

Butts Primary School



“One school, one community”

Curriculum Policy

Chair of Governors	M Mortiboys (Nov 25)
Interim Headteacher	D Marusamy (Nov 25)
Next review date	November 2026

At Butts Primary, we are proud of our broad and balanced curriculum. The school has the motto '**One school, one community**' and this is the intent behind the curriculum. We implement this by looking at different types of communities – our family, school family, geographical communities, the local and historical communities and their impact. We weave the concept of community through our foundation curriculum, so that by the time the pupils leave us in Year 6, they have a more sophisticated idea of the concept of community. **Inclusion, diversity, equity and well-being** are our key values and in its wider form impact on life and the world.

The curriculum is based on the National Curriculum 2014. The curriculum delivered is based on knowledge and skills and is packed with exciting topics, creative arts, diversity, fun and a commitment to an inclusive attitude towards all pupils and furthermore a commitment to our local community.

The School's Vision

Our vision at Butts Primary is to create a community where pupils learn, practice and understand the fundamental values that makes a successful, safe and thriving community.

Through our school offer, we aim for our pupils to feel safe, valued, thrive and feel a sense of belonging.

We motivate children to enjoy learning and become confident learners through our exciting and meaningful curriculum. Our aim is to offer opportunities and challenges to create confident learners and responsible citizens.

Our school values are key to creating our community and well known be all our pupils:-

- Be kind
- Be fair
- Be safe
- Be ready to learn

Deeper/ Critical Thinking

We appreciate that we are teaching and preparing pupils to work in an age where access to facts and information is relatively easy. We seek to encourage pupils to think around a concept, to consider facts in a logical way and to make connections/ links with other information they already know. We do this by careful and skilled questioning.

Our Foundation Stage Curriculum:

In Reception, we follow the Early Years Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage, revised in September 2021 by the DfES. This Framework specifies the requirement for learning and development in the Early Years and provides specific areas of learning we must cover in our curriculum.

These areas are:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development-prime
- Physical Development -prime
- Communication and Language development-prime
- Literacy -specific
- Mathematics-specific
- Understanding the World-specific
- Expressive Arts and Design-specific

Pupils experience focused supported activities with members of staff alongside the choice of independent developmental activities to support the learning objective.

Key stage 1 and 2

English

Reading-Pupils are encouraged to read widely and develop a love for reading. Guided reading sessions are taught at least 2 times per week using whole class texts, online books and extracts. Daily morning tasks provide opportunities for pupils to read, discuss texts and authors.

Phonics is taught using the RML scheme and it is taught from Nursery upwards. School has a phonics lead who assesses pupils and ensures progression through the scheme. She also oversees the annual phonic test. All staff have been trained on reading and phonics. Toe to toe and SNIP is also used as a catch up reading programme.

Pupils are allocated reading scheme stage books, books from the school library and each pupil has a log on for Bug Club. The library is always open for pupils to change books and teachers read a class story to pupils each day. We have the benefit of a volunteer reader from the Beanstalk charity who read with and talks to targeted pupils each week.

Writing- Writing is taught around novels and linked to the overarching cross curricular theme. Pupils enjoy the class novel and this inspires their creative writing. Pupils plan, draft, edit and revise their work. Teachers engage in moderation on a regular basis and exemplars of work are maintained.

Speaking and Listening- English lessons develop pupils' spoken language and vocabulary. Pupils are taught to speak clearly, to convey their ideas fluently and confidently and to ask questions. Vocabulary is developed systematically.

Drama is used as a key tool in developing oral skills, vocabulary development, building confidence and self-esteem, and as an essential tool in developing imaginative, expressive, and persuasive spoken and written language. 'Hot seating', and 'response in role' drama techniques are used in literacy lessons aid the development of speaking and listening, reading and writing skills.

Imaginative role play is fundamental to developing the whole child, not just in Early Years and KS1 education, but also as pupils continue to develop. The curriculum provides opportunities to perform to wider audiences through assemblies and events around key festivals. There are increasing opportunities for our pupils to perform as they progress through the school.

We have a debating society who lead debates in assembly on topical issues and pupils vote on their decisions following the debates.

Mathematics:

The mathematics curriculum at Butts Primary School uses the Ark mathematics mastery scheme as the core, however staff are encouraged to use a range of resources including White Rose. Staff/pupils are expected to use practical, concrete resources before they move onto the pictorial and then more abstract approach. Pupils complete weekly CLIC challenges which focuses on basic skills building from simple to more complex calculations. Weekly pupils complete the Learn It challenge which focuses on recalling multiplication facts. Pupils are encouraged to reason and solve problems and enjoy taking part in Times tables Rock stars which develops multiplication skills.

Science:

School uses the Switched on Science scheme as the core, however a range of other resources are used to meet the objectives. Science lessons cover both scientific skills and knowledge and build on from previous years. Teachers are expected to use scientific vocabulary and include as much practical work as possible.

Each Science topic involves some key bits of 'sticky knowledge' facts which pupils must learn as they work through the topic. The key facts are displayed in the classroom and/or in the pupils' exercise books.

