

Life Skills Curriculum

Literacy

Pupils are offered an exciting and engaging literacy curriculum at Greenacre. Whilst functional literacy and use of the English Language is at the core of what we provide for pupils, the curriculum includes access to a wide range of opportunities and materials to broaden pupils' love of literature too. Pupils learn across the areas of reading, writing, speaking and listening at a level appropriate to them.

In reading, pupils' access personalised reading programmes to develop knowledge of phonics, word recognition and decoding of texts. In main lessons, pupils learn about non-fiction texts, poetry, playscripts and novels (both classic and modern) to explore their levels of comprehension and interpretation.

Writing lessons include learning handwriting, spelling, vocabulary, punctuation and grammar. Pupils will then learn to organise, plan, draft and write full texts where appropriate, covering a range of functional and creative texts, for example: emails, websites, leaflets, reports, fliers, short stories, poetry and scripts.

Whilst speaking and listening (communication) is part of every single part of our day here at Greenacre, it is also taught explicitly too. Pupils will learn effective conversation, interaction, debate, presentation and performance in a way that is specific to them.

Pupils access Entry Level qualifications in each area above throughout their time in the life skills programme.

Numeracy

Pupils access a broad and balanced numeracy curriculum focusing on all aspects of numeracy. Pupils work at the appropriate level to develop functional numeracy skills in practical and theoretical contexts. Pupils use a thematic learning approach to contextualize learning and support the application of these skills in real life.

Pupils focus on a wide range of numeracy aspects including Number, Money, Time and shape. These are key aspects of the functional skills assessment which takes place at the end of year 11. Pupils access Entry level qualifications where appropriate and are challenged to achieve at an appropriate level. Level 1 and 2 functional skills qualifications are also available.

Throughout their time in life skills students prepare for these examinations with QCF class tests. Giving them the opportunity to develop exam technique while gaining modular accreditation in a range of numeracy activities.

ICT

Throughout Life Skills the focus of ICT is very much upon the development of functional skills. Students are encouraged to store materials in files and folders including accessing network drives, creating folders and making back-ups. The students also use digital communications, email, social media and spreadsheets; with a focus on staying safe on the internet. We also focus on the dangers of contacting people in real life from anywhere online. Students take part in a 'mocked-up' social network where a stranger tries to arrange a personal meeting.

In order to support students to advance even further, the curriculum also includes learning about the use of formulae and write code to develop programming skills. Sessions in computational thinking and simple programming will provide for more creative output and

break up the functional skills work. We work with students to use the Scratch programming system. We explore simple algorithms and look at breaking problems down to help solve them. Towards the end of year eleven students focus on practicing and preparing for Functional Skills examinations. Students complete practice papers which consolidate skills and promote independence.

Science

Pupils have weekly access to a multisensory Science curriculum. All pupils work towards accredited outcomes at an appropriate level. Pupils access pre-entry level Unit Award Scheme or Entry Level Certificate in Science. The curriculum focuses on giving pupils an understanding of real life Science and increasing their understanding of the living and physical world.

Pupils learn scientific enquiry skills to apply in a range of contexts to plan, complete and evaluate scientific experiments across all areas of Science. The programme of study is outlined below:

The Human Body:

(Accompanying Unit Awards)

Naming Parts of the Body

Identifying Parts of the Body

Human Body Systems (Unit 2)

Introduction of the Human Senses

Multisensory Introduction to Humans as Organisms

Environment, Evolution and

Inheritance:

(Accompanying Unit Awards)

Multisensory Experiences associated with Plants

Introduction to Animals

Animals and Where they Live

Sensory Science: The Seaside

Growing Plants from Seeds with Assistance

Chemistry in our World:

(Accompanying Unit Awards)

Introduction to Heat

A sensory introduction to Earth and Space

Introduction to Earth and Space

Multisensory Approach to Water

Introduction to Chemistry

Elements, Mixtures and Compounds:

(Accompanying Unit Awards)

Investigating Materials with Adult Support

Changing materials with Assistance

Experiencing Characteristics of Materials

Experiencing Changing Materials

Sensory Science

Energy, Forces and Magnetism:

(Accompanying Unit Awards)

Experiencing Forces

Forces: Pushes and Pulls

Forces and Parachutes

A Multisensory Introduction to Energy

Magnets and Magnetism

Electricity, Magnetism and Waves:

(Accompanying Unit Awards)

Supported Sensory Science

Magnets and Magnetism

Science: Electricity with Support

Experiencing Appliances which use Electricity

Introduction to Electricity

PE

Pupils access weekly PE sessions concentrating on a wide range of invasion, athletics and gymnastic events. Pupils develop an understanding of performance and how this can be improved through training. They develop team work and leadership skills in a range of contexts and access many opportunities to compete in external events such as Disport, The South Yorkshire Games and Sports4all.

All pupils work towards an accredited qualification through the collection of a portfolio of video and paper-based evidence. Pupils will achieve appropriate Unit Awards or an Entry Level Certificate in Physical Education.

PE is an important part on an enriching curriculum and incorporates support of individual's physical needs through rebound therapy and physiotherapy programmes.