

The Curriculum at West Chilton School

There are many definitions of the word curriculum. In our school we describe it in the following terms:

- a planned and structured experience which encompasses a progressive body of knowledge and skills;
- the sum of experiences which contribute to the personal, academic and creative growth of children;
- an experience which evolves and responds in the hands of reflective teachers and active learners.

To be really meaningful, definitions like these need to be thoroughly understood and evident in all aspects of school life. The curriculum is not bound by what can be captured on a piece of paper or experienced in a classroom. It is the sum of all the possibilities for learning that are planned or which arise in a child's life.

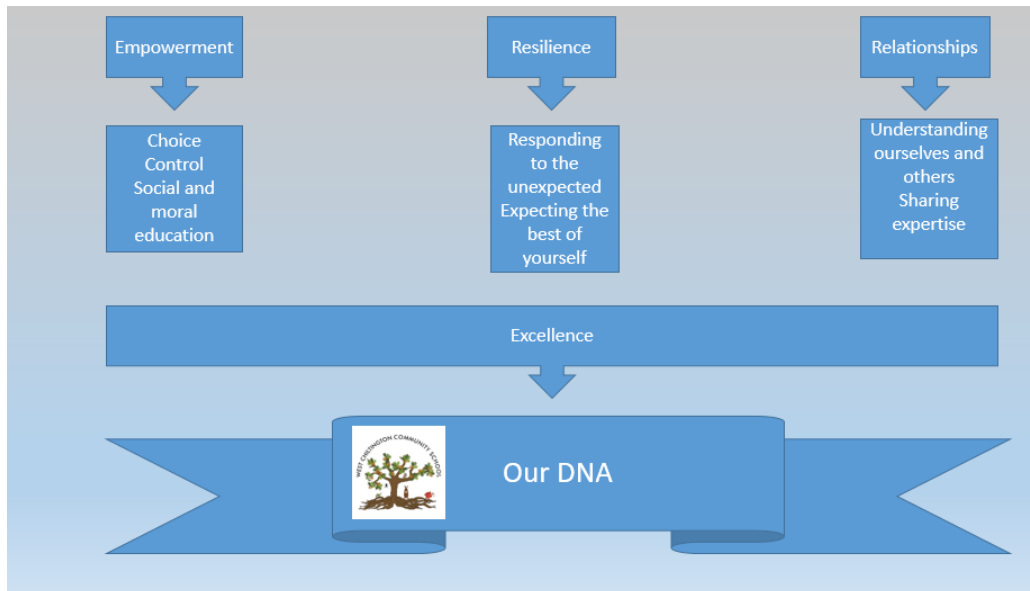
A child's work will tell the story of their learning and the teachers thinking. Take one piece of work and it will provide a snap shot of the knowledge and skills that children are acquiring at that moment in time. The quality of that work will reflect the skill of the teacher and the interest, commitment and proficiency of the child.

Well-conceived and enacted, a really good curriculum will result in happy and involved people and learning outcomes of a high standard. In reviewing our offer, we have considered the very best work which children have produced in each class. Reflecting on this, we have discussed and deliberated on the factors that made it so successful. These include:

- allowing children sufficient time to complete tasks to a high standard and to their satisfaction;
- an element of choice and control- particularly over learning outcomes but also at times through pursuing ideas and themes which emerged from other learning;
- the engagement of families and the wider community in classroom experiences;
- embedding of personal and social skills within the curriculum- for example through the writing of poetry;
- first hand experiences;
- making the most of opportunities for teachers to share their own passions and expertise;
- responding to unexpected events and tuning learning to support children developmentally/emotionally;
- developing the children's emotional intelligence;
- where appropriate providing children with a vocabulary/script to manage their emotional responses;

- embedding a layer of social/moral education across the curriculum- this year focusing on gender equality.

Based on these principles, teachers have assembled a series of case studies and on further reflection, have arrived at a more succinct set of principles which are informing our ongoing review of the curriculum in 2019.



You can access the case studies from the links below:

[Reception \(Green Class\) case study - part 1](#)

[Reception \(Green Class\) case study - part 2](#)

[Year 1 \(Purple Class\) case study](#)

[Year 2 \(Yellow Class\) case study](#)

[Years 3 &4 \(Orange and Blue Class\) case study](#)

[Year 5 \(Red Class\) case study](#)

[Year 6 \(Turquoise Class\) case study](#)

This thinking has helped to further focus our review of curriculum provision in which we are working to ensure the integrity, challenge and progression across the range of subjects and disciplines which we teach.

Curriculum design principles- Long term



- The National Curriculum is the core offer;
- The allocation of time to programmes of study is based on how much there is to learn and what children already understand
- learning in core and foundation subjects is sequenced in order that children are secure in their understanding of concepts and independent in their skills;
- In planning progression, teachers take account of the programmes of study and also of the development of independent questioning and inquiry skills;
- We plan opportunities for children to demonstrate and staff to assess this understanding in each aspect of the curriculum;
- We embed resilience and relationships as part of our curriculum implementation strategy with generic and subject specific skills so that children have the tools to succeed in each curriculum area.

Using these principles, we have begun by reviewing the curriculum offer in the following subjects:

[Humanities- history and geography](#)

[Science](#)

[Art and design](#)

Work on other subjects will be posted as the Spring and Summer term progresses with the aim to revisit all areas in time for full revise implementation in September 2019.