

The Beeches Independent School

Curriculum statement

Intent

The Beeches Independent School is committed to providing an engaging and influential curriculum for each of our young people. Our ethos is that all students are able to make progress and achieve, whatever their ability. It is our role to facilitate learning opportunities and to think outside the box in order to provide the most valuable experiences for our students. Stemming from individual needs and experiences, the active curriculum is responsive and adaptive to provide the skills and knowledge for life-long learning. Above all, it is our aim for our students to enjoy their learning and to thrive in a supportive and warm environment.

Big ideas



Humankind

Understanding what it means to be human and how human behaviour has shaped the world.



Nature

Understanding the complexities of the plant and animal species that inhabit the world.



Processes

Understanding the many dynamic and physical processes that shape the world.



Place

Understanding the visual, cultural, social, and environmental aspects of places around the world.



Creativity

Understanding the creative process and how everyday and exceptional creativity can shape the world.



Comparison

Understanding how and why things are the same or different.



Investigation

Understanding the importance of investigation and how this has led to significant change in the world.



Significance

Understanding why significant people, places, events and inventions matter and how they have shaped the world.



Materials

Understanding the properties of all matter, living and non-living.



Change

Understanding why and how things have changed over time.

General principles

Our curriculum will give children the opportunity to:

- understand the purpose and value of their learning and see its relevance to their past, present and future
- develop new skills through a variety of interesting contexts
- develop and demonstrate their creativity
- learn within a coherent and progressive framework

Purpose

Our young people have a range of abilities and interests and, as such, it is imperative that their learning exposes them to a wide breadth of curriculum content. Our curriculum is designed to empower our young people and to capture their imagination through exciting and innovative content.

SMSC/FBV

Our curriculum will give children the opportunity to:

- Social - Use a range of social skills to participate in the local community and beyond; appreciate diverse viewpoints; participate, volunteer and cooperate; resolve conflict
- Moral - Recognise right and wrong and respect the law; understand consequences; investigate moral and ethical issues and offer reasoned views
- Spiritual - Explore beliefs, experience and faiths, feelings and values; enjoy learning about oneself, others and the surrounding world; use imagination and creativity and reflect on experiences
- Cultural - Appreciate cultural influences; appreciate the role of Britain's parliamentary system; participate in culture opportunities; understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity
- Tolerance and respect - To respect and tolerate the opinions or behaviour of others
- Individual liberty - Be free to express views or ideas
- Rule of law - Learn that all people and institutions are subject to and accountable for their actions and behaviour
- Democracy - Be part of a system where everyone plays an equal part

Purpose

SMSC provides our young people with the ability to become fulfilled and contributing members to our society and plays a significant part in their ability to learn and achieve. We believe that providing individuals with a range of learning experiences will allow each student to explore and present their ideas and opinions in a thoughtful and sensitive manner. Our assembly content is structured upon the SMSC objectives and allows students to engage in their learning through a range of trips and visits, accompanied by visiting speakers. An understanding of social and cultural traditions, and an appreciation of diversity, allows our students to become true citizens of our world. SMSC underpins our expectations of appropriate behaviours and promotes a positive and caring attitude towards others. Our teaching staff will promote and model the expectations of those in our care. The Beeches Independent School evokes an environment where individuals feel valued and where mistakes can be recognised, discussed and resolved. Rules are understood and adhered to for the safety and well-being of all.

✓ Well-being

Our curriculum will give children the opportunity to:

- learn how to respect themselves and others
- build respectful friendships
- develop self-esteem and confidence in their abilities
- reflect and think mindfully about their learning

Purpose

Our school aims to celebrate success and skills, recognising the talents of individuals. We are keen to focus on a 'can do' attitude, rather than on the aspects of learning we find challenging. Our educational environment is centered upon respect, for peers, teaching staff and other members of the community. It is imperative that our curriculum builds upon the interests and talents of our students and that they are encouraged to grow in the areas in which they may excel. We promote resilience and the need for challenging situations to be encountered, celebrating progress made towards difficult situations and not just achievement of the eventual goal.

🧑 Pupil voice

Our curriculum will give children the opportunity to:

- make choices about things that are important to them
- express their opinions on a range of different topics and issues

Purpose

The Beeches Independent School looks to value the voice of the child as a key part of their learning experience. It is imperative that our students have the ability to make choices for themselves and to express opinions on how they learn best. In a world where the adult voice seems to guide and direct, it is powerful to empower our students in order for them to take control of their learning. Students will be exposed to a wide range of topics and issues which may challenge their thinking. Cultural affairs and breaking news stories allow for discussion and debate in a moderated and controlled environment.

◀◀◀◀ Pedagogy

Our curriculum will be taught through a pedagogy that:

- excites, promotes and sustains children's interest
- enables and fosters children's natural curiosity
- promotes problem solving, creativity and communication

Purpose

We aim to provide students with learning opportunities which allow them to gather information on the world around us. We aim to fulfil the individual's interest across the curriculum areas and to show them the world from a variety of perspectives. Lessons encourage students to ask questions and to become investigative individuals. Through fostering an inquisitive mind, lessons allow for students to become more engaged in their learning and to have the confidence not to accept what they are presented with at face value. Our students learn that problems may not always be solved but that they can employ learned strategies in order to overcome them. Communication is key for students at The Beeches Independent School. We adapt our communicative functions to meet the needs of our young people to allow their points to be heard. For those who require pictorial support, we use a range of strategies to support their understanding.

Enrichment

We will enrich our curriculum by:

- using quality resources in and out of the classroom
- providing on and off-site subject or topic related activities

Purpose

We aim to use a range of resources which appeal to the varied learning styles and aptitudes of our

learners. These resources can be utilised to introduce new ways of learning a new skill or to appeal to a sensory need. Our Mindful Time sessions allow for the students to enrich their own learning and to choose activities which will centre their minds for concentration in lesson times. Enrichment sessions are open to all students and provide a valuable chance for students to direct their own learning in a given topic or subject area. The Beeches Independent School is keen to involve parents and carers to celebrate achievements along with us. We appreciate opportunities for sharing examples of work and to demonstrate skills achieved in school.