each subject aspect or concept is then matched to the relevant programmes of study. Across the curriculum, there is full coverage of the programmes of study.

Our programmes of study, aspects and concepts are broken down into smaller component parts or 'chunks' to form a cohesive progression framework. Our progression framework runs throughout every year group and includes knowledge and skills that children need to know and be able to do in order to make progress through the curriculum.

The structure of our curriculum provides a robust framework on which to build deliverable content. The content is delivered through a range of broad and balanced, knowledge-rich projects. The knowledge and skills statements provide the foundation for and are directly linked to the planning and resourcing of lessons.

Our curriculum design provides each year group the opportunity to cover a broad range of themes and subjects. Projects last either a half or full term depending on content. In some cases, projects may be taught for a shorter period, for example during a science or art week.

Our curriculum maps show the coverage and structure for each year group.



Subject coverage

English

English is at the centre of our curriculum at Meadowdale Academy. Each English unit covers a range of reading and writing themes and, where appropriate, links to other areas of the curriculum. Children are exposed to a wide range of genres in each year group and skills are taught progressively to ensure children are constantly revising and developing their English skills. Reading, spoken language and writing are incorporated into all subjects and topics taught. Spoken language is promoted throughout the curriculum and across all subjects. Phonics and early reading are taught using the Read Write Inc. programme.

Mathematics

Mathematics is also a core subject and is taught discretely using Maths No Problem. Incorporating the use of resources, problem solving and group work, the Primary Series is child-centred and fun to teach and was assessed by the DfE's expert panel, which judged that it met the core criteria for a high-quality textbook to support teaching for mastery. However, where relevant, mathematics is linked to ongoing project work.

Science

We aim to bring the science curriculum to life, developing pupils' natural curiosity by providing stimulating and challenging scientific experiences that will give them with a strong understanding of the world around them. The taught subject adheres closely to the fundamental aims of the National Curriculum and ensures that pupils acquire the specific skills and knowledge that will enable them to think as scientists, to gain an understanding of scientific processes, in a way that will instill a lifelong interest in the subject. We intend that pupils will gain a strong understanding of the uses and implications of Science, from the past, into the present and forward into the future.

History

The high-quality history education offered at Meadowdale Academy helps pupils gain a coherent knowledge and understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider world. Teaching equips pupils to ask perceptive questions, think critically, weigh evidence, sift arguments, and develop perspective and judgement. History helps pupils to understand the complexity of people's lives, the process of change, the diversity of societies and relationships between different groups, as well as their own identity and the challenges of their time.

Geography

We believe that a well-planned, high-quality geography education will help pupils gain a clear understanding of both the natural and human aspects of their world. Children at Meadowdale develop a greater understanding and knowledge of the wider world, their local area as well as their place in it. Geography by nature is an investigative subject and we encourage and inspire children to have a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people which will remain with them for the rest of their lives. Our curriculum helps to promote the children's interest and understanding of diverse places, people, resources and natural and human environments, together with a deep understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes. The curriculum is designed to develop knowledge and skills that are progressive, as well as transferable, throughout their time at Meadowdale Academy and also to their further education and beyond.

Art

At Meadowdale Academy, we believe that art is an important part of our broad and balanced curriculum and giving our children a high-quality art education engages, inspires and challenges our pupils to reach their full potential. It provides them with opportunities to develop and extend their skills as well as experiment, invent and express their individual interests, thoughts and ideas by creating their own works of art. As children progress, they learn to think critically and develop their appreciation for art and expand their understanding of their own and others' cultural heritages through studying a diverse range of male and female artists. Children develop their understanding of the visual language and elements of art through carefully planned sequences of lessons and experiences.

Design and Technology

Meadowdale Academy will provide children with high-quality opportunities in design and technology. We believe that it is a rigorous and practical subject which enables pupils to use their creativity and imagination while acquiring problem-solving skills and drawing on their knowledge from other subjects including mathematics, science and computing. As children design and make their products, they are faced with many challenges such as solving real and relevant problems, considering others' needs, taking risks, being resourceful and developing their entrepreneurial skills which will benefit them later in life. Humanities and Arts

Computing

The core skills of ICT are taught as a discrete programme across school. However, other elements of the computing curriculum are integrated into the curriculum as part of project work. These include online safety, digital publication and presentation, research, data handling and the use of digital media. Computing is taught discretely using the Purple Mash scheme of work.

Physical Education

A cycle of lessons for each subject, carefully plans for progression and depth in the different subject areas. A wide range of sports and activities are delivered from Reception to Year 6 enabling pupils to develop their knowledge and skills in physical education in a variety of different areas. Specialised sports coaches deliver some of our physical education lessons.

Religious education

RE is a statutory part of the curriculum and follows the locally agreed syllabus. The RE curriculum is enriched using the Cornerstones Love to Celebrate scheme. The RE Curriculum focuses around the 6 major world religions with each year group spending time studying each religion. The focus of each half term is on a specific celebration or tradition for the religion that is in focus

Music

Music teaching at Meadowdale Academy delivers the requirements of the National Curriculum, and teachers plan lessons using our school knowledge and skills document and the Charanga scheme of work. Music lessons are broken down into half-termly units and an emphasis is placed on musical vocabulary, allowing children to talk about pieces of music using the correct terminology.

PHSE, Citizenship and Relationships Education

PHSE and citizenship are important aspects of our curriculum and are taught both discretely and within our curriculum projects. PSHE is taught both as a discrete subject each week in all classes whilst being integrated into all aspects of everyday school life.

Modern Foreign Languages (French)

To ensure high standards of teaching and learning in MFL, we implement a curriculum that is progressive throughout Key Stage Two. MFL is taught in discrete lessons covering at least one unit per half term.