

Curriculum

School Curriculum Information

We follow the National Curriculum and use a topic based approach to broaden teaching and learning. For our phonics scheme we use Letters & Sounds which is taught throughout school. For further information please contact your class teacher or the school office.

2017-18 Curriculum Overview

Ladycross Infant School - Curriculum Statement

Ladycross Infant School offers a curriculum that is balanced and broadly based. Our curriculum promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and prepares pupils for the opportunities and responsibilities and experiences of later life in Modern Britain. Within all of our teaching we aim to use an approach that employs 'Bloom's Taxonomy' to increase the depth of learning by asking the children to apply what they have learnt in a range of different ways.

Our school curriculum comprises all learning and other experiences that we plan for our pupils. The National Curriculum forms one part of the school curriculum. We are legally required to follow the statutory National Curriculum which sets out in Programmes of study, on the basis of key stages, subject content for those subjects taught to all pupils. We make provision for a daily act of worship and teach religious education at every key stage.

We deliver the National Curriculum through a mainly topic based approach which allows us to make strong links between subjects and deepen pupils' knowledge and understanding. Our topics may vary in length and are planned to be stimulating and exciting for all groups of pupils. They often have themed days, visits and visitors to capture the imaginations of all learners.

These naturally promote British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. These are evident throughout our taught curriculum and the wider school curriculum. Examples include: our elected school council, clear expectations for our pupils' behaviour, Anti-Bullying work, visits to and visitors from different faith communities and a comprehensive assembly programme that addresses a range of themes and issues. Our environment also adds to the values and ethos of the school promoting equality, diversity, understanding and respect.

English

The purpose of English in the National Curriculum is to teach pupils to read, write and speak fluently so that they can communicate their ideas and emotions to others and through their reading and listening, others can communicate with them. Our curriculum aims promote high standards of literacy by equipping pupils with a strong command of the spoken and written word and to develop a love of literature through widespread reading for enjoyment.

At Ladycross Infant School English is taught as an integral part of our topic based curriculum. Through these topics, pupils will learn to read and write through a variety of fiction, non-fiction and poetry texts. We strongly focus on developing our pupils into confident, fluent and independent readers. Our school reading scheme, the core of which is Oxford Reading Tree, draws from a range of other schemes to capture the range of abilities

and interests of our pupils. Our reading scheme and class library encourages pupils' independence in choosing the texts that they wish to read at their ability levels. Weekly guided reading and writing sessions target small groups with specific objectives to ensure good progress of all pupils. English teaching linked to our topics is detailed in our topic plans.

Mathematics

The National Curriculum for mathematics aims to ensure that all pupils become fluent in the fundamentals of mathematics, reason mathematically and can solve problems by applying their mathematics to a variety of situations.

At Ladycross Infant School Maths is taught on a daily basis. Maths is taught in blocks of lessons each week. Every lesson includes problem solving in 'real-life' situations. Arithmetic and Reasoning in all year groups consists of number and place value; addition and subtraction; multiplication and division; and fractions. Mathematics is embedded where appropriate in other subjects so that children can learn in contexts and at greater depth through real life application and problem solving.

Science

The purpose of science education in the National Curriculum is to provide the foundations for understanding the world through biology, chemistry and physics. Children should be encouraged to understand how science can be used to explain what is occurring, predict how things will behave, and analyse causes. The aims of the National Curriculum are that all pupils develop scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding, develop understanding of the nature, processes and methods of science and that they are equipped with the scientific knowledge required to understand the uses and implications of science, today and for the future.

At Ladycross Infant School the relevant programmes of study are taught for each key stage. Where possible, science is linked directly to the current topic being taught; for example use electrical circuits to make lighthouses during a topic about the coast. Some cross curricular topics may actually be based around a particular science programme of study. By using a topic based approach we aim to deepen pupils' understanding of how science is linked to the real world as well as providing more opportunities for writing across the curriculum.

Science teaching is detailed in our topic plans.

Art and Design

The purpose of art and design in the National Curriculum is to engage, inspire and challenge pupils, equipping with the knowledge and skills to experiment, invent and create their own pieces of art, craft and design as well as thinking critically about their work. The aims of the National Curriculum are to ensure that all pupils produce creative work; become proficient in drawing, painting, sculpture and other techniques; use the language of art to evaluate and analyse creative works; and know about great artists, craft makers and designers and understand the historical and cultural developments of their art forms.

At Ladycross Infant School art and design is an integral part of our topic based approach to delivering the curriculum. Skills and techniques are taught within relevant topics.

Art and Design teaching is detailed in our topic webs.

