



Curriculum Vision Policy

Version	May 2018
Owner	Curriculum
Adopted	June 2018
Last Reviewed	15-Nov-2011
Review Cycle	3 Years
Next Review	CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW – SUMMER 2020

Our unique environment, spacious grounds, well-resourced building and fantastic community are at the heart of our Curriculum Vision. We endeavour to provide a wealth of experiences within and beyond the school.

We offer very high standards in the core curriculum subjects, however this is just one aspect of our children's curriculum experience at The Topsham School. For us, the true curriculum has greater breadth and depth and goes beyond the statutory content. This includes everything from trips, visits, residentials and our broad range of extra-curricular activities, to contextual and inspiring first-hand experiences to underpin the children's learning. We believe that it is vitally important to offer pupils opportunities to extend the depth of work in subject areas such as the arts, in which we have a very strong tradition; in sports, offering a range of extra-curricular clubs and activities and in school professional sports programmes; and in the foundation subjects, developing an understanding and fascination in the world around them.

Our rigorous, well-planned curriculum, combined with high quality teaching, ensures that children are supported to be well rounded, empathetic young people who have a genuine thirst for learning. This is driven by our school values of Aspiration, Self-Worth and Respect, aiming to create a generation of learners who aspire to achieve and be the best that they can, in addition to a respect for and understanding of others.

We strive to ensure that our curriculum:

- Enables pupils to feel successful in their learning and promotes high self esteem,
- Values all children as individuals and fosters their interests: igniting their curiosity, allowing them to think creatively and challenging them to make excellent progress,
- Develops a critical and enquiry mind,
- Understands and provides for all learners,
- Provides opportunities for children to challenge themselves and engage themselves in deeper learning,
- Has the flexibility to decide how best to teach and learn in different situations,
- Allows children to develop an understanding of, and value the importance of, truth, fairness and right and wrong,

- Nurtures positive relationships promoting working co-operatively with one another,
- Helps children to understand Britain's cultural heritage and supports them in understanding British Values as well as their place in our global community,
- Promotes the learning and practising of the basic skills of English, Mathematics and Computing alongside developing a broad understanding of the core subjects, promoting the mastery curriculum.

At The Topsham School, we have adopted a mix of within-phase and whole school thematic approaches to the curriculum. Teachers carefully select themes that excite and inspire our children, using our outstanding grounds and surrounding area, local community and staff passions to develop termly topics which include opportunities for learning across the subjects in the National Curriculum. We ensure that the curriculum we offer the children is broad and balanced, based on skills, knowledge and enquiry, and full of stimulating learning experiences.

Teachers plan together to provide exciting opportunities for the children to learn, giving them the knowledge, ideas, vocabulary and the motivation to record their ideas in a variety of ways. This also allows our children to be equipped and stimulated to write. Through a hands-on experiential and enquiry approach, we encourage our children to be more independent in their learning and to find things out for themselves. Children begin each theme with an exciting experience to hook them in, to capture their imagination. We believe that providing the children with challenge leads to a life-long learning that will stay with them.

With our thematic curriculum, our pupils will:

- Be excited for their learning,
- Have confidence in their own ability to achieve and make progress,
- Be willing to have a go, and be content to fail and try again,
- Expect well planned lessons that employ a variety of teaching strategies to maximise engagement, learning and enjoyment,
- Have a clear understanding of what they are learning and how this fits into the learning sequence,
- Have the opportunity to demonstrate what they have learnt and to reapply and adapt their learning in a variety of contexts,
- Have the confidence to ask for help, time to practise and self-awareness of when they are ready to move on,
- Know and understand the skills and attitudes that make a successful independent learner: understanding of the emotional process of learning, understanding of the necessity of making mistakes, development of resilience, collaboration with peers and adults, and high standards of behaviour,
- Take responsibility for their learning environment and use it as an aid to learning,

Through our curriculum at The Topsham School, we aim to equip our children with the skills to be successful in their learning and in their futures; to aim high in whatever they choose to do; to have the self-belief that they can make an impact; and to show respect and compassion to those around them.

UNDER REVIEW

Our Unique Curriculum and Vision

Inspiring Excellence In Everyone



Academic Excellence



A Love of Reading



A Passion for the Arts



Musical Excellence



Sporting Achievement



Unique Location and
Grounds



Nurturing Individuals



Rich and Memorable