



Ramsgate

Arts Primary School

Our Curriculum

English

While there will be discrete English lessons each day, literacy skills, in particular speaking, listening and writing, will be used and developed in every curriculum area through the International Primary Curriculum. Taught English sessions will ensure that children are engaged in a variety of activities matched to their specific needs. Play, storytelling, talking about their own experiences and ideas, drama and improvisation provide a sound base at Foundation, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 places an emphasis on pupils exploring and expressing their own world. Teaching and learning styles will mix instruction, group collaboration, paired work, practical activity, performance, individual research and investigation with appropriate strategies to encourage effective learning through language, such as sharing learning objective and success criteria and opportunities to review and evaluate. Varied and regular writing tasks will also be a feature across the whole of our curriculum in every year group.

Phonics:

Phonics teaching will follow the 'Read Write Inc publication' (RWI). It is a consistent, rigorous and dynamic literacy programme to teach EVERY child to read by the age of six. Using [synthetic phonics](#), children quickly learn to blend letter sounds together following a fun and effective programme.

The RWI programme has been proven to be a very successful method of teaching every child to read and write using phonics. Evidence of this can be found in the Ofsted Report: ['Reading by six: how the best schools do it.'](#)

All children in KS1 will be following the programme. They will have already been assessed, so will be put into groups and given the appropriate RWI reading and workbooks to follow. The programme can also be followed by older children to catch up. KS1 will be using RWI as their reading scheme.

Reading

In reading we will use a variety of approaches such as:

- shared reading
- reciprocal reading



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- independent reading
- guided reading

These are strategies that enable children to construct meaning from a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts; a strong decoding and spelling foundation using a blend of phonics and visual techniques to suit the learning needs of the individual child. However it will be whole texts that will be used as the basis for learning in all areas of literacy. Teaching and learning approaches and styles are adopted using the practices associated with the “Power of Reading” project developed by the [Centre for Literacy in Primary Education](#) (CLPE).

In Key Stage 1, reading will be taught to groups appropriate to their stage of learning and understanding. High quality texts will be used throughout to enable children to become skilled and fluent readers.

In Key Stage 2, reading will be taught to the whole class from a whole text. Learning will be scaffolded and differentiated according to need and a range of different learning styles and approaches put in place to enable effective learning to take place for all. This learning will then be transferred to the literacy lesson and other areas of the curriculum as appropriate.

From Year 2 to 6, additional reading and literacy learning groups will ensure that children are able to catch up and keep up with their literacy skills in order to access the whole curriculum. These groups will be taught through Read, Write Inc. and Fresh Start approaches.

Writing

Writing will play an essential role in the curriculum as a whole. Writing opportunities will interest and engage children so that they will learn to become thoughtful, reflective and evaluative writers. They will write for a range of audiences and purposes and throughout the teaching and learning of writing, they will develop an understanding of how to write a broad range of text types (fiction, non-fiction and poetry). All of these writing skills will be based on children’s existing phonic knowledge and the way we use the CLPE materials from ‘The Power of Reading’ project.

Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling

Whilst grammar, punctuation and spelling will be taught throughout the literacy curriculum, these skills will also be taught in discrete, daily lessons to ensure that children become well-rounded and proficient writers.



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Maths

We follow the National Curriculum for Mathematics and the 'Primary Advantage Maths' framework, with daily lessons for all pupils. We want our children to develop: mathematical habits of mind; value mathematics; master basic facts; be mentally agile; be creative problem solvers; tackle complex problems with confidence; read, write and discuss mathematics; apply mathematics in other subject areas and begin to understand and appreciate the role of mathematics in the world.

Understanding mathematics is an essential life skill and all our children need to become good mathematicians. This means that the curriculum and teaching need to address not only the mastery of basic skills and recording but also have a progressive focus on real life mathematics and the more advanced concepts.

ICT and the use of technology

ICT and the use of technology will be based upon the National Curriculum programmes of study. Children will have access to laptops and iPads throughout their working week, often incorporating this technology into their daily lessons. We will support the children to become confident, safe and appropriate users of ICT who are well prepared for a technology rich future.

Sports

We want to promote the benefits of physical activity and ensure that children are aware of the link between physical activity, healthy eating and a healthy lifestyle. We will be sensitive to cultural issues that may influence children's participation and that of their families.

