

## *Growing lifelong learners*

### **What?**

At Hethersett Woodside, we implement a knowledge-engaged curriculum. Our school curriculum is designed so that knowledge is acquired progressively but that children think carefully about their prior learning, so understanding is linked to what has been understood before.

In this way, the learning is 'sticky'! By this we mean that knowledge will be adopted much better because children have an opportunity to review previous learning. They begin by thinking about what they have already learned and then all new knowledge and skills have a strong foundation on which to sit.

Through acquiring knowledge in this way, children will begin to develop skills, across a range of subjects. Through this development of skills, within a broad and balanced curriculum, children become well-rounded learners.

There are many skills that children will develop as they learn in this way. Skills particularly important to us at Woodside are: analysis, evaluation, problem solving, creativity, independence and inquiry.

### **How?**

Our knowledge-engaged curriculum seeks to make as many cross-curricular links as possible, because we believe in learning that is rooted in relevant, meaningful contexts.

Our topics are organised so that a new theme is explored each half-term. The theme may allow for multiple learning opportunities across the curriculum but these sit under a key line of enquiry. The skill of enquiry one which we value particularly and we want to inspire this through asking questions and discovering the answers.

There is also discrete teaching of certain subjects for which we adopt a more knowledge-led approach. This approach is used where there is more national curriculum content. In Maths, for example, we apply a learning approach centred around mastery.

### **Outcome?**

First and foremost, through our school curriculum, children will have developed a cultural capital which is distinct to our school; children's place in the world and the value they can add to it.

Knowledge will have been thoroughly acquired, spirally so it will not be flimsy but connected to a deep-rooted understanding of many different areas.

We also aspire to have developed well-rounded individuals with a broad range of fundamental skills. Through this, we will have created true learners, who will be inspired to thirst for more knowledge and to broaden and enhance their skill set.

Our curriculum will result in outstanding achievement for our children.

## Teaching and Learning

Where we can, we strive to create as many cross-curricular links as possible. Our topics often encompass lots of strands of learning from across many aspects of the national curriculum.

Here is a summary of what teaching and learning looks like for specific national curriculum subjects.

### English

At Hethersett Woodside, our aim is to develop confident and independent readers and writers.

We create meaningful experiences and drama activities which inspire the children to write. Writing is taught and celebrated daily across a range of subjects. We implement a knowledge-engaged curriculum, and through this we provide cross-curricular writing opportunities. Children are taught to consider the purpose, form and audience of their writing across a range of different genres.

The daily teaching of phonics in the Early Years and KS1 is supported by the *Read Write Inc* scheme, where the children learn the phonics sounds forming the foundations of early reading and writing.

English lessons are taught using high-quality texts, supported by the *Talk 4 Writing* scheme. Younger children follow a carefully structured approach, building upon a rich story language. The children learn actions to help them remember the texts and their own stories are written with these scaffolds in place.

Older children follow a similar process, with a quality text at the core of the learning but a variety of rich and relevant writing opportunities stem from the reading of longer novels.

Spelling, grammar and punctuation are taught as an integral part of each genre giving the learning a meaningful context.

Children learn reading skills through regular individual and focussed guided reading sessions. Teachers model reading practice during shared reading and provide opportunities for reading across the curriculum. We teach comprehension and discussion skills as an integral part of reading.

We view literacy as a lifelong skill and we aim to work in partnership with parents to create a love of reading and writing.

### **Mathematics**

A key aim in our Mathematics curriculum is to develop fluency, reasoning and problem solving. Children's numeracy and mathematical reasoning is developed across the whole curriculum to ensure children understand and appreciate the importance of mathematics in a range of contexts.

At Woodside, we teach Mathematics through a mastery approach. The whole class moves through the topics at broadly the same pace. Each topic is studied in depth to develop a secure understanding of mathematical concepts.

Children who grasp concepts quickly are challenged to think more deeply with rich and sophisticated problems within the topics. Children who take longer to grasp concepts and who are less fluent are given extra support, whether this be by encouraging the use of additional concrete materials or extra adult support.

Children are taught to apply arithmetic fluently to problems; understand and use measures; make estimates and sense check their work. Children will apply their geometric and algebraic understanding, and relate their understanding of probability to the notions of risk and uncertainty. They are taught to understand the cycle of collecting, presenting and analysing data. They are also taught to apply their mathematics to both routine and non-routine problems, including breaking down more complex problems into a series of simpler steps.

