

Shortstown Primary Curriculum Statement

At Shortstown Primary School we believe that the School Curriculum should be broad and balanced, offering children the opportunity to achieve success in many different areas. Although our curriculum is based on the National Curriculum, there are other planned opportunities that make up the wider curriculum and skill development.

We follow a theme-based approach to learning, in the belief that children learn best when logical connections are made between different aspects of their work.

We believe in giving the children ownership of their learning. We support our children in becoming 'aspirational' – aiming high – in order to make the most of their learning opportunities. The school has 6 main values linked to the British Values, which are supported throughout the Curriculum.

As a fully inclusive school, we adjust learning experiences to enable all children to participate and achieve.

Shortstown Primary believe the Curriculum should reflect the children's interests, Locality, heritage and provide opportunities beyond the classroom.

CURRICULUM STATEMENTS FOR SUBJECTS

LITERACY

Writing

At Shortstown Primary School we aim for children to be independent writers. This is developed through the structured delivery of the ERR programme and talk for writing. Children are encouraged to use synthesis and segmentation skills to support them write clearly and enhance their confidence through all genres of writing. We use Nelson software to support the development of letter formation and presentation of work.

Reading

Children who read for pleasure gain a richer vocabulary, more knowledge, critical thinking skills and become independent learners. From EYFS through to year 6 children are made responsible for making their own reading choices from the excellent resources we have in school. They are also provided with weekly opportunities to access the well-stocked library. The Bug Club programme is used to provide an interactive approach to reading in and outside of school. Guided reading is an important part of our curriculum. Children work in focused groups to develop their reading skills and their understanding of text. A range of volunteers also provide our children with reading experiences across the school.

Spelling

We place great value on the importance of accurate spelling. A structured programme of spelling extends across the whole school beginning with ERR in EYFS and KS1. These skills are continued to be extended throughout KS2 leading up to SPAG testing.

Speaking and Listening

Talking is fundamental to learning. Pupils are encouraged to speak clearly and confidently and with expression in order to state their ideas and opinions. This is encouraged through use of talk partners throughout the school. We also use talk for writing skills to develop their speaking and listening skills in small groups and whole class situations. Role play, small world and Drama activities are important elements of speaking and listening across the school.

NUMERACY

Our mathematics curriculum aims to enable all pupils to become fluent in the fundamentals of mathematics through varied, challenging and engaging activities which increase in complexity over time. Pupils will be taught to reason mathematically, follow lines of enquiry, justify and provide proof using mathematical language and develop their own strategies towards solving mathematical problems. Pupils will develop ways to use and apply mathematical strategies and concepts in real life situations, equipping them with practical skills and knowledge to support them throughout their schooling.

Numeracy at Shortstown Primary School is taught using a creative approach which means it is integrated throughout the curriculum. Maths forms many parts of interactive learning experience, developing knowledge and understanding of mathematics through play, exploration and discussion. It is taught in different ways including the local environment and amenities where possible. And it is not confined to specific sessions. ICT is used to support and aid development both in and out of school using MyMaths.

Ranging abilities are catered for from Early Years through to Year 6. Pupils are taught daily in whole class sessions, streamed sessions or intervention booster groups. In addition to this, pupils complete a 15 minute mental maths challenge daily and have individual targets to meet in order to progress through the curriculum.

Numeracy progress is monitored through lesson evaluations, target setting and progress/key stage meetings.

Location

Money- Tesco, Post Office

Data collection- local area surveys e.g. transport survey.

Measure- Swimming pool (measure length/depth), Airships (height, problem solving)

Opportunity

Children are able to develop their mathematical skills and apply them to real life situations. These opportunities are provided during life skills interventions, cooking opportunities, class business/fundraising activities, Maths workshops and trips into the local area.

SCIENCE

At Shortstown Primary School Science is taught in a cross curriculum manor focussing on children's skills of enquiry. Children are taught to question, explore, investigate, test and record results in different formats therefore making links to other subject such as Numeracy, Design Technology and PSHCE. Children broaden their enquiry skills individually, in pairs and in small groups learning to co-operate, discuss, make decision and take on different scientific roles. At Shortstown Primary School children have access to a variety of resources including digital microscopes, sensors, mini beast hunting kits, a selection of element for electrics and more allowing children the opportunity to fully explore different areas of the science curriculum.

Location

Priory Mariana
Marston Mortain
Woburn safari
Cardington locks
Eastcotte Wood
Mosberry Park
Thurleigh Farm
Brickworks- changing material
Jordon Cereal Mill
Happy Egg Company

Heritage and Diversity

Opportunity

Children have the opportunity to use the school garden to explore wildlife, grow and understand plants the children are able to use this area as part of the school day within class and Y4/5 during forestry club. Children also explore this area as an extra curricular activity in gardening club.

In addition Early Year Foundation Stage have the opportunity to experience growth as we use our local Happy Egg Company to hire eggs and incubators to watch them hatch and grow, enhancing children's thirst to question and explore the world around them.

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

Design and Technology provides our children with an opportunity to tackle practical problems. At Shortstown Primary School Design and Technology is taught in a cross curriculum manor offering a setting for the children to apply knowledge and skills from a number of other subjects including art, language, PSHCE, maths and science. Skills are developed using tools and machines in designing and making artefacts and food products with an emphasis on healthy living. Working with a variety of materials aims to help children learn important life skills. Children learn independently, in pairs and in groups, learning to co-operate, plan, design, make and evaluate their work. They learn to make their own decisions and support each other's decision making skills with encouragement.

