



# WREN'S NEST PRIMARY SCHOOL

School Key Policy for 2024-2025

## Curriculum Policy

September 2024

Document to be read in conjunction with ***other key school policies (listed within document)***



## 'A curriculum for academic achievement and beyond'

At Wren's Nest, we believe that we have the privilege of impacting and changing lives, inspiring minds for future generations.

At Wren's Nest Primary School, we believe every child can succeed.

We aim to support children so they can be:

- ✓ Happy, confident and resilient children
- ✓ Children who are inspired and want to fulfil their potential
- ✓ Children who 'reach for the stars' and aim to achieve their best at all times
- ✓ Children who respect others and value the community they live in
- ✓ Children who are aware of the wider world around them and have a desire to explore it
- ✓ Children who become problem solvers and creative thinkers

To fulfil our vision of all children 'reaching for the stars' we provide a curriculum that builds on children's prior knowledge and skills. Our curriculum helps our children to understand where they come from, their local community, and the rich history that surrounds them. The Wren's Nest Nature Reserve is a world heritage site and the children learn to understand the importance of it and how the area is revered around the world.

### Implementation:

Our curriculum builds on the interests of our children and is tailored to meet their needs, providing them with a route to becoming independent learners. The schemas of fashion, technology and food enable the children:

#### ✚ To engage:

- by setting the scene and providing a context for learning
- by sparking children's curiosity using interesting starting points
- by hooking learners in with a memorable experience/text/big question
- by encouraging the children to ask questions

#### ✚ To develop:

- to make links with skills and knowledge for a deeper understanding
- time for consolidating skills and knowledge learnt
- to deliver reading, writing, maths and discussion across the curriculum areas
- to engage in creative opportunities

#### ✚ To innovate:

- to use peer and group discussions to reflect upon and develop creative thinking
- to be encouraged to develop their entrepreneurial skills and become independent thinkers
- to have opportunities for collaborative working and problem solving

#### ✚ To express:

- to become reflective and self-critical
- to be able to evaluate and critique
- celebrate and share successes
- identify areas for improvement

Our curriculum explores the breadth and depth of the National Curriculum. It allows the children to develop new skills through a variety of interesting contexts while making links with the environment in which they live in. The children develop a rich and deep subject knowledge, making links and transferring skills that will contribute to their life-long learning.

Our curriculum allows children to build respectful relationships, recognising that people are good at different things. They are encouraged to develop a high self-esteem and confidence which enables them to integrate fully into the wider society and have high aspirations for themselves and their futures. Throughout the curriculum, children are encouraged to take part in democratic activities, express their opinions on a range of different topics while respecting the views of others. At Wren's Nest Primary School, the children learn that they are part of a multi-cultural society and understand the benefits of being part of a school and wider community who have a range of differing opinions and beliefs.

At Wren's Nest we enrich the curriculum by encouraging parents and carers to take part in their children's learning. We provide a comprehensive enrichment programme where the children engage in a wide repertoire of external visits and experiences which enhance their life experiences and provide them with ideas that they can draw upon when engaging in their lessons.

The local environment is used to support in-class activities at every opportunity and our offer of curriculum days to deepen the children's knowledge and to inspire them.

In an ever-changing society, it is crucial that the children at Wren's Nest are aware of current affairs and world events, and we teach a curriculum that encompasses these ideas. We give children the opportunity to talk about and express their own thoughts, ideas and opinions in a 'safe' environment where they are listened to, and their ideas and thoughts are explored.

#### **SMSC and British Values:**

At Wren's Nest Primary School, we are fully committed to ensure our children become well-rounded citizens of the future and prepare for life in modern Britain. We believe passionately in the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all our children. Our ethos of SMSC underpins our teaching and learning, including the promotion of fundamental British Values. We encourage our children to become nurturing, respectful individuals and valued members of the community and to understand the contribution they can make towards this.

#### **Parent Information:**

At Wren's Nest Primary School, we understand the importance of home learning as an extension of the children's education. We ensure that the parents/carers are fully informed about the current area of the curriculum that their children are working on. At the start of each term a curriculum video is sent home, highlighting areas of key learning for that academic term. In addition to this, a knowledge organiser is sent home for each unit of work covered, which gives more in-depth details, such as technical vocabulary, key dates and interesting facts for the parents to share and discuss with their children. All documents are available as a paper copy and on the school website.

#### **Monitoring, evaluation and review**

The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school by all staff. The school will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. This will be reviewed by the Curriculum and Standards Committee.

