

## **The Curriculum at Childer Thornton Primary School**

### **Rationale**

Alongside delivering the legal requirements of the national curriculum (September 2014), our curriculum has been designed with the aim of teaching children at Childer Thornton about their local area. For example, visits are organised to the local war memorial, the local church, Chester Zoo, Chester Cathedral, Chester Museum, Ellesmere Port Boat Museum, Warrington Toy Museum, Delamere Forest, Anglesey, the Roman city of Chester, Liverpool museums, local theatres, Llangollen canal and steam train, etc.

We believe that children learn best from first-hand experience and when learning has a purpose. All topics are designed with an exciting and stimulating opener, in order to 'hook' children into their learning. This might be in the form of a poem, a picture, a song, a piece of music, drama, a visit or a visitor into school.

### **Recording**

As writing is one of our key school improvement targets, this underpins many of our topics. Meaningful opportunities for children to write within the context of the topic are provided as much as possible. In order to maintain high standards in writing throughout the curriculum, teachers are currently trialling all extended pieces of writing being undertaken in a 'writing' book. The aim of this is to ensure that children understand that high standards in grammar, punctuation, spelling and sentence structure are important in all areas of writing, not just in a literacy lesson. Therefore, an extended piece of writing in history, for example, will be found in a 'writing' book, rather than a topic book. Individual topic books and whole-class books are used for activities which do not have a writing focus; map work in geography, or musical composition for example.

### **Specialist provision**

We recognise that fact that with 12 subjects to cover + extra-curricular activities, it is not always possible for 'all-round' teachers to have the time, skills and knowledge to teach all subjects in depth. Therefore specialist teachers are employed to teach dedicated weekly lessons in Spanish (KS2), music (KS2) and PE (KS1 & KS2). Part of the Sports Premium funding is used for staff to shadow professional sports coaches in order to improve their own delivery of PE for the future.

In addition, we welcome 'experts in their field' into school as much as possible. Urenco UK and ambassadors from STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) regularly visit school to hold science workshops and local authors such as Arkay Jones and Dunkle Deed inspire children to write.

### **Staff Development**

With the introduction of the new national curriculum in September 2014, teachers have been provided with specialist support to support them in their own professional development. School has invested in the support of a range of external education consultants to work alongside staff in order to help them develop and improve their own

knowledge and skills in delivering the requirements of the new curriculum. Staff also regularly attend external courses run by Cheshire West and Chester and neighbouring authorities, as well as independent companies.

### **Links with the other schools**

Regular opportunities are planned with our partner schools in the Neston Education Partnership for children to experience a wider breadth and range of curriculum activities. For example, children have attended 'challenge weeks' at Neston High school in computing, literacy, maths and science. All primary schools within the partnership provide 1 or 2 day sessions throughout the year on a wide range of topics such as design technology, modern foreign languages, performing arts, etc.

### **Curriculum Leadership & Management**

Every teacher is responsible for leading and managing at least 1 curriculum subject with a link governor:

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>TEACHER</b>	<b>GOVERNOR</b>
English	D Forrester	C Himms
Maths	H Yarranton	H Williams
Science	S Silcox	C Edwards
RE	J Powell	S Gordon
Computing	A Molyneux	M Khan
Geography & History	K Smith	S Mitchell
Art & Design Technology	D Jones	G Corlett
Spanish	S Read	S Mitchell
Music	J McManus	H Williams
PE	H Yarranton	S Gordon
Spiritual, Social, Moral, Cultural + PSHE	J Powell	S Fenwick