We will base our formal lessons on the National Curriculum programmes of study and there will be regular timetabled activities such as rugby, hockey, football, netball, cricket, athletics, gymnastics, dance and swimming. Alongside these will be opportunities such as surfing and sailing which will build on our existing strong links with Ramsgate Yacht Club and Joss Bay Surf School.

We will provide ALL Key Stage 1 and 2 children with more than the expected two hours per week of physical education, with further opportunities through the co-curriculum and our extended curriculum by offering physical activity sessions before or after school. These will also be designed so that parents and other community members will be able to participate in or lead activities. These sessions will include dance, a wide range of exercise classes,



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games, walking, cycling, skipping and many more activities that can be continued outside of school.

Religious Education

Non-denominational Religious Education will be provided for all children as part of the curriculum and will be in accordance with the locally agreed County Religious Education syllabus.

Parents will have the right to withdraw their children from Religious Education and collective worship should they so wish. If parents do not wish their child to be taught the agreed syllabus or take part in short acts of collective worship then we will request they inform us in writing. If the child is excused, suitable alternative arrangements will be made.

Assemblies

We will hold assemblies daily as an important time for the school community to come together to celebrate achievements. It will also be our opportunity for collective worship and a time for singing and music making and also a time when we place an emphasis on the development of values and attitudes towards each other and the world around us. Assemblies will be non-denominational, although they will be of a broadly Christian nature, however due consideration will continue to be given to the multicultural society in which we live, building on our value of international mindedness. We will respect the wishes of families who do not wish for their child to participate in collective worship.

PHSE-Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education and Citizenship

Through the IPC curriculum we will strive to promote healthy, independent, responsible and resilient members of society.

There will be a clear emphasis on children understanding and responding to their own feelings and those of others, knowing their bodies and learning about relationships. They will be taught how to stay safe including recognising and responding appropriately to danger. We will make sure that they know about safe and unsafe substances, the consequences of choice and how to say no. We will also deal with healthy lifestyles, healthy eating and personal hygiene.

We want our children to develop emotional resilience and to be able to deal with adversity in positive ways.



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Modern Foreign Languages

We will teach French from Reception to Year 6 as part of the formal curriculum. Having knowledge of a foreign language is widely recognised as part of being well-educated and a modern foreign language is a desirable, if not essential, requirement for entry into university, college and good employment.

We have chosen French as our modern foreign language based on the curriculum taught at our family of secondary schools, as well as our geographical location and the ease of visits to France. We will also have a range of activities to support learning French in our extended day and throughout the school year.

Arts Curriculum

Our Arts Curriculum nurtures, encourages and builds on creativity, ensuring that our children have the opportunity to be taught the skills of creative subjects which have so often been squeezed out of the Primary Curriculum. Music, Art, Drama and Dance will be taught as specific subjects by qualified specialists during the afternoons, as well as being integrated into the International Primary Curriculum.

Music

Every child in the school will take part in a music programme. This programme will comprise of specific musical skills including singing, playing instruments, theory, history and performance. There will be formal music lessons each week based on the National Curriculum programmes of study and as they pass through Key Stage 2, every child will be offered the opportunity to learn to play an instrument.

Drama

Drama is an art form, a practical activity and an intellectual discipline. At Ramsgate Arts Primary School, drama begins naturally with learning through dramatic play in our Early Years and Key Stage 1 and then in common with all subjects, it requires specific skills, knowledge and understanding which are progressively taught and assessed through and across the key stages building upon previous learning. Three interrelated activities characterise the subject of drama at all levels: **making, performing** and **responding**.



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Dance

In dance, children learn and develop many skills; learning the value of discipline, commitment and work ethic, as well as creative thinking skills. Self-confidence develops as children overcome challenges to master new goals, learning to apply themselves and accomplish any task put before them. Dance teaches children about music, rhythm and beat. Children will have a better understanding of spatial relationships and learn to think with both sides of their brain. All these skills enhance a child's academic performance, as well as their physical well-being.

Art and Design

Through our partnership with the Turner Contemporary children at Ramsgate Arts Primary School will have many opportunities to experience Art and Design to understand what it is that artists, designers and craft workers do, and to develop their own confidence in using media and techniques.