Computing

The purpose of computing in the national Curriculum is to equip pupils to use computational thinking and creativity to understand and change the world. The core of computing is computer science in which the children are taught how digital systems work and put this knowledge to use through programming to create programs, systems and content. Computing ensures that pupils become digitally literate and develop their ideas through information and communication technology to prepare them for the future workplace and as active participants in a digital world. The aims of computing in the National Curriculum include the children understanding and using algorithms, writing computer programs, and become responsible, competent, confident and creative users of ICT.

At Ladycross Infant School pupils in Year 1 to Year 2 take part in a weekly discrete computing lesson which, wherever appropriate, is linked to the topic that the children are studying. Our pupils are strongly encouraged to use ICT to support their learning at all times; this may be through easy access to Ipads in the classrooms or regular access to computers. Staying safe whilst using ICT and online is an integral part of Computing lessons and is supported by integrating it into schemes and plans.

Computing teaching is detailed in our topic plans.

Design and Technology

The purpose of Design and Technology in the National Curriculum is for pupils to use creativity and imagination to design and make products and solve real and relevant problems. The curriculum aims to ensure that all pupils develop expertise to perform everyday tasks confidently in an increasingly technological world by having the skills to design, make and evaluate and test as well as having an understanding and the ability to apply the principles of nutrition and learn how to cook.

Design and Technology is an integral part of our topic based approach to delivering the curriculum and will be taught at appropriate points of the year with strong links to other subjects.

Design and Technology teaching is detailed in our topic plans.

Geography

The purpose of Geography in the National Curriculum is to inspire curiosity and fascination about the world and its people. The curriculum aims to ensure that pupils develop knowledge of location of globally significant places and understand the processes that give rise to physical and human geographical features. The curriculum aims for pupils to become competent at collecting, analysing and communicating data, interpret a range of sources of information including through the use of maps.

At Ladycross Infant School Geography is an integral part of our topic based approach to delivering the curriculum and will be taught at appropriate points of the year with strong links to other subjects.

Geography teaching is detailed in our topic plans.

History

The purpose of History in the National Curriculum is to help pupils gain knowledge and understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider world. The curriculum aims to ensure that pupils know and understand the history of the British Isles from the earliest times to the present day and how peoples' lives have shaped the nation. Other aims include the pupils being able to understand significant aspects of history of the wider world and to understand historical concepts such as continuity and change, cause and consequence, similarities, differences, connections and contrasts.

At Ladycross Infant School History is an integral part of our topic based approach to delivering the curriculum and will be taught at appropriate points of the year with strong links to other subjects.

History teaching is detailed in our topic plans.

Music

The purpose of Music in the National Curriculum is to engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of music and their talents as musicians therefore increasing self-confidence, creativity and a sense of achievement. The curriculum aims for all pupils to perform, listen to and review music; learn to sing and use their own voices to create and compose music; and understand the dimensions of music including pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture structure and appropriate musical notations. Singing is also an important part of our curriculum and this is woven into daily life as well as discreet lessons and the year 2 choir.

At Ladycross Infant School we use the web-based Music scheme to support our music teaching.

Music teaching is detailed in our topic plans.

Physical Education

The purpose of Physical Education in the National Curriculum is to inspire all pupils to success and excel in competitive sport and other demanding activities which in turn support health and fitness. The curriculum aims for pupils to develop competence to excel in a broad range of physical activities, be physically active for sustained periods of time, engage in competitive sports and activities and lead healthy, active lives.

Physical Education teaching is detailed in our PE folder of taught lessons and blocks of learning.

Religious Education

At Ladycross Infant School we teach Religious Education (RE) on a weekly basis. RE teaching is in line with the locally agreed syllabus. RE teaching is broadly Christian but takes into account the principles and practices of other principal religions represented in Britain and around the world. Pupils take part in a daily act of Collective Worship that often include visitors from a range of faiths to support our RE teaching. We also broaden the children's awareness and appreciation for other faiths through learning about different religions, their customs and leaders.

RE teaching is detailed in our topic plans.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE)

PSHE Education offers learning opportunities and experiences which reflect the increasing independence and physical and social awareness of learner. They learn skills to develop effective relationships, assume greater personal responsibility and keep themselves safe.

At Ladycross Infant School PSHE is interwoven throughout the curriculum and may be delivered specifically in response to situations that arise in school such as bereavement. Wherever possible PSHE teaching will be linked to the specific topic area being taught at that time and will be detailed in our medium term topic plans.

Many aspects of PSHE are covered through our everyday work, acts of collective worship as well as within our taught curriculum. We have also organised Pupil Voice Conferences for all the schools in the Prudhoe Partnership to attend. These have focused on PSHE issues but with a wider interest in the community impact.