



Curriculum Policy

Introduction

Alexandra House School provides a British curriculum with a strong international flavour in order to cater for its pupils who come from many different countries, races and creeds but who share English as a common language. It includes the formal requirements of the British National Curriculum, as well as a variety of extra curricular activities to promote learning, personal growth and development, thus enriching the children's experience.

Values

At Alexandra House School we believe that all things are achieved through love and that it is our responsibility to 'educare', taking each child by the hand, drawing out that which is within to enable them to reach their full potential. We stress the importance of universal values and as a small international school are able to give the children the ideal opportunity to mix with others of different race, culture and faith. The curriculum is the means by which we achieve our objective of educating children in the knowledge, skills and understanding that they need to grow into respectful, tolerant, positive, caring, responsible citizens, who can work and cooperate with others during the rest of their lives.

Our school curriculum is underpinned by the values we hold dear at school.

- Respect – We value every member of the school community and respect their uniqueness, their views, their religion and their culture.
- Kindness – We show kindness to one another in every possible way.
- Caring – We care for one another, for all living creatures and for our world.
- Sharing – We share our talents and gifts whenever possible
- Helpfulness – We find ways to help one another whenever an opportunity arises.
- Equality – We recognize that each person deserves to be treated equally with respect and kindness.
- Gratitude – We are grateful for all our blessings.

Aims of the Curriculum

- To provide a firm foundation in the fundamental skills necessary to pursue further education
- To promote high standards in Literacy and Numeracy
- To enable our pupils to acquire knowledge, skills and understanding about the World Around Us
- To enable pupils to be confident and creative in their use of ICT
- To promote pupils' spiritual development
- To enable our pupils to develop moral sensibility through carefully taught values and the consistent implementation of the school ethos
- To develop the personal and social skills of each child
- To promote pupils' physical and mental development and an awareness of the importance of a healthy lifestyle
- To enable our pupils to be sensitive to and participate in the Arts and a wide range of cultural activities
- To promote thinking skills, independent and collaborative learning and self-reflection
- To provide the opportunity for all pupils to fulfil their potential
- To prepare pupils for the opportunities, experiences and responsibilities of secondary school and adult life
- To create a calm but stimulating learning environment and to promote high standards of behaviour

Organisation and planning

The curriculum is regularly updated to keep abreast of current practice in International Schools and the British National Curriculum is followed closely in the core subjects. It is planned effectively, providing continuity and progression. It promotes an enjoyment of learning and a commitment to achieving. The teachers plan for and provide rich and varied learning activities and teaching approaches. Pupils gain experience at working independently as well as with others. Continuous assessment is used to promote optimum progress throughout their time in primary school.

The curriculum is planned in three phases:

- ① Long term plan – this shows an overview of the topics for each area of learning, giving a broad outline.

- ② Medium term plan – this is a detailed termly plan, showing specific objectives and topics to be taught from Reception Class to Class 6.

This plan follows the National Literacy and Numeracy frameworks. Commercial schemes of work are used to support the teaching of a number of subjects.

Literacy – Oxford International English, Longman, Ginn, Oxford Reading Tree and other reading schemes.

Numeracy – Ginn Abacus and other supplementary Maths schemes

Science – Scholastic Science

A variety of other schemes are used to supplement in the core subjects.

- ③ Short term plan – this is a weekly/daily plan which the teachers draw up, setting out the objective for each lesson and identifying which resources, strategies and activities are going to be used during the lesson.

For more details of each individual subject, please see our website under 'Curriculum'.

Special needs / Gifted children

If a child displays signs of having special needs, his/her teacher makes an assessment of this need and, in most cases, the class teacher is able to provide resources and educational opportunities which meet the child's needs within the normal class organisation. If a child's needs are more severe, the school will contact appropriate external specialists for assessment.

Homework

Homework is a crucial element of the Home/School partnership. It gives parents the opportunity, from the outset, to support their children in their learning whilst enabling them to reinforce the work covered at school. The various tasks and assignments which are set for homework include English/Maths worksheets, learning tables, spellings, reading and also topic work projects which can be of an investigative, research or creative nature.

Parents who support their children with homework tasks provide a powerful reinforcement of the importance of school and of their child's work and education.

Partnership with Parents

We acknowledge that parents are children's first and most enduring educators, and that when parents and professionals work together the results have a major and positive impact on children's learning. We encourage the support of parents by:

- Showing respect and understanding for the role of the parent in the child's education
- Listening to accounts of their child's development and any concerns they may have
- Making parents feel welcome by being friendly and approachable
- Inviting parents to Parents' Days and introductory meetings
- Keeping them informed and up to date about the curriculum e.g. meetings, newsletters
- Having welcoming display boards and photographs showing children's work
- Meeting with parents to discuss pupils' progress
- Inviting parents to accompany classes on educational trips

For more information about subjects please see under 'Curriculum' on our website.