



Monkwick

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Curriculum Policy

Last updated: March 2020
To be reviewed: March 2022

Inspiring Lifelong Learners



Sigma Trust Curriculum Intent

Sigma Trust are ambitious for all of their pupils. The Trust values are reflected in the curriculum in each of the Sigma Trust schools. The curriculum will be greater than the sum of its parts, through excellent teaching and opportunities across all subjects, to develop the potential of the whole child, for every child, so that no child is left behind.

As a Trust we will work in collaboration to ensure our values are realised throughout our curriculum. We will work to ensure all learners have a deep knowledge, which allows them to be responsive and informed as they navigate their place in the world. Our young people have an entitlement to a curriculum that builds their character; develops their skills; advances their thinking and fosters their imagination. Through a challenging and stimulating curriculum, which is built upon the needs of our young people and the local communities we serve, we aim to prepare them for their next step in education, training or work. We also want our young people to be ready for the modern world as active citizens who can contribute to the community in which they live.

Every school in the trust will offer a curriculum which is:

Ambitious for all

Coherently planned and sequenced

Adapted, designed and developed for pupils with SEND

Broad and balanced for all pupils

GREATER THAN THE SUM OF ITS PARTS

Monkwick Junior School - Curriculum Policy

Monkwick Junior School believes that all pupils are entitled to a broad and balanced curriculum, that covers a range of subjects and ensures that children are well prepared for the next stage of their education by giving them a good basis in all National Curriculum Subjects.

Pupils, parents, staff, governors and the community have a duty to help support the embedding of the Sigma Trust values and ethos within the school. These are:

- Integrity - be honest, transparent, trustworthy and true to your beliefs.
- Passion - be positive and enthusiastic about what you are trying to achieve.
- Aspiration - aim for your best and set high, realistic goals.
- Resilience - never give up and strive to improve.
- Accountability - take responsibility for your words, thoughts and actions.
- Respect - for yourself, your environment and other people.

These values are demonstrated through the Curriculum Policy in the following ways:

Integrity

- All curriculum subjects are viewed as important, but the school recognises that success in English and Mathematics are fundamental to widening future choices and opportunities.
- Different subjects have specific skills and approaches, so each is taught in the way that best suits it.
- All pupils will be entitled to broad, balanced curriculum opportunities.

Passion

- Children should be able to enjoy their learning and be enriched by the things that they discover at school.
- Children should have access to a wide variety of opportunities to develop their passions and skills.
- A variety of trips and experiences will be offered throughout the school.

Aspiration

- The curriculum will aim high and allow children to flourish and succeed across a wide range of disciplines.
- All children will be able to engage in a challenging curriculum that encourages them to think and achieve.
- The curriculum will encourage existing talent, develop potential and create new skills.

Resilience

- Children will face challenges with an open mind and persevere with things they find more difficult.
- Appropriate challenge and support will be in place for all learners to enable them to succeed.
- Subject leaders will review the curriculum on an ongoing basis to continuously improve what we offer the children.

Accountability

- Children, parent and staff views of learning are taken into account as part of the long term curriculum planning process.
- Information about the curriculum and what children are learning will be available on the school website.
- Staff will ensure that standards of work across the curriculum reflect what children are capable of.

Respect

- The curriculum will develop children's ability to understand others, different customs and culture and promote British values.
- The curriculum will develop learners understanding and respect for themselves, by encouraging reflection.
- Resources will be well cared for and looked after to enable the school to provide more to develop learning further.

The Curriculum at Monkwick Junior School has been developed based on the National Curriculum, so that children are given the age appropriate opportunities that they will need to prepare them to continue their learning when they move into Key Stage 3 and beyond.

In our curriculum, each subject has a set of specific guiding principles, so that it can be taught in a way that best reflects the skills needed for success if pupils wanted to continue to study them in secondary school, further or higher education. This means that subjects are taught discretely, but cross-curricular links are made if they are meaningful and enhance learning. The aims and principles set out by the National Curriculum have been a key part in developing this, as well as taking into account feedback from children, parents and staff.

Each subject has a leader responsible for ensuring that there is clear achievement and progression across the school, and will support colleagues in delivering this.

English

Children will have the chance to read and study a range of high quality books as inspiration to be fluent, interested readers, whilst developing knowledge of language and grammar to be creative, accurate writers.

At Monkwick Junior School, we aim to develop successful writers, readers and speakers. We strive to give children a love of reading which they will continue throughout their lives. Children are given access to a variety of real, classic and modern texts as the basis of their English learning in order to encourage their engagement with books. Pupils will understand how writing is used for a variety of purposes and will adapt their tone, grammar and style to suit their audience. English will also serve as a creative outlet for pupils where they can use their imaginations to create new worlds as well as using reading to build up a greater understanding of their own. Pupils will use their skills in English across the wider curriculum to embed an understanding of context and purpose.

Mathematics

Children will develop fluency in skills that underpin mathematics and will develop their ability to apply, reason and problem solve confidently across the areas of number, statistics, geometry and measurement.

At Monkwick Junior School, we work hard to create successful mathematicians. Pupils are taught to understand not only the foundations of the subject, but also given the skills to apply that understanding to situations which will help them in years to come. Children will engage with challenging problems, which will push their understanding of what they know to the next level. There are also many opportunities to apply mathematical skills across the curriculum, allowing for a broader comprehension of why maths is important on a wider scale.

Science

Children will gain core scientific knowledge and vocabulary, and use this to explore, investigate, understand and explain the workings of the world around them, alongside the skills of conducting fair experiments.

