

COOL Curriculum

English:

Literacy is taught every day with specific intervention planning also delivered during morning work activities, one to one sessions and small group work.

Writing

We encourage students to write for a purpose and use a thematic approach to capture their interest. Each half term the students are introduced to a new theme and use this as a starting point for their written work. We encourage students to apply their phonic knowledge to their writing and use common exception words. For those students at the pre-writing stage we use Communicate in Print symbols to encourage sequencing and develop fine motor skills on an individual and/or small group basis.

Reading

Students are encouraged to have access to a range of fiction, non-fiction, poetry and play scripts to extend their knowledge and imaginative writing skills. We provide phonics input in line with the *Read, Write Inc* programme, individual reading and guided reading sessions to consolidate their exposure to new and unfamiliar words and sounds. Some children engage with the Lexia intervention programme to accelerate their reading skills. All students have personalised reading plans and read once per week to an adult.

Speaking and Listening

When exploring fiction texts we encourage students to role play as much as possible to develop their listening, turn taking and communication skills. All students are also encouraged to share their thoughts and ideas about things they have heard and/or experienced. Children are constantly encouraged to develop their own questioning techniques to extend their learning and build self-esteem. Where necessary Speech and Language Therapy programmes are integrated into personalised learning outcomes.

Mathematics:

Numeracy is taught through the use of 'Mantle of the Expert' and is based around a theme. When appropriate this is linked to the topic each half term. Through this approach pupils access a wide range of practical and hands on activities which encourage them to engage in mathematical tasks. Pupils are taught a wide range of strategies to enable them to solve problems in all aspects of mathematics. Throughout the year there is a focus on the way maths is an everyday part of life. In line with the new National Curriculum pupils are encouraged to reflect upon their own work and misunderstandings are addressed. Pupils have opportunities to use learnt strategies to correct their own work. During lessons pupils are taught place value, addition and subtraction, multiplication and division, measurement, shape, position and direction, fractions and statistics. Alongside these numeracy lessons pupils also access Big Maths. This allows pupils to extend on key mathematical concepts in number recognition, counting, addition and subtraction and multiplication and division.

Science:

In line with the National Curriculum students are given the opportunity to learn about the world and links are made to the COOL themes and current world events wherever possible. We support students to learn more about their own bodies, life processes and living things. In particular we focus on keeping healthy, moving and growing, teeth and eating and life cycles. There are also plentiful opportunities to research plants and animals with students having access to the animals on site. The students are also taught about the world around them, through topics that investigate space, electricity, light and shadows and other related themes. We also explore changes in materials and their properties through topics such as rocks and soils and solids and liquids. Students are given the opportunity to carry out experiments, make predictions, record and explain their findings.

Creative Opportunities of Learning COOL:

This approach is used to inspire and engage students by using points of provocation. Each term the students across Y5 to Y8 access hands on, multisensory and stimulating resources to enhance teaching and learning opportunities across the curriculum. The four year rolling programme of study includes topics such as Circus, Natural Disasters, Time Travel, Art Through the Ages, Around the World in 80 Days, Innovations, Treasure Island and Eurovision. COOL lessons cover History, Geography, Religious Education, Art and DT, Modern Foreign Languages and Citizenship. We encourage students to research, work co-operatively, reflect and debate in relation to the taught topic. Students also take part in Wow/Creative days and other whole department events in addition to visits to museums and other educational establishments to bring learning opportunities to life.

Music:

Students in COOL are encouraged to perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions. Our Music lessons are linked to the Cool themes we are exploring. We regularly sing and use our voices to create and compose music on their own and with others, have the opportunity to learn to play musical instruments and use technology appropriately including sound beams for students with complex physical difficulties. We encourage students to understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the inter-related dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations.

PSHE/Citizenship:

PSHE and SMSC are embedded in all aspects of the curriculum including unstructured break and social times. We also follow a rolling programme that ensures all national expectations are covered, including developing young people's emerging understanding of Sex and Relationships Education. We look at the changes in ourselves, our lives and in the lives of others. Friendships are considered including the qualities that it takes to be a good friend such as being kind, listening and being helpful. Behaviours within society are also considered and

we look at why certain behaviours are appropriate or inappropriate. We also focus on personal safety in and around school and within the community, health and hygiene in our day to day routines. Additionally, pupils find out more about the people in society who help us and the roles that they have. In Y7 and Y8 the PSHE becomes more personalised and incorporates aspects of RSE. We teach pupils about the changes involved in puberty, encourage them to make healthy choices and manage their personal hygiene whilst also spending time focusing on independence and life skills such as managing money, democracy and justice and E-safety. The curriculum is tailored to suit the individual needs of the pupils and parents are given information about the coverage so that they can be involved as much as possible. Citizenship is embedded across the curriculum. We address issues as they arise, for example discussions around the implications and consequences of littering. Being fair and democracy is taught by having votes in class and displaying the class rules to ensure all are encouraged to be valued members of their class and to prepare them to play a full and active part in society.

ICT/Computing:

A major part of our studies considers how we can keep ourselves safe when we use the Internet, including what we can do and who we can tell if we feel unsafe. ICT is also used across the curriculum to enhance our learning in other subjects. We focus on how we use ICT to help us in our world today. This will include ways in which ICT is used in the wider world in addition to looking at the use of ICT in our own lives. Students will practise identifying and typing letters from the keyboards, send emails, and complete research. Some students also work on improving their hand-eye coordination including the cause and effect of clicking/touching relevant icons on screen. They will have the opportunity to use a variety of digital equipment including digital cameras, iPads, microphones and other recording devices.

PE:

We provide plentiful opportunities for students to engage in a wide variety of physical exercise. This includes invasion games based on winter sports; Football, Hockey and Touch or Tag Rugby. We also work on our Dance and Gymnastics skills both in the classroom and the school hall. This mainly involves the use of a theme such as cartoons or may link to the COOL topic. We encourage students to work on exaggerating their movements, counting the beats in music and adding their own interpretations to a particular style of dance. We also take part in Cricket/striking and fielding skills or net/wall games which includes Rounders, Tennis, Sit Down Volleyball and Badminton. In the Summer term we work hard on our athletics skills in preparation for Sports Day during National Sports Week at the end of June. Students are encouraged to work on running, jumping and throwing techniques. On occasions the students in COOL have also taken part in wider community tournaments.

Some students also have additional time to work on specific physiotherapy and hydrotherapy programmes. The students also attend a formal swimming lesson at the Metrodome Leisure Complex once per week for half of the academic year.