## **Links with Other policies and documents**

The Curriculum Policy links closely with a range of other policies to provide a coherent package of provision for Children at Wrens Nest:

- Knowledge organisers (Appendix A)
- Our Curriculum Statement (Appendix B)
- Our School Aims (Appendix C)
- Curriculum flyers
- School Website
- Planning documentation including detailed Medium-Term Planning
- Children's Nooks
- Working walls and displays of children's work
- Learning to Read Policy
- Literacy and Language Policy
- Wren's Nest Numeracy Pathways
- Non -negotiables

**Date of Review: September 2024**

**Policy to be reviewed: September 2024**

Appendix A: Example of knowledge organiser

# Geography - North America

## Key Vocabulary

Continent	A group of countries
Biome	A community of plants and animals that share a climate and region
Tundra	The four biomes in North America
Desert	
Rainforest	
Mountains	

North America is one of the seven continents, made up of 23 independent countries. The four biggest countries are: The United States of America, Canada, Greenland and Mexico.  
Can you name any other countries?



The Caribbean is a very popular holiday destination for people from all over the world with sandy beaches, palm trees and long sunny days.  
Can you find out how far the Caribbean is from the UK?



The first people settled in Canada around 16,000 years ago. During its history, it has been ruled by France and Britain before becoming independent in 1931. What are the official languages in Canada?

Many of the 23 countries can be found in the Caribbean.

There are many famous geographical landmarks in the USA, including rivers, mountains, deserts and National Parks.  
Can you name any of the rivers in the USA?



Can you identify the countries that these flags belong to?



There are equally as many man-made landmarks in the USA too, including the Washington Monument, Mount Rushmore, the Statue of Liberty and Las Vegas.  
When was the Statue of Liberty built?

## Dia de los Muertos



Dia de los Muertos is a big celebration in Mexico when they remember their loved ones.  
When is Dia de los Muertos celebrated?

## Key Dates

14,000 BC	First humans travel to America, walking across a land bridge from Siberia
1492	Christopher Columbus arrives in America
1775-1783	American war of independence
4 <sup>th</sup> July 1776	Declaration of Independence signed
21 <sup>st</sup> August 1959	Hawaii becomes the 50 <sup>th</sup> state in the USA

Totem poles are an example of Native American art.

Do you know what they're for?



## Appendix B:

### Our School Curriculum Wren's Nest Primary School



Wren's Nest Primary School is based in the heart of the Wren's Nest Estate.

Facing disadvantage is an everyday challenge for most of the families our school serves. We believe our children deserve to access and experience the same opportunities and education as their counterparts, and as a school, this is what we aim to achieve through the curriculum we offer and deliver.

Our children enter education at either two or three years old with a significant communication and language deficit and a very low attainment baseline. In most instances, this is due to poor early experiences and the impact of the negative generational cycle of deprivation and all that it entails.

We want our children to leave us knowing they can be aspirational and 'reach for the stars' which is part of our ethos to support and enable children to 'unlock potential and reach for the stars.' We also want our children to be well-rounded citizens within their community; to know what is right and what is wrong, to take responsibility for their actions, know how to stay safe and be resilient, have and show respect and demonstrate tolerance in a world that is ever-changing.

Our curriculum has four key drivers that we believe are at the heart of what we teach our children during their time at Wren's Nest:

**Responsibility**

**Ambition**

**Environment**

**Community**

These drivers are based on the knowledge we have, of what we know our children need, as we teach them through a curriculum designed to build core skills and knowledge, whilst counter-balancing and diminishing a knowledge deficit.

At Wren's Nest we want our children to love their learning and grow into capable young people who have an excellent set of academic and social skills, giving them sufficient knowledge and competences for future learning and employment.

Alongside these drivers and a curriculum that meets the needs of the children, one philosophy we hold remains paramount in all we do - 'To make a difference in each child's life' whether it be academically, socially, emotionally or morally.

We want each child to leave Wren's Nest knowing life has chances, having the confidence and resilience to know they can achieve well. We want our children to have the skills and determination to break the generation cycle of deprivation, instilling in future generations the knowledge they have gained from a curriculum built and designed to counter balance early deficits in knowledge and experience.

This is our curriculum statement - what we aim to achieve at Wren's Nest through good quality teaching and learning of a needs-led curriculum that is at the heart of our local community.



## Appendix C:



***"Unlock potential and reach for the stars"***



### ***Our Aims at Wren's Nest Primary School***

We aim to provide an excellent education for all our children so they reach the highest academic standards possible and make excellent progress throughout their primary education.

We want each child to develop self-respect and to respect the opinions, feelings and possessions of others.

We want children to develop respect and tolerance for others within the community that they live and the wider world.

Children will develop an active interest and motivation in their own learning.

Our school will be a safe, secure and inspiring place that children and staff value and underpins our value of education.

We aim to create a happy, open and welcoming environment for the whole community of Wren's Nest Primary School and have a positive relationship with all who live in the locality.

We will encourage the involvement of parents in school life, to further their child's education and their own. Wren's Nest school is a community of learning for all ages.

At Wren's Nest we want our children to love their learning and grow into capable, young people who have an excellent set of academic and social skills, giving them sufficient knowledge and competences for future learning and employment.



***We believe that these aims will enable the potential of each child to be developed, both academically and socially, and that each pupil will develop high levels of self-belief and aspiration.***