At Monkwick Junior School, we aim to give children a Science curriculum which enables them to explore and discover the world around them confidently, so that they have a deeper understanding of the building blocks of the world they live in. Through a hands-on curriculum, rich in investigation, experience and knowledge, children will experience the joy of exploration, developing their ideas and finding new things out. Our aim is that these stimulating and challenging experiences will help children secure and extend their scientific knowledge and vocabulary, to nurture a lifelong interest in science.

Computing

Children will develop their use and application of a range of software, as well as developing the skills to start coding and programming.

At Monkwick Junior School, we believe that Computing is an integral part of modern day life and therefore provides a wealth of learning opportunities, explicitly within computing and also across other curriculum subjects. Through the study of computing, children are able to develop a wide range of fundamental skills, knowledge and understanding that they will need for the rest of their lives. 'Computational Thinking' is a skill

children must be taught in order to provide them with essential knowledge and skills that will enable them to participate effectively in an ever evolving digital world.

Personal and Social Development

Children will focus on key skills and knowledge that enable them be aware of modern society and their place in it, so they can make positive choices that enable them to flourish and thrive.

At Monkwick Junior School, we teach Personal and Social Development to help pupils develop their potential to develop as individuals who know how to make a positive contribution to themselves and society. Children are given information about how to keep their minds and bodies healthy so that they can take care of themselves, as well as developing how to understand and manage their emotions. They will also learn to develop positive relationships with others, and how to take care of the environment.

History

Children will learn the history of the UK and other places, and the experiences of the people who lived in each era. They will reflect on what we can learn from the past and how we can influence the future.

History at Monkwick Junior School will provide a clear chronology with how the British Isles have changed over time, as well as significant changes in the wider world. By learning about these changes across a range of different historical themes, children will gather a deep understanding of key moments, people and changes in history, and will be encouraged to reflect on how and why these changes have taken place over time, as well as how they might work to change the world for the better in the future.

Geography

Children will learn about their local area and how it has developed, as well as learning about life in other cultures and countries, and will reflect on how each place's geographical makeup can shape people's lives.

Geography at Monkwick Junior School will allow children to understand key differences and similarities between their own area and the rest of the world. They will be given opportunities and real experiences to provide them with the context they need to understand the complex world they live in. They will see how the world has changed and continues to change over time. Children will be provided with an appreciation and understanding of the rich diversity in people, culture, and the natural world through studying specific countries and customs, that reflect and celebrate difference.

Religious Education

Children will learn about the different traditions and beliefs held by the six major religions, as well as those of humanists. They will reflect on what is special, what is similar and what they themselves believe.

RE at Monkwick Junior School will ensure that children have an understanding of the key beliefs of a range of religions within Great Britain, and worldwide. RE will offer a structured and safe space for reflection, discussion, debate and dialogue. By exploring and developing their knowledge of particular themes across religions, such as festivals, how people show their faith and how they celebrate, we aim to develop respect and tolerance for different beliefs, and for those without faith.

Design and Technology

Children will design and make a range of products, chosen to be those that they would be able to enjoy and use themselves, across a range of products linked to construction, food technology and textiles.

At Monkwick, we aim to develop creative, technical and practical skills to enable pupils to go through the stages of research, designing and making products that they can use or give as gifts. They will develop a good understanding of food hygiene and nutrition as they learn how to prepare and cook a range of dishes. They will also be able to use a variety of sewing techniques to create products for different purposes. Pupils will build and apply their knowledge, understanding and skills in order to design and make high-quality

prototypes and products. They will be able to critique, evaluate and test their ideas and products as well as the work of others.

Music

Children will develop their singing skills, listen to and compose different styles of music, and play a variety of percussive instruments, as well as starting to learn to play the keyboard and read musical notation.

At Monkwick Junior School, we know that music promotes positivity, self-confidence and a sense of community. We believe that music should be fun and accessible to all. Therefore, we think that it should be a part of our everyday lives, whether through singing assemblies, productions, music lessons or cross-curricular activities. We aim to inculcate a love of musical learning that prepares pupils for lifetime involvement with music; not only as audience members, but as active participants in performing and creating, thereby enabling them to contribute to the richness and progress of their own culture.

French

Children will learn French vocabulary and simple sentence structures, and use those to communicate in French in spoken word and in writing.

At Monkwick Junior School, we aim to immerse the pupils in French through song, videos and written texts. They will use these resources to learn the vocabulary they need to speak and write in French. Through speaking opportunities, they will become more fluent and improve their pronunciation. They will develop an appreciation for the language through reading appropriate texts and they will apply their understanding of newly acquired vocabulary and grammatical structures in writing.

Physical Education

Children will participate in a range of competitive sports and other physically demanding activities. They will have opportunities to become competent in a way that supports their health and fitness.

At Monkwick Junior School, children will understand the benefits of being physically active and be inspired to find activities that they would like to pursue. Underpinning this will be the development of skills, abilities and understanding that allow them to adapt to a wide range of physical activities. Children will understand and experience the benefits of exercise as part of a healthy, active lifestyle. This will not just be limited to the physical benefits but also character building and understanding of values such as respect and fair play.

Advantage Curriculum

Children will have the opportunity to further their learning outside of academic subjects through a range of key experiences linked to the Trust values and development of the whole child.

Our Advantage Curriculum has been designed to develop skills and knowledge outside of those developed by our academic subjects. The areas which are the focus of our Advantage Curriculum are developing expression and creativity, understanding how to care for the environment and live sustainably, facing new challenges positively, engaging with culture, contributing to the wider community and preparing for future careers. These are linked to the Sigma Trust values of Passion, Accountability, Resilience, Respect, Integrity and Aspiration.