Art and D/T:

Art has a very important place in our curriculum and is weaved into our termly topics. We see art as a vehicle for creativity and individual expression and it provides opportunities for collaborative work. It is an important form of cultural expression and, therefore, has significance and meaning for all our children. Our teaching provides an understanding of all the diverse art forms so that the children experience drawing, painting, collage, textiles, 3D designs, printmaking and digital media. They will be introduced to a wide variety of artists and their styles each year.

Our design and technology lessons encourage the designing and making of products to solve real and relevant problems. Our pupils learn to select from and use a wide range of materials and components, including construction materials, textiles and ingredients, according to their characteristics. Our cooking lessons teach the principles of nutrition and our pupils learn how to prepare and make a wide variety of simple recipes.

Computing:

The pupils are taught to use google classroom so that work can be accessed remotely if needed. School uses the Switched On scheme to ensure progression of skills. Pupils are able to loan laptops from school to access online work. Walsall Computing Curriculum Team deliver workshops linked to coding, which enhances our curriculum.

At Butts Primary we believe that computing should permeate the curriculum. We believe that computing should be a tool for learning. Effective computing, coupled with well trained, competent and enthusiastic staff, allows our children to develop the necessary computing skills needed for lifelong learning in the 21st Century.

MFL:

In Key Stage 2, all children will be taught French as a Modern Foreign Language. We believe that starting early allows for more time for language learning overall and a sustained experience with the potential to lead to higher levels of proficiency at the end of secondary school. In an increasingly globalized world, intercultural understanding is essential, and that it is important to awaken children's interests in other people and cultures at a time when they are open and receptive. This will excite their curiosity and may help them with choices of what to study at their next school. School uses the 'Classrom Secrets' MFL as a core scheme.

Music:

School uses the 'Sing Up' music scheme and in addition Y4 and Y5 learn keyboard with a specialist teacher from Forest Arts Music hub. Pupils are encouraged to perform in assembly and perform/sing different music genres. Music genres are explored and shared with pupils each week. In their music lessons, pupils use their voices expressively and creatively by singing songs and speaking chants and rhymes. Singing is seen as the golden thread through the curriculum. There are opportunities for the pupils to join a music club and a choir.

Assemblies also provide an opportunity to practise singing of a wide variety of music. Pupils are taught to play a variety of instruments musically and encouraged to play together in ensemble groups. We encourage listening to a wide range of music with concentration and understanding. Music lessons, where possible, link to the curriculum themes. Background music is played in a variety of lessons and activities to create, mood, atmosphere and to help thinking

PSHE:

In PSHE, or Personal, Social and Health Education, children are taught about the importance of mental and physical health, including self-esteem and body image. We believe it is crucial to build effective citizens through teaching about positive relationships, keeping safe, behavioural norms and setting aspirational goals. PSHE also helps children to connect and apply the knowledge and understanding they learn in all subjects to practical, real-life situations while helping them to feel safe and secure enough to fulfil their academic potential

As a part of transition support for our Year 6 children, in Summer Term the children complete secondary ready activities including issues around drugs, alcohol use and keeping themselves safe.

RSE:

Following parent consultation in 2021 the school teaches the new RSE framework. Sex education is not taught. Emphasis is placed on respect of different types of families, discussion, empathy, relationships and kindness. RSE teaches children about the different physical, social and emotional aspects of growing up. It also helps them to develop resilience, independence and self-esteem.

Religious Education:

R.E has a mission for tolerance and respect for all in the community .Butts Primary is a community of different nationalities, cultures and faith groups. We celebrate our diversity and offer a welcoming environment for all of our pupils. RE is a subject that celebrates diversity and provides an opportunity to celebrate and foster an awareness of our similarities and differences in our school and in the wider world. By exploring issues within and across faiths we believe that pupils will learn to understand and respect faiths other than their own and will develop respect for other religions, beliefs, values and traditions. Through quality teaching children will be taught a broad and authentic understanding of other faiths. They will be encouraged to think and explore, express and explain their own ideas, enabling them to make reasoned and informed judgments on religious, moral and social issues. By developing their sense of identity and belonging children will be better prepared for a life in a multicultural society. At school we follow the Walsall SACRE scheme.

History/Geography

Pupils are taught a variety of modern and ancient history topics and include both skills and knowledge. Within our teaching of History it is our aim to help pupils gain a coherent knowledge and understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider world. It will aspire pupils' curiosity to know more about the past and equip pupils to ask perceptive questions, think critically, weigh evidence, sift arguments, and develop perspective and judgement. History helps pupils to understand the complexity of people's lives, the process of change, the diversity of societies and relationships between different groups, as well as their own identity and the challenges of their time.

The aim of Geography teaching at Butts Primary is to stimulate children's interest and understanding of places and environments. Through their work in Geography, children learn about their local area and compare their life in this area with that in other regions in the United Kingdom and in the rest of the world. They learn how to draw and interpret maps and they develop the skills of research, investigation, analysis and problem solving. Through their growing knowledge and understanding of human geography, children gain an appreciation of life in other cultures. Geography teaching also motivates children to find out about the physical world and enables them to recognize the importance of sustainable development for the future of mankind. Work days, trips and visitors support pupils' learning and enhance the curriculum.

