

Bettridge Curriculum Overview

Early Years – KS1

The Curriculum for our youngest children is planned and assessed according to the criteria and targets set out in the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework (EYFS).

We are guided in our planning by the Development Matters in the Early Years Foundation Stage, a non-statutory guidance material which supports practitioners in implementing the statutory requirements of the EYFS. This states “The ways in which the child engages with other people and their environment – playing and exploring, active learning, and creating and thinking critically – underpin learning and development across all areas and support the child to remain an effective and motivated learner”.

At Bettridge, we endorse and use these characteristics of effective learning in the EYFS. Play based learning is key to the whole process and a balance of adult led, child led and child initiated activities are integral to the development of our children.

We plan our Schemes of work using the three prime areas and four specific areas of learning and development and we use a topic based approach to ensure breadth of delivery. The Prime Areas underpin all learning and overlap with each other.

Aspects of the areas are taught through a variety of approaches, some being taught through daily routines, some taught discreetly and some through other areas of learning.

Prime Areas of Learning:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development

Specific Areas of Learning:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Reading and phonics is embedded across the curriculum. Letters and Sounds is used to teach phonics. The school uses the Beginner Readers reading scheme from Phonics Books (Tell a story; Dandelion Launchers and Dandelion Readers) as the main reading scheme. This is supplemented with additional material where appropriate.

KS2 - KS3

Within Key Stages 2 and 3, learners follow a topic based curriculum with the topics taken from the early stages of the National Curriculum. The Schemes of work continue to follow the three prime areas and four specific areas of learning and development and we use a topic based approach to ensure breadth of delivery. The Prime Areas underpin all learning and overlap with each other. The schemes of work extend into the Core and Foundation Subjects of the National Curriculum for learners who are working at this level. The overall emphasis is on the development of basic skills. Materials used are modified to meet the needs of the children and they are assisted to access these skills by the use of symbols and signs as appropriate. Planning of the curriculum is undertaken to ensure breadth, balance, depth and progression of learning for all pupils. In addition, aspects of Personal Social and Health Education are

given a high priority. The schemes of work are developed collaboratively by the teachers around topics which change each term. They are designed to mirror those experienced by their peers in mainstream school. As all pupils at Bettridge are working significantly below age expectations, the materials are adapted so they can be accessed and enjoyed and pupils can make progress from their individual starting points.

KS4

In Key Stage 4 (14 – 16), pupils continue to study the Core and Foundation Subjects on a modular basis linked to accredited schemes. Accreditation is currently through BTEC qualifications. Qualifications available are:

Entry level 1 Personal Progress

Entry level 2 Skills for Independence and Work

Entry level 1,2 & 3 Functional Skills in English, Maths and ICT

There is strong emphasis on helping pupils prepare for adult life and function as independently as possible within the community. Pupils in year 11, for whom it is appropriate, take part in link courses at a local college. All pupils take part in enterprise and some form of work experience opportunities. Pupils are enrolled on the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme. They take part in a variety of activities including Outdoor and Adventurous opportunities, volunteering, developing hobbies, and, where possible, a residential or camping experience.

As pupils approach the end of statutory school age, the emphasis is on developing skills and knowledge to support a smooth transition from Bettridge to post 16 provision and they will accredit these achievements through nationally recognised qualifications.

Further Education (FE)

The emphasis of FE is to follow a curriculum based on the Pathways to Adulthood Model. The schemes of work focus on enabling pupils to communicate, develop and follow their chosen interests and build on their strengths. Most pupils spend three years at Bettridge before moving into post 19 provision. During that time, they have increasing opportunities to be taught by Bettridge staff in centres around the area who provide for adults with disabilities and learning difficulties. This is planned and reviewed at regular intervals throughout the year by the pupils, parents and carers, Bettridge staff and other professionals. This gives pupils the opportunity to experience working at different centres and help them to make appropriate choices for their adult life.

Learners working at the upper end of Entry Level 1 and Entry Level 2 will gain accreditation through NOCN leading to a certificate or diploma in Independent Living. Learners working at the early stages of Entry 1 will gain in house credit for their achievements.

Further Information

Further curriculum information can be obtained by contacting the relevant Team Leader for Lower, Middle or Upper School, or the Deputy Headteacher. Please contact the school via admin@bettridge.gloucs.sch.uk, where your query will be passed onto the relevant person.