

The British School

Working together for our children's future



Our Curriculum

Intent

At The British School, we follow the National Curriculum, which sets out the programmes of study and attainment targets for all subjects taught in Key Stages 1 and 2 and provides pupils with the essential knowledge that they need to become educated individuals. In Reception, we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage framework, which details the standards that we as a school must meet, for the learning, development and care of children from birth to five.

Our core values underpin everything we do; these are: "Support and respect", "Engage and aim high" and "Courage and resilience" - these are the foundations of our curriculum.

Support and respect -

- Pupils are taught to embrace diversity, to value and respect everyone and to celebrate their own uniqueness.
- Pupils are taught to be responsible citizens, who care for the world around them and help to protect our environment.
- We place great value on our local community and encourage pupils to take an active role within it.

Engage and aim high -

- We encourage all pupils to aim high and aspire to be the best they can be.
- We want all of our pupils to become excellent communicators and to experience rich vocabulary.
- We provide all pupils with the knowledge and opportunities they need to lead a healthy lifestyle.

Courage and resilience -

- Pupils are encouraged to be brave and never give up.

- They learn to deal with difficult situations, to become risk-takers and problem solvers.
- When things are difficult and they make mistakes, pupils learn to persevere and overcome these.
- We encourage pupils to embrace challenge and understand that this is how we learn and grow.

These values underpin everything we teach and do at The British School. Through them, we develop children's intellectual, spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding, in order to ensure that they are well-prepared for life within an ever-evolving society.

Our curriculum is broad, balanced and ambitious: we strive to support all pupils, including those from all backgrounds, who are disadvantaged or who have special educational needs or disabilities, to reach their full potential. The curriculum has been carefully planned, so that it is relevant to our pupils and the community in which they live. New knowledge, skills and vocabulary build sequentially upon what has been taught before, with clear end goals. We have thought carefully about what we are going to teach, when we are going to teach it, how we are going to teach it and why we are going to teach it. We ensure that pupils regularly revisit prior knowledge, because we know how essential it is for pupils to be able to recall previously taught information, in order to improve and enhance their long-term memory, whilst developing progressively more complex knowledge and skills.

At the centre of our curriculum design are the core subjects of English and maths. Our English curriculum provides pupils with the skills to speak, read and write fluently, to communicate their ideas articulately and to develop the essential skills of language required to participate fully in society. We aim to foster a love of reading amongst all pupils, unlocking doors to the wider world and allowing them to develop culturally, emotionally, intellectually, socially and spiritually. Through our high quality maths curriculum, we strive to develop children's understanding of the world, their critical thinking and ability to make connections, their reasoning skills, their sense of curiosity and a love of challenge. We show our pupils that maths is essential to everyday life, financial literacy and many forms of employment, as well as critical to science, technology and engineering.

We want to help our children understand the world they live in, the world they are going to be living in in the future and their own place within that world. We

aim is to provide opportunities for children to develop as independent, confident, curious and successful learners, with high aspirations, who know how to make a positive contribution to their own community and to society as a whole.

Implementation

At The British School, our curriculum is inclusive for all, ensuring that all pupils are able to access all elements of it and to be successful, whilst being appropriately challenged. Our curriculum is sequenced and progressive, to ensure that pupils build on their knowledge, vocabulary and skills across all subjects. We prioritise opportunities for children to revisit and make connections to their prior learning, by using retrieval activities at the start of lessons, referring back to learning and knowledge from last week, last term and previous years.

The core subjects of English and maths are taught daily. Most other curriculum subjects are delivered weekly and taught throughout the year, with the exception of history and geography, which are delivered in alternate blocks, in order to link in with current topics and to immerse children more fully in their learning experience. Implementation of curriculum subjects is overseen by subject leaders, who are provided with appropriate support, training and CPD opportunities.

Teaching staff have a thorough understanding of pupils' starting points. They use assessment and feedback effectively, to ensure that it informs the next steps in pupils' learning. This enables pupils to develop their knowledge, skills and understanding and to make connections between concepts. Opportunities to develop fluency and proficiency in mathematics, reading and writing are built into our curriculum.

Skills are developed sequentially from EYFS to Y6, ensuring that children understand and grasp the foundations, before progressing to the more complex, building increasing independence as they go. Clear progression underpins every subject and is clearly laid out in each subject's progression document. Teachers assess pupils effectively and know and understand when to move pupils on.

Opportunities for pupils to regularly revisit prior knowledge happen daily and are built strategically into all sequences of learning. This approach avoids cognitive overload and ensures that knowledge is deepened as a result. Cross-curricular links are made at every opportunity, to enable pupils to make connections between areas of learning, skills and knowledge.

Opportunities for pupils to develop their cultural capital are woven into our curriculum. This involves equipping pupils with the essential knowledge that they need to become educated citizens, and introducing them to the best that has been thought, said and done. At each stage in their learning, opportunities that help pupils to develop and nurture their cultural capital are embedded within each subject. This ensures that pupils are provided with the cultural experiences and reference points to thrive both socially and academically.

Impact

At The British School, we have high expectations and ambitions for all pupils, of all backgrounds, including those with SEND and who are disadvantaged. All learning builds towards clear endpoints and prepares our pupils for the next stage in their education.

Regular and rigorous assessment by teaching staff allows them to evaluate what has been learned and retained by pupils. This is also evident through Pupil Voice and teacher knowledge.

The impact of the curriculum at The British School will ensure that children have the knowledge and skills required to make them successful in the next part of their learning journey, and that their emotional and social wellbeing enables them to feel confident in both themselves and their abilities. We want our children to be curious, to feel proud, to be confident in their achievements and to be well-prepared for the next stage in their learning journey, whatever that may be.