The teaching of mathematics is supported by the scheme *Power Maths* which is used throughout the primary year groups.

### **Science**

At our school, we build the science capital of our children by igniting curiosity and creating enthusiastic, young scientists, wanting to deepen their knowledge of our incredible world.

As an exciting and practical core subject within our curriculum, children love the opportunity to immerse themselves in a hands-on way, discovering and understanding the world around them.

We nurture a love of science through strong links to the scientific community at the local Research Park and use expert visitors to promote engagement in lessons and spotlight careers in the field of science. Our inquiry curriculum means we can link science to children's experiences, interests and daily lives, thereby personalising their learning and understanding.

Our study of the natural and physical world through observation, hypothesising and experimentation encourages our children to articulate their findings and analyse results. We promote high level oracy in order for children to be confident and accurate in communicating effectively and exchanging ideas.

Our teachers share their love of the subject to provide a strong and positive primary science experience, vital in encouraging future generations to pursue this subject and follow it as a career.

### **Art and Design**

At Hethersett Woodside, we want our children to use Art as a means of non-verbal communication and creative expression. As they explore and create with a range of media, materials, tools and techniques, our pupils will learn resourcefulness and perseverance. We aim for them to develop their thinking skills as they reflect on their own and others' work, as well as to solve problems and find solutions to achieve their aims.

We expect our children to experience a sense of achievement in their works of art but also in the effort and the processes they used, increasing their self-esteem and self-confidence.

We aim for our children to develop important life skills as they cooperate to work collaboratively together on projects, gaining a sense of responsibility and accountability for their individual contribution to the whole.

Woodside pupils will learn to understand and appreciate a variety of works of Art and the part they have played in the expression of ideas and culture, both past and present. By making links with home and family, friends and school, their village community and the wider world our children will gain a better understanding of themselves and their relation to others, reflecting on and challenging the ways they feel, think and act.

The teaching of Art at Hethersett Woodside is supported by the Suffolk County Council scheme called *Art & Design in Suffolk Key Stages 1 & 2*, which is used in the primary years. Early Years use the guidance for *Expressive Arts and Design in Development Matters in the Early Years Foundation Stage*.

## Computing

At Hethersett Woodside we aim to develop children's knowledge of computers and how they are used safely in our everyday lives. It is our aspiration that children will grow up with a deeper understanding of how computers work, deepen their abilities to problem solve in a logical way and how to keep themselves safe in an increasingly digital world.

Computing is an interactive and exciting subject, which our children love to investigate in a hands on way. We use this natural curiosity to our advantage and teach new aspects of computing through both exploration and discrete teaching. We make sure the E-Safety is at the centre of all we do in computing and it is taught alongside curriculum objectives in each lesson.

Alongside developing their programming knowledge and improving their problem solving skills, children also have a range of experiences using technology when creating multimedia works when making cross curricular links.

The teaching of computing is supported by the scheme provided by *Twinkl Planit* which is used throughout the primary year groups.

## Design and Technology

At Hethersett Woodside Primary School, our aim is to prepare children for the developing world; to encourage them to become creative problem solvers, both as individuals and as part of a team.

Our children learn practical skills with an understanding of aesthetic, social and environmental issues.

Children are taught a range of skills in each design technology area to enable them to select the most appropriate method to solve problems that occur. We assist children in developing a greater awareness and understanding of how everyday products are designed and made.

Our school curriculum is linked to our inquiry topics and we aim for it to be an inspiring and practical subject. We provide opportunities for children to demonstrate creativity and imagination and we offer them real and relevant problems within a variety of contexts. Our approach has many cross curricular links, especially with science, our planet and healthy living. Through this, we teach

children how to take risks and so become more resourceful, innovative, enterprising and capable.

## **Geography**

We aim to nurture the instinctive geographer in every child and to inspire in them a lifelong curiosity and fascination with our world and the people that live in it. It is our aspiration that, in learning to explore and think geographically, our children will feel empowered to shape and protect the world they live in.

Our inquiry based curriculum offers engaging, creative and cross-curricular ways for children to develop geographical knowledge, understanding and skills in a variety of local and global contexts. Our inquiries put children at the centre of imaginative or real life problem-solving scenarios where they need to ask questions, research and investigate issues using a range of information sources, consider their findings and seek achievable solutions.