Location

Artist and Chefs in residence- Kathleen Laural Sage, Suzanne Oliver, Mr Cottom, Mrs Tanaja
Variety of sculpture in and around town- new faces
Art and Design gallery (Bedford and Milton Keynes)
Gunns/ Cottage Bakery (Bedfordshire Clannger)
Bedford Academy and University of Bedfordshire Art and Design department

Heritage and Diversity

Pizza Express, Red Hot Kids day- Opportunity to explore different culture food and preparation of food so children can appreciate their own heritage and the diversity of food

Children are taught about crafts people from a range of background, culture and time to braden their understanding of Design Technology

Opportunity

Children in Y1-6 have the opportunity with in the classroom to cook at least once a half term understanding food preparation through to completion and evaluation of their cooking. Children in Y2 have the opportunity to work with selected Y5's to cook during a Friday club.

In addition EYFS has the opportunity to experience cooking once a week in relation to healthy eating

GEOGRAPHY

Geography develops children knowledge and understanding of people and places. At Shortstow we focus on using our surrounding areas and local environment to compare and develop understanding of physical, social and economic issues. We provide learning experiences supported by a range of resources such as atlases, photos, ICT and exploration of the local area. There are many cross-curricular links with subjects such as literacy, numeracy and ICT. In the Foundation Stage, children learn about similarities and differences in relation to places, objects and materials. They are able to discuss their own immediate environment and understand how environments may vary from one to another. We strive to provide children with the skills needed to ask geographical questions about localities, to make comparisons and to become independent enquirers. The development of these skills begins in the EYFS and is built on across the school.

Location

Swiss Garden, Old warden, New Cardington – changing settlements, Shorcott forest, Bedford River, Priory Marina.

Heritage and Diversity

Use of local area to look at change in settlements and growth of diversity. Surrounded by River Ouse, Cardington hangers and priory marina. Use of Bedford Museum to explore changes in settlement over time.

Opportunity

Visits to local farms e.g. Thurleigh, recycle centre, local forests, parks and marina to look at changes in settlement. Opportunities to go into local area of Shortstow and make comparisons in the changes to our local area e.g. traffic and buildings.

HISTORY

At Shortstow History is seen as more than just learning facts. It is an opportunity to develop skills of enquiry and deeper thinking through questioning. We aim for each child to become open minded „historical detectives“ and explore the past in an exciting way. This is done by providing first hand experiences with role play, class visits, workshops and visiting experts playing an important part in all our topics. We have links with our local museums to help develop enquiry of history in our local area. Children learn to make comparisons and links between the past and modern times and discover how and why things have changed. They learn about people and events in the past, in Britain and the wider world, and realise that these have influenced our lives today. Children are taught how to investigate and record their findings in interesting and creative ways including writing, art, drama and ICT.

Location

Higgins Museum, Bedford Highstreet Project, RAF Cardington Airship Hangars, RAF Henlow, London Brick Company – Stewartby, Shuttleworth, Bedford Brick Works, Danish Camp – Vikings.

Local people from the area – comparisons of new and old developments.

Heritage and Diverstiy

Opportunity to speak to members of local area about our heritage. Higgins Museum providing opportunity to learn about bronze age and stone age in Bedford – focused trips around New curriculum.

Opportunity

Chance to visit local area to find out about Stone Age and Bronze Age. Visits into school – drama workshops, Dance from WW1 workshops, Artists and Local servicemen.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (P.E.)

Physical Education develops children's physical skills, confidence, capabilities and potential. It gives opportunities for children to be creative and competitive while learning to work with and respect others. At Shortstow Primary School children learn how to plan, perform and evaluate actions, often in pairs and small groups, helping them to develop the quality and effectiveness of their work. We promote a positive attitude towards active lifestyles and aim to introduce children to lifelong physical activity.

In addition to being taught by their class teacher children in year 1-6 are taught for 1 hour per week by coaches who are specialists in their field. Y5 & 6 participate in swimming sessions at a local pool.

Location

Bedford Athletics stadium, University of Bedford, Bedford Academy, Biddenham sports development, Bedford Rowing clubs.

Sailing and water sports– Stewartby Lakes, Willing Lake, Box End lake, Tongwell Lake.

Kempston outdoor centre

Sportsmen and women from the local area – Paula Radcliffe (Runner), Gregg Rutherford (Long Jump), Gail Emms (Badminton), Alistair Cook (Cricket), Tim Foster (Rower), Etienne Stott (Canoe), Andy Johnson (football), Martin Bayfield (Rugby), Liz Yelling (Runner), Mat Skelton (Boxing), Monty Panisar (Cricket), Lewis Hamilton (Racing car driver)

Motor sports – Santa Pod, Millbrook

Bedford annual sports award

Heritage and Diversity

Bedford Sports affiliation listing variety of sporting clubs and opportunities.

Opportunity

KS2 residential to PGL with focus on team building and outdoor adventurous activities. Local Keystage competitions covering a variety of sports and ages. R&D coaching sessions during and after school with trained coaches.

Staff skills – Irish Dancing, Gymnastics, Swimming, Outdoor adventurous activities, Ballroom dancing, Badminton

SEE POLICIES FOR

Art and design

Music

MFL

PSHE

Sex and Relationship Education

Drugs Education

R.E.

Collective worship

Early Years Foundation stage

SEND

Inclusion