



School Curriculum Statement

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Silsoe Lower School provides a broad and balanced curriculum for all of its pupils. All of our work is based on the National Curriculum 2014 and the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. It is carefully planned to ensure there is continuity and progression for the children as they move through the school and onto the next phase of their education.

There are 4 key stages of compulsory education. Prior to starting school children are in the Early Years Foundation Stage. This stage is completed during the child's first year at school when they are in Acorn or Chestnut Class. The curriculum we cover during this phase is called the Early Years Foundation Stage framework. During their reception year children will continue with prime areas of learning which are:

- Communication and language
- Physical development and
- Personal, social and emotional development.

They will also begin learning four new specific areas of learning, these are:

- Literacy which includes reading and writing
- Mathematics which includes number, shape, space and measures
- Understanding the world which includes people and communities, the world and technology
- Expressive arts and design which includes exploring media and materials and being imaginative.

All of these subjects will be taught using the Early Years development matters statements and through topics which are designed to motivate and engage the children as independent learners.

Children in Year 1 and 2 are working at Key Stage 1. Children in Year 3 and 4 are beginning Key Stage 2. Key Stage 2 is completed at middle school. In both of these key stages we teach the national curriculum subjects: English, mathematics, science, computing, design technology, geography, history, music, art and design and PE. For all these subjects we follow the national curriculum guidance which focuses on pupils being taught to reach age related expectations based on progressive curriculum content. In this values based school we also teach British values and personal, social, citizenship and health education (PHSCE). Wherever possible we make links between the learning in these subjects so that the children are motivated and excited by their learning. In addition, the school follows the Bedfordshire Agreed Syllabus for RE and in Year 3 we introduce the children to their first modern foreign language. At this school we teach French.

Starting in the Foundation Stage and throughout the school we teach dedicated phonics lessons to help the children to read and write confidently. The programme we follow is called Sounds – Write. We link this programme closely to the government's 'letters and sounds' guidance. All of the reading books we use are compatible with this phonics based approach.

Collective Worship and Religious Education

In accordance with the 1998 Education Act Silsoe School provides a daily act of worship of a broadly Christian nature and RE for all pupils.

Worship is structured to provide a song and a prayer as well as quiet time for reflection. The worship themes are based on our shared values and are chosen to make a link between the children's lives and spiritual truths.

In our R.E. lessons we use the Bedfordshire locally agreed syllabus which offers the children a general education in religion. This helps the children to understand their own position and to appreciate the values, culture and tradition of others.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship or from R.E. In such circumstances their reasons for withdrawal should be submitted to the Head Teacher in writing, from which time the child will be supervised in the library during these sessions for a period of quiet contemplation.

For more information about the topics each class is currently studying please click on to our class pages on this website.