During their time at Woodside children's "personal geographies", constructed from their life experiences, reading, films, and video games, are gradually developed through learning experiences inside and imperatively outside the classroom. Rich learning experiences are created as our staff work to ensure that all children are given opportunities to carry out fieldwork. With fieldwork we *zoom out* from home and school to the wider world. We start within the school grounds and the village and then move out to the local area visiting; local towns, Norwich, The Broads, The Wensum River and the Norfolk coastal area. As we grow into a full primary we will also aim to organise a trip further afield.

Geography learning is enhanced by a range of whole school projects. *Digimaps*, an online interactive digital mapping resource, is used across the school to support teaching and learning. Many aspects of geographical learning are further developed by whole school involvement in Eco Schools and Schools of Sanctuary projects, by participation in cluster school international celebrations and in fundraising campaigns with local and global charities. Finally, as our school is committed to promoting respect and understanding for diversity, our staff are passionate about including a global dimension in all teaching and learning at Hethersett Woodside.

## **History**

At Hethersett Woodside, our aim is for our children to begin to learn and understand about the past and its influence on life today; to develop a lifelong curiosity about

the world around them and to explore how and why the world has evolved over time.

We teach the National Curriculum through an inquiry approach, which offers creative and cross-curricular ways to enhance the children's learning. We teach chronological understanding and a range and depth of historical knowledge. We begin with our youngest children retelling personal past events in chronological order and learning about changes over time, though to our older children sequencing events studied. We believe in the importance of nurturing the skills of historical inquiry, such as asking and answering questions from sources of information and discussing the reliability of the source. We explore interpretations of history by using a range of sources and discussing the reasons for actions and consequences. Our children find different ways to organise and communicate their learning individually and as part of a team, in a range of ways.

We explore the history of our local area, through studies and visits to Norwich Castle and to Cromer to find out about a local hero. As a school, we mark international events such as Remembrance Day, as well as Royal celebrations. Part of our role as a *School of Sanctuary* is to celebrate *Refugee Week*, and to find out about the contributions of refugees to our country.

Our school is committed to promoting respect, equality, and understanding for diversity in all aspects of our teaching.

### Languages

At Woodside, we want to inspire children to have a love of learning a foreign language.

From Key Stage 2, children will have a weekly Spanish lesson. We have chosen Spanish after liaising with the secondary school in our village, which the majority of our pupils will move on to after Year 6. At Hethersett Academy Spanish is by far the most popular language choice with their pupils.

The *Language Angels* scheme of work supports consistently high standards of language learning for our pupils. The younger years will also have access to the resource, to introduce the children to Spanish early on.

The *Language Angels* scheme of work and resources helps us to ensure we offer a relevant, broad, vibrant and ambitious foreign languages curriculum that will inspire and excite our pupils using a wide variety of topics and themes. The resources are

updated regularly to ensure we are in line with meeting and exceeding national requirements.

The four key language learning skills; listening, speaking, reading and writing will be taught and all necessary grammar will be covered in an age-appropriate way across the primary phase. This will enable pupils to use and apply their learning in a variety of contexts, laying down solid foundations for future language learning and also helping the children improve overall attainment in other subject areas.

We want all our pupils at Hethersett Woodside to develop a genuine interest and positive curiosity about foreign languages and find them enjoyable and stimulating. Learning a second language will also offer pupils the opportunity to explore relationships between language and identity, develop a deeper understanding of other cultures and the world around them with a better awareness of self, others and cultural differences. The intention is that they will be laying the foundations to becoming life-long language learners.

Learning a foreign language compliments our wider curriculum commitment to promote respect and understanding for diversity. Our staff are passionate about including a global dimension in all teaching and learning at Hethersett Woodside and the teaching and learning of the Spanish language and culture provides the children with a fantastic opportunity to do so.

### **Music**

We want our children to use Music as one of many forms of communication and expression, while increasing their creativity.

By actively taking part in weekly fun Music lessons with their class, children will experience a sense of group identity, belonging and togetherness, knowing that their part contributes to the whole. They will also benefit from increased self-discipline and self-confidence as they develop and contribute their ideas and opinions to discussions. Our pupils will learn respect, responsibility and co-operation by working with others to compose, rehearse and perform musical pieces.

Woodside pupils will learn to understand and appreciate the part Music plays in culture, both past and present, making links with home, school, the community of Hethersett and the wider world. Our children will improve their listening skills and will develop the language to talk about music structure and quality, increasing their aesthetic sensitivity. We want them to develop knowledge and appreciation of a wide variety of music styles and genres, developing preferences, and indeed

dislikes. We aim for our children to enjoy and use music as a tool to enhance their well-being and fulfilment for the rest of their lives.

