

Lower School Curriculum Statement 2016-17

The lower school curriculum meets the child from their change of teeth and continues to puberty. Our teachers aim to meet the children through feeling, imagination and rhythm; this is a step towards the co-ordination of thought, feeling and will. It is not just the learning of subjects and skills that is the most important factor in education, but the actual way in which they are taught and learned. Nourishing the children's feeling and imagination is laying the foundations for their future moral qualities. When presenting material, first comes the encounter; encounter becomes experience and out of the experiences crystallises the concept: three important steps in a genuine learning process.

The subjects taught during the class teacher years are chosen to reflect the stage of development of the children and enable them to discover the world and acquire a wide range of skills. The curriculum begins with the child in their own immediate surroundings, and then gradually expands as the child develops. These subjects and main lesson themes are:

Class 1 (Year 2, age 6-7): Good classroom habits; respect for each other; reverence for nature; imagination; nature and fairy stories leading to number work; reading and writing.

Class 2 (Year 3, age 7-8): Legends and fables; cursive writing; development of reading; mental arithmetic, place value, practice of four processes.

Class 3 (Year 4, age 8-9): Practical curriculum of farming, gardening and building including a building project; nouns, verbs, adjectives and punctuation; money, measurement; Old Testament stories.

Class 4 (Year 5, age 9-10): Local geography and history; Norse mythology; tenses and parts of speech; fractions using all four processes; area.

Class 5 (Year 6, age 10-11): Ancient civilisations; Greek History and Olympics; biology of the plant kingdom; geography of British Isles; compass geometry; speech and punctuation.

Class 6 (Year 7, age 11-12): Physics; geology; Roman history; European geography; percentages; business maths and project; geometry with protractor.

Class 7 (Year 8, age 12-13): Wish, Wonder and Surprise – exploration of outer world and inner feelings; the Middle Ages and the Renaissance; world geography; mechanics; combustion; human biology.

Class 8 (Year 9, age 13-14): Independent project; drama production; physics (magnetism, electricity and electromagnetism); chemistry and biology; meteorology; revolutions and biographies; Platonic solids; literature including analysis and creative writing.

In addition, the children also experience subject lessons in German, Spanish (Classes 1-5), French (Classes 6-8), Eurythmy, games, gym, handwork, art and craft, form drawing and music. Classes 4-8 have a weekly choir session and Classes 7-8 meet once a week for orchestra. Classes 3 and 4 visit Halesowen swimming baths for weekly swimming lessons. Class 7 has Cookery lessons. Class 8 has weekly IT lessons at Stourbridge College.