Each History or Geography topic involves some key bits of 'sticky knowledge' facts which pupils must learn as they work through the topic. The key facts are displayed in the classroom and/or in the pupils' exercise books. In addition, each 'topic' includes an element of community work as our motto is 'One school, one community'.

Physical Education (PE)

Pupils are taught games, dance, gymnastics, athletics and swimming.

Across the school, pupils are encouraged to participate in team games and to develop simple tactics for being an effective team member. This enables children to learn and develop the notion of fair play, honest competition, good sportsmanship and dealing with both success and defeat. Each class participates in the inter-house competitions at the end of each half term, points are awarded to each house team. School employs a sports coach who runs lunchtime sports, after school clubs and ensures quality of PE lessons are of a high standard. We ensure wider participation in the community by involvement in interschool sports and Cadmus family of Schools based competitions. School holds an annual competitive sports day in the summer term. In addition to this, children also have the opportunity to attend lunchtime activities and after school clubs. Swimming is introduced to the timetable from Year 3.

We also run a residential visit each year. Year 5 and 6 children have the opportunity to spend 3 days at Condover hall, near Shrewsbury.

Promoting British Values

At Butts Primary we teach pupils fundamental British Values. These are defined as:

- democracy,
- the rule of law,
- individual liberty,
- mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.

Promoting these British Values is now a central part of teaching and learning and are promoted throughout the curriculum across the school. They are also seen in the school ethos and policies,

assemblies, special events and cultural celebrations. Below are some examples of how we actively promote British Values.

Democracy

Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through pupil questionnaires, time to talk, pupil ambassadors, posting their ideas in the suggestion box, debates. Children are encouraged to voice their opinions and we have created an environment where children are safe to disagree with each other. Pupils have opportunities to vote during the weekly 'votes for schools' assembly. The weekly 'Big Question' allows pupils to debate and vote using the ballot system, the results of the votes are then acted upon, and children are able to witness democracy in action.

The Rule of Law

At Butts Primary school, we teach the importance of laws starting with our school key rules. The importance of law is embedded within our curriculum as well as assemblies and when dealing with pupil's behaviour. Pupils are taught the values and reasons behind law, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from our local PCSO and Fire services reinforce this message.

Individual Liberty

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing they are in a safe and supportive environment. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedom and advised how to exercise these safely, for example through online safety, RSE and PHSE lessons.

Mutual Respect

Butts Primary is a multi-cultural school, throughout the year we celebrate diversity of culture and religion. We follow the Walsall SACE RE syllabus which enables children to be taught about different faiths. We celebrate different religions and cultural festivals on themed day where pupils have the opportunity to dress in different cultural wear, taste foods from another culture, dance and gain knowledge. This brings a strong sense of self-identity paired with an understanding, empathy and respect for others.

Curriculum Enrichment:

We are committed to the broadest educational offering, and that means looking beyond the National Curriculum. A very successful enrichment programme that draws upon a wide range of adult skills is offered through extra- curricular provision including clubs, school trips, visiting specialists, STEM days and themed days. We plan a series of trips each term for each year group. The trips are directly linked to our topics.

Community involvement:

Working with the local community is very important to us and forms part of our curriculum offer. School works with Ablewell Food bank, local allotment, WHG (Walsall Housing Group). It has links with both Walsall College, Wolverhampton University, QM High School, the local arts centre and local places of worship. Gaining knowledge of our local community, wider and global community is important to us.

Assessment of the curriculum:

Pira and Puma assessments are used to assess reading and mathematics 3 times a year interspersed with teacher assessment and this is followed with pupil progress meetings so that each pupil can be carefully tracked in Reading, Writing and Maths from their unique starting points. Each half term writing is moderated across the school and each term with other schools in the federation to ensure consistency of judgement.

For Science, History, Geography and PE, pupil attainment and progress is tracked using teacher assessments. For Art and D&T, subject leads select objectives to assess through whole school comparative judgments. Work is then retained to compile exemplars at each level for each year group.

The curriculum carefully builds on previous knowledge and skills. Teachers have carefully selected the 'Sticky knowledge'/key objectives from History/Geography/Science topics and this helps them to assess the understanding gained and retained by pupils. As pupils move through the curriculum, they will know more and remember more of the sticky knowledge or golden nuggets of curriculum content. Termly quizzes, timelines and related activities, maps etc. will help pupils to check their memory and will be a fun way to retain information. However, this is only a part of the way in which school assesses the foundation curriculum. All subjects are quality assured through learning walks, book trawls, marking, gaining pupil voice and AfL. Many subjects use pupil ambassadors/champions too.

This sticky facts schema compliments the core curriculum and enables pupils to build on knowledge and concepts that have been taught previously. This allows for more depth of learning and understanding.

The themes of well-being, inclusion, diversity and equity, also the softer themes of good communication, language fluency and vocabulary enrichment weave throughout our work and enable depth of learning.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

The Executive Head teacher, Head of School, SMT and subject leader will continuously monitor the effectiveness of the curriculum. Action points will be agreed and discussed with staff. Curriculum updates when reporting to the Governing Body.