



Waverton Primary School

Learning Together; Achieving Together

Curriculum Policy

Intent

At Waverton Primary School, our curriculum intent is rooted in our vision to create a safe, inclusive community where everyone is valued. Guided by our values of Respect, Resilience and Responsibility, we are committed to ensuring that every child experiences a broad, rich and ambitious curriculum, enabling them to learn together and achieve together.

We intend to:

- Provide a broad, balanced and coherent curriculum that reflects our school values and meets statutory requirements
- Inspire pupils to be curious, enquiring learners who are motivated to explore, question, think and deepen their understanding
- Ensure learning is progressive and builds securely on existing knowledge over time
- Enable pupils to engage deeply through strong cohesion between subjects
- Place reading at the heart of learning, supporting access to all areas of the curriculum
- Promote pupils' academic, personal, social and emotional development
- Ensure inclusion and high expectations for all pupils, including disadvantaged pupils and those with SEND
- Prepare pupils for the opportunities and responsibilities of the future

We believe pupils learn best when learning is connected, meaningful and relevant. Our curriculum is therefore designed to allow pupils time to explore topics in depth, make connections across subjects and apply learning in purposeful contexts.

Our approach is informed by cognitive science, particularly Daniel Willingham's Simple Model of Learning (attention, working memory and long-term memory). This reminds us that learning happens when pupils think hard about the right things and those ideas are stored in long-term memory. We design teaching to secure attention, manage cognitive load, build background knowledge and strengthen remembering through regular bridging back. (See Appendix 1)

Implementation

Curriculum Design and Structure

We deliver the National Curriculum, alongside a well-planned EYFS curriculum, ensuring clear progression from entry Reception to Year 6. All subjects are valued and taught regularly, ensuring pupils receive a broad and balanced education.

Our curriculum is:

- Carefully sequenced so that knowledge, skills and vocabulary build progressively over time
- Designed to revisit and reinforce key learning
- Structured to allow meaningful links between subjects where this deepens understanding

Enquiry-Based and Cohesive Learning

Learning at Waverton Primary School is enquiry-based to promote thinking.

- Learning is driven by purposeful questions
- Pupils are encouraged to investigate, explore, discuss and reflect
- Teachers plan learning that builds on pupils' existing knowledge
- Subjects are linked where appropriate to support deep engagement and understanding

This cohesive approach ensures pupils see learning as connected rather than fragmented and builds durable knowledge over time.

Reading Across the Curriculum

Reading underpins all learning.

- Early reading and phonics are prioritised
- High-quality texts are carefully chosen to:
 - support enquiry-based learning
 - develop subject-specific vocabulary
 - deepen understanding across subjects
- Reading skills are explicitly taught and applied across the curriculum
- Pupils are encouraged to read widely and for pleasure

Strong reading skills enable pupils to access the curriculum confidently and independently.

Outdoor Learning and Enrichment

Our curriculum extends beyond the classroom.

- Outdoor learning is planned for all children to support curiosity, resilience and well-being
- Gardening opportunities enable pupils to:
 - learn about sustainability and the natural world
 - develop responsibility
 - apply learning in real-life contexts
- Educational visits, visitors and enrichment activities enhance learning experiences

These opportunities deepen engagement and support pupils' physical, emotional and academic development.

Local Links and Community Engagement

Our curriculum is enriched through built-in local links.

- Learning includes local history, geography and environmental studies
- Pupils learn about their local area, community and heritage
- Local visits and visitors make learning relevant and meaningful
- Community links help pupils understand their place in the wider world

Inclusion and Adaptive Teaching

Our curriculum is inclusive and ambitious for all pupils.

- Teaching is adapted to meet needs
- Pupils with SEND are supported through high-quality teaching and targeted provision
- Disadvantaged pupils are supported to overcome barriers to learning
- All pupils access the full curriculum and the wider opportunities we provide

Impact

The impact of our curriculum is that pupils:

- Develop secure knowledge and skills across all subjects
- Make strong progress from their individual starting points
- Engage deeply with learning and retain knowledge over time
- Remember and apply knowledge over time through regular bridging back
- Read confidently and widely, enabling access to the full curriculum
- Demonstrate curiosity, resilience and responsibility in their learning
- Feel safe, valued and included within the school community

Leaders evaluate impact through:

- Pupil progress and outcomes
- Work scrutiny and learning walks
- Pupil voice and engagement
- Attendance and behaviour information
- Staff professional dialogue

As a result, pupils leave Waverton Primary School as confident, capable and motivated learners, well prepared for the next stage of their education and life beyond school.

The Simple Model of the Mind.

Children remember and learn what they think about.

What did they think about during the session — and what will they still remember?

Learning depends on the interaction between environment and attention, working memory and remembering over time.

The curriculum at Waverton is designed to align with how children think, process information and build durable knowledge over time.

