

Viking Academy Trust



Curriculum Policy Ramsgate Arts Primary School

The VIKING ACADEMY TRUST Curriculum Policy for Ramsgate Arts Primary School has been written after consultation with staff.

Approved by the Trust: June 2020

Reviewed biennially

Last review date: June 2023

Signed  **Chair of Trust**

Curriculum Policy

The Viking Academy Trust

Empowering Children Through Education: One Childhood One Chance

Schools in the Viking Academy Trust (VAT)

Chilton Primary School

Ramsgate Arts Primary School

Upton Junior School

This '**Curriculum Policy**' is specific to Ramsgate Arts Primary School.

What is the aim of this policy?

The aim of this policy is to provide information about the general curriculum approaches at Ramsgate Arts Primary School.

This policy was created in June 2020 and was approved by the governing body. The policy is due to be reviewed in June 2024.

What information can I find in this policy?

In this policy, you will find details about our school's general aims and approaches towards curriculum as a whole. It is a great place to start exploring our key curriculum drivers. To find out more about each subject, please refer to the curriculum section of the website, where you can read in more detail about how Ramsgate Arts Primary School plans, delivers and assesses individual subjects.

How does Ramsgate Arts Primary School organise its curriculum?

At Ramsgate Arts Primary School, our curriculum is probably best understood by organising subjects into the following categories:

- I. **Key subjects.** This includes: maths and English.
- II. **The Arts Subjects.** This includes: art, dance, drama and music.
- III. **The RAPS Curriculum Subjects.** This includes: design technology, geography, history and science.
- IV. **Personal Development Subjects:** This includes: PSHE (including Relationships Education), Religious Education and Citizenship.
- V. **Other Foundation Subjects:** This includes: Computing, French and PE.



How does Ramsgate Arts Primary School deliver and timetable its curriculum?

At Ramsgate Arts Primary School, all pupils have full access to all subjects and all subjects are valued highly. We have a creative, yet robust curriculum that enable pupils to gain much from their time at school. See below for a brief overview of how our curriculum content is delivered.

- The **Key Subjects** are taught each day in every year group.
- The **Arts Subjects** are taught weekly to every year group.
- The **RAPS Curriculum Subjects** are taught in 6 termly units throughout the academic year.
- The **Personal Development Subjects** are taught during one-week blocks, usually at the beginning of term.
- The **Other Foundation subjects** are taught discretely each week.

What are the roles and responsibilities of stake holders in relation to curriculum?

- Head of School should have an awareness of and involvement in the drivers for the curriculum content, ensuring that all areas of the curriculum are available to all learners and that this curriculum is shared with all key stake holders.
- Curriculum lead should coordinate the leadership and management of the general curriculum. This includes driving the aims of the curriculum, monitoring and evaluating standards and outcomes and leading and managing subject leaders to fulfil their roles.
- Subject leaders should ensure that their subject is being implemented highly effectively. They should provide guidance to the team in the planning, delivery and assessment of their subject. They should communicate effectively with the curriculum lead, who should report to SLT. They should manage the resources for their subject and maintain high levels of subject knowledge.
- Governors should be aware of and challenge the aims or implementation of the curriculum. They should hold leaders to account for the curriculum on offer, evaluating the effectiveness of the delivery and content of the curriculum.
- Teachers should maintain and manage their subject knowledge. They should follow the guidance and outlines provided to ensure a full curriculum is taught. They should ensure learning is effectively evaluated and monitored to enhance and support their future planning.

What is the National Curriculum?

The National Curriculum in England is a framework of content that is defined by the Department for Education.

The national curriculum provides pupils with an introduction to the essential knowledge that they need to be educated citizens. It introduces pupils to the best that has been thought and said; and helps engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement (DfE, 2013)

Schools in England use the National Curriculum to design their unique school curriculums.

The national curriculum provides an outline of core knowledge around which teachers can develop exciting and stimulating lessons to promote the development of pupils' knowledge, understanding and skills as part of the wider school curriculum (DfE, 2013)

Do schools have to follow the National Curriculum?

Not all schools in England are required to follow the National Curriculum content. Schools that are part of an academy and free schools are not bound to the content in the National Curriculum. Maintained schools, however, must follow the National Curriculum.

Does Ramsgate Arts Primary School follow the National Curriculum?

Even though Ramsgate Arts Primary School is a 'Free school' and part of an academy trust, we still follow the National Curriculum content. The content in the National Curriculum offers a strong and progressive network of learning for pupils. Following the National Curriculum means that our pupils have access to a broad and complete curriculum which sets them up for the next stages of their school lives. Although we follow the National Curriculum and ensure full coverage of the National Curriculum content, we do adapt and build on the content to meet the needs of our pupils and to maximise learning related to our local area.

Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements for academies to provide a broad and balanced curriculum as per the [Academies Act 2010](#), and the [National Curriculum programmes of study](#) which we have chosen to follow.