Pupils at Woodside will develop a repertoire of songs that they enjoy singing by themselves and with others. During their time at Woodside, pupils will learn to play different tuned instruments (glockenspiels, recorders and ukulele) as well as a range of untuned instruments. Throughout their primary years, they will also have the opportunity to choose to learn other instruments (violin, ukulele) and to take part in music groups (choir).

The teaching of Music at Hethersett Woodside is delivered through the scheme provided by *Charanga Musical School*, which is used in Reception, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

### **Physical Education**

At Hethersett Woodside, we are passionate about developing a lifelong positive attitude towards physical activity, exercise and sport, for every pupil in the school. Through Physical Education, students will develop their knowledge about the positive effects of exercise on their physical, social and mental health, and develop a passion and life-long commitment for exercise. As a result, this motivates and inspires all students to engage in a healthy active lifestyle inside and outside of school.

Alongside developing their sport specific skills and improving their fitness, pupils develop a range of interpersonal skills. Teamwork, problem solving, leadership and communication skills are encouraged throughout the pupil's time in Physical Education. Students are given the opportunity to develop these skills through leading warm-ups, cool-downs, competing as part of a team and undertaking the role of a coach and official.

Children are encouraged to describe and make conclusions on their own and others work, and to use their observations and judgements to improve performance. We believe in the importance of drawing cross-curricular links and pupils are taught about the effects of exercise on the body in science as well as PE.

### **Religious Education**

Our aim for children at Hethersett Woodside is to equip them with religious literacy, to enable them to have informed conversations about faith and life. They will learn about different religions and world views people have to help them better understand the world in which they live. Children will learn to understand a variety of religions and worldviews through the different lenses of theology, philosophy and human and social sciences.

Religious Education is part of the broad and balanced curriculum promoted at Hethersett Woodside and is a statutory subject, the content of which is decided locally and is taught using the 2019 *Norfolk Locally Agreed Syllabus*.

Religious Education must be provided for all pupils, but parents may withdraw pupils if they submit a request to the school. Christianity is the most populous religion in the UK so that is reflected in the proportion of RE that is taught. We aim for RE to be representative of our school context.

Throughout their time at Hethersett Woodside, pupils will encounter a range of religions and worldviews, some will be studied in more depth, others will be encounters with different religions and worldviews. We learn with an enquiry-based through stories, art, objects and artefacts, visits to religious buildings when possible and welcoming visitors from different religions and worldviews to discuss their beliefs. We strongly encourage children to ask questions to explore and clarify their understanding of what they have learnt as we ultimately aim for children to become religiously literate and engage in informed conversations both in school and in the wider world.

## **Personal, Health, Social and Emotional**

At Hethersett Woodside Primary, we passionately believe that children's well-being is integral to their learning. We nurture our children through their learning journey, while teaching them the skills to become emotionally literate.

PSHE encompasses all areas designed to promote children's personal, social and health development. It gives children the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to stay healthy and safe, develop worthwhile relationships, respect differences, to develop independence and responsibility, and enjoy learning. Our school aims underpin and reflect what we strive to achieve through our PSHE curriculum.

The teaching and development of PSHE knowledge and skills run throughout our daily activities and interactions, as well as being part of our curriculum. We regularly celebrate pupil's achievements, we learn to give and receive compliments, we have an active school council, a buddy system and our school expectations are at the core of each day. We model, assist and encourage independent conflict resolution, demonstrating the importance of listening and repairing. We believe behaviour is communication, and we run a nurture group for those children who need to develop their social and emotional skills. We also teach discrete lessons

through PATHS and the PSHE Association question-based planning model, ensuring all areas of the curriculum are covered.

As part of PSHE, Relationship and Sex Education is taught, using the *RSE Solution* lesson plans. We believe that all pupils have the right to receive effective, inclusive and relevant RSE that directly meets their needs, taught through accessible resources and non-judgmental approaches. Our school is committed to promoting respect, equality and understanding for diversity in all aspects of our teaching.

*A knowledge-engaged curriculum: is less reliant on curriculum theory but still maintains **knowledge as a focus**; believes that **knowledge underpins and enables the application of skill**; has a slightly stronger emphasis on **cross-curricular teaching** than in a knowledge-led curriculum in order to make the curriculum **relevant and meaningful to pupils**, and for **putting knowledge into context**.*