

BUTCOMBE

CLIFTON COLLEGE PRE-PREPARATORY SCHOOL

CURRICULUM POLICY

RATIONALE

In preparing children for the wide ranging and ever-increasing demands of the twenty-first century, the curriculum needs to be broad, balanced and sensitive to the constant developments in science, rapid change in technology and social changes within society. Children today need to master a more complex range of skills than before, as well as learning many lessons from the past.

PURPOSES

- to provide a broad, balanced, relevant and differentiated curriculum
- to encourage interest and enjoyment of learning
- to encourage independent learning and a feeling of responsibility by giving children the opportunity for problem-solving and decision-making
- to develop self-esteem, self-confidence and self-motivation
- to encourage respect for others, their ideas and beliefs
- to offer a planned curriculum that includes all aspects of the National Curriculum as the minimum
- to offer a curriculum through which individual pupils' needs are regularly identified through assessment that in turn feeds future planning
- to offer a curriculum that, through regular assessment and record keeping, supports continuity and progression
- to develop strong partnerships between the pupil, parents and staff across the College
- to offer an outdoor curriculum through which pupils learn a variety of personal and social skills

GUIDELINES

- The curriculum for all pupils in Reception to Year 3 is delivered largely through a topic-based approach. This includes Science, History, Geography, D.T., Art and Design, and some aspects of English, Maths, R.E. and P.S.H.E. The topic titles were reviewed in May 2004, and alterations to the Topic-based SoW are being made throughout 2004 – 2005 as part of the regular planning
- The school follows the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum for children in Nursery and Reception
- English and Maths are taught through the *Primary National Framework for Literacy and Mathematics* (DfES 2006). Both subjects are central to the curriculum, and are largely delivered outside the topic-based approach.

- The Curriculum incorporates all subjects of the National Curriculum with other areas of learning in addition, e.g. French.
- Where appropriate, some activities in Music and P.E. may be topic-linked.
- I.C.T. is cross-curricular, and is used in all areas of the curriculum to support learning in addition to being taught as a discrete subject.
- French is introduced to all pupils in Year 2, with younger pupils from the age of three, having the opportunity to have lessons on a peripatetic basis in school. In Year 3, pupils may choose between French or mandarin for the final year at Butcombe.
- Music and P.E. are regarded as strengths of the College, and a strong emphasis is placed on these subjects.
- Weekly staff meetings are held in which specific subjects are considered and developed.
- All experienced members of staff have an area of curriculum responsibility or responsibility for an aspect of school life, and have a job specification pertaining to this. The Headmistress is responsible for the overall monitoring of the curriculum; the deputy head is responsible for assessment and record-keeping; a senior teacher is responsible for SATs.
- The entire curriculum is delivered to boys and girls alike, in accordance with our Equal Opportunities Policy.
- The topic-based curriculum is outlined in the Topic-based Scheme of Work document, which is constantly being reviewed, updated and refined.
- The outdoor curriculum is delivered through the Forest School Programme which runs every Thursday at the school's Beggar Bush site. Each class will attend for two half-day sessions a term.
- The school values the concept of a broad approach to education and encourages participation in the wide range of co-curricular activities.