It also reflects requirements for inclusion and equality as set out in the [Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice 2014](#) and [Equality Act 2010](#), and refers to curriculum-related expectations of governing boards set out in the Department for Education's [Governance Handbook](#).

What about Early Years?

In addition, this policy acknowledges the requirements for promoting the learning and development of children set out in the [Early Years Foundation Stage \(EYFS\) statutory framework](#). To read more about the EYFS curriculum.

INTENTION

What is our curriculum intention?

At Ramsgate Arts Primary School, providing our pupils with thought-provoking, relevant and connected content has been a strong driver when creating our school's curriculum. We believe in the value of each subject and the importance of ensuring that pupils in our school have every opportunity to access the knowledge and skills they are entitled to in order to prepare them for the next stages of their school lives.

Our key aims for providing a high-quality curriculum are as follows:

- To provide a full and ambitious curriculum that is accessible to all learners, yet offers challenge to those who need it.
- To ensure that -as learners move through the school- they gain the necessary knowledge, skills and understanding to prepare them for success at the next stages of their lives (both personally and academically).
- To ignite interest, appreciation, passion and joy into learning and becoming educated.

IMPLEMENTATION

How do you meet these aims?

At Ramsgate Arts Primary School, in addition to meeting our aims by ensuring a robust and clear approach to curriculum implementation and evaluation, we do the following:

- Develop an understanding of subjects.



- Ensure a high-quality Arts curriculum.
- Focus on knowledge, skills and understanding.
- Provide high-quality content that inspires and engages our pupils.
- Ensure that our curriculum content is cohesive and progressive.
- Make use of enrichment opportunities.
- Expand pupils' knowledge and use of vocabulary.
- Engage parents into our aims and content.
- Monitor and evaluate the intent, implementation and impact teaching and learning in all subjects.

Read more about each of these actions below.

Understanding Subjects

We believe that learners should understand the subjects they are taught. For this reason, our pupils are explicitly taught the name and features of each subject and our lessons are signposted with the subject being taught. Pupils from Reception to Year 6 develop an understanding of each subject, learning what the subject entails and why it is valuable and relevant to their lives. Alongside understanding subjects in their own right, we also encourage pupils to see how one subject can be connect to another through common themes or links.

Each term, we host an assembly celebrating a different subject. During these assemblies, our pupils learn the definition of the subject, its significance to our lives and the career opportunities to which the subject links. This enables our pupils to appreciate the value of each subject and understand how the application of this subject contributes to the wider world.

In addition to ensuring that our pupils understand and appreciate each subject, we aim to ensure that our teachers are afforded the same opportunity. Through our staff meetings, teachers are provided with master classes that relate to each subject. These sessions allow teachers to develop a wider understanding of how the subject develops across the school. These sessions allow staff to secure their own subject knowledge whilst exploring and sharing resources and ideas for teaching.

The Arts

As an Arts School, we have strong intention to provide our pupils with rich and broad opportunities to engage within the arts. We are a school that values the arts as subjects in their right. We are driven to ensure that the pupils at Ramsgate Arts Primary School are provided with opportunities to develop knowledge, skills and appreciation of the arts. We help our pupils develop a deep connection with self and others through experiencing the joys of engaging with creative subjects. For more about the arts at RAPS, see the Arts Curriculum section of the website.

Knowledge, Skills and Understanding

At Ramsgate Arts Primary School, our subjects are taught with meaningful, broad and rich content as a key priority. We believe that through developing deep and connected knowledge of subject content we can then afford pupils the chance to practise skills and secure understanding. For that reason, we place knowledge at the heart of our curriculum. It is through knowledge that our pupils create a strong platform on which to build and extend their learning.

Content

As part of the Viking Academy Trust, Ramsgate Arts Primary School is not bound by the restrictions of the National Curriculum. Having said this, we use the National Curriculum as a framework to aid us in offering pupils at our school the rich and balanced curriculum that they are entitled. For each subject in the National



Curriculum, RAPS has a 'Subject Progression Map', which indicates the progression of learning from reception to year six. These development maps demonstrate the knowledge, skills and understanding pupils gain throughout their time with us. Our Subject Progression Maps also assist teachers in their wider understanding of the intention of each subject they teach, helping teachers comprehend how their teaching sequences fit into the bigger picture learning across the school. To explore the details about content- including planning and progression, see the relevant subject sections of our website under the curriculum tab.

Cohesion

At Ramsgate Arts Primary School, we aim to provide cohesive learning within and across subjects and year groups. Knowledge, themes and concepts are revisited throughout the school to ensure connected, rehearsed learning. This enables pupils to use what they already know to support what they are yet to learn, building strong and rigorous knowledge.

Enrichment

At Ramsgate Arts Primary School, we pride ourselves on the rich opportunities our pupils gain as they move through their childhoods. The most noteworthy enrichment we provide is the unwavering drive towards ensuring our pupils experience their full entitlement to the arts subjects. It is our intention that children engage fully in the arts subjects to broaden their experiences. To enable this, we provide our pupils with discrete lessons in dance, drama, music and art each week. Skilled teachers, who specialise in the arts, lead these sessions. As a result, our pupils have the chance to develop knowledge, talent and enjoyment in the arts.

We see the true value of the arts as subjects in their own rights, as well as other benefits for our pupils in developing their character. Our pupils learn to work well collaboratively (with a range of adults and pupils), engage with their creativity and learn to present themselves with confidence. They learn resilience and persistence by practising and mastering skills in their arts lessons. They develop a sense of pride in their creative achievements. They are afforded the chance to express themselves as individuals whilst appreciating others own unique styles and ideas. To read even more about our Arts Curriculum, please see the Arts Curriculum section of the website where information and policies can be found.

In addition to the arts sessions, at Ramsgate Arts Primary School we ensure that we extend learning beyond knowledge in its purest form. This allows our pupils to engage in authentic and thought-provoking learning. Our topics include hands-on resources and experiences to engage children into the content. We make best of use trips, visitors and workshops, which enhance the learning within topics by bringing real-life experiences to our pupils. To read more about enrichment at Ramsgate Arts Primary School, see the Enrichment area of the website, where you will find our Whole School Enrichment Map.

Focusing on vocabulary and oracy

At RAPS, we truly appreciate the value of vocabulary and the spoken language. We model, teach and encourage the correct use of subject-specific vocabulary in all subjects. Teachers display key vocabulary around the classroom, referring to this throughout the lessons and pupils also have access to key vocabulary for *RAPS Curriculum* on their topic knowledge organisers. Spoken language also plays an important role at Ramsgate Arts Primary School. Read more about this in the Personal Development section of the website.

Parental Engagement

At Ramsgate Arts Primary School, we want our parents and carers to feel connected to and invested in their child's education. For that reason, we aim to share information and details about our content with the parents and carers.



We take opportunities for parents and carers to visit the classroom and engage in their child's learning and we provide them with insights into their child's curriculum through both formal (parents' evenings, opportunities to attend class and look at their child's work etc.) and informal discussions. Teachers also set pupils 'Love to Learn' projects, which pupils can complete at home alongside their parents. To find out more about how year groups engage parents into the curriculum, please see our parental engagement map.

Monitoring and Evaluating the Curriculum

Monitoring and evaluation are vital for confidence in our curriculum offer. Through monitoring and evaluation we can lead effective improvements. For that reason, subjects are monitored throughout the year. Monitoring includes reviewing teaching, exploring pupil outcomes, engaging in pupil conferencing and asking for teacher reflections. To read more about how monitoring and evaluation occur in each subject, see the relevant section of the website under the curriculum tab.

Where can I find out key details about each subject?

Detailed information about each curriculum subject can be found via the curriculum section of the website.

- English (including both writing and reading) and maths can be found under the *Key Subjects* tab.
- Art, dance, drama and music can be found within the *Arts Curriculum* tab.
- RE and PSHE can be found under the *Personal Development* tab.
- RAPS Curriculum subjects (design technology, history, geography and science) can be found under the *RAPS Curriculum* tab.
- Details about computing, French and PE can be found under the *Other Foundation Subjects* tab.

What about pupils with special educational needs?

Our curriculum is constructed in a way by which the vast majority of learners can engage successfully with the content and delivery. Some learners may need additional support or adapted resources in order to gain the most from lessons. In these cases, teachers at RAPS make a conscious effort to ensure that pupils' learning needs are met. In some rare cases, individual pupils may need highly simplified explanations and content in order to develop the knowledge and skills at their level. In these cases, pupils will have guided and supported learning experiences. Teachers will plan lessons so that pupils with SEN and/or disabilities can study every National Curriculum subject, wherever possible, and ensure that there are no barriers to every pupil achieving. Having said this, it is our full intention that all learners have access to learning content that is ambitious in consideration of their individual needs. Teachers will also take account of the needs of pupils whose first language is not English. Lessons will be planned so that teaching opportunities help pupils to develop their English, and to support pupils to take part in all subjects. Further information can be found in our statement of equality information and objectives, and in our SEN policy and information report.

IMPACT

What is the impact of our curriculum?

In addition to other outcomes, as a result of our implemented curriculum our pupils have-

- Received their full curriculum entitlement.
- Learnt to understand and value all subjects.
- Developed knowledge and skills that build year on year.



- Made genuine and relevant connections between learning content.
- Enjoyed enriching and memorable experiences that relate directly to their learning.
- Developed enquiring minds by exploring big questions.
- Retained key learning to help them become fulfilled and knowledgeable citizens.
- Developed a fascination and interest in the best that has been said and done.

Of course, the minutiae of the impact of our curriculum implementation will vary from subject to subject. To read in detail about the direct impact of each curriculum area, see the relevant sections of the curriculum page.

Links with other policies

- English Policy
- Maths Policy
- PSHE Policy
- SEN Policy
- Teaching and Learning Policy