



The Acre Hall Curriculum

Introduction

Our main aim is to provide quality experiences in all aspects of school life so enabling pupils to be happy, successful and keen to learn, thus helping them to grow into young people who are fulfilled and able to make a positive contribution to society.

“They come this way only once so we should litter their pathways with quality experiences”

We do this in the context of a warm, welcoming and respectful ethos so that our caring ways are apparent to all who stay with us and so that our children will develop strong and correct positive values.

We are aiming to educate the whole child by presenting a total experience which is right and relevant to his/her individuality, thus fostering the child’s intellectual, physical, cultural, moral and spiritual development.

We recognise that change and progress are an important part of everyday life and, therefore, aim to equip children to cope and flourish in dealing with the challenges faced by such changes.

Timetabled lessons

In putting the curriculum into practice we aim to ensure that –

- Children’s skills and knowledge progresses smoothly from teacher to teacher from Early Years Foundation Stage to KS1, from KS1 to KS2 and from primary school to secondary school so that the work at one stage follows on naturally from the work of the stage before.
- Excellence is pursued through rigorous coverage of learning objectives delivered via challenging and stimulating lessons.

Every child’s learning programme is varied, balanced and each part of it relates to the others.

- Children are taught in small groups, as part of a whole class or individually, to match their particular needs. Children who learn more slowly or have exceptional ability are catered for as an integral part of the work of the school.
- Gender stereotyping is avoided.

- As far as possible learning is rooted in the pupil's personal experience and relates to practical everyday needs.
- Lessons are designed to prepare children for life in a society which recognises the different cultural backgrounds of its citizens.

We teach a broad and balanced curriculum based on the 2014 National Curriculum but tailored to the specific needs of Acre Hall pupils. Opportunities for the key assessments of the children's progress will be incorporated into teachers' planning; time is also provided for pupils to reflect and evaluate their progress towards key targets and read and act upon their teachers' written feedback. Homework is set to support pupils' learning in core subjects from Reception to Year 6.

Collective worship

At Acre Hall, themes covered in Collective Worship represent many of the key curriculum aims of the school. Collective worships are carefully planned to link into curriculum areas and communicate whole school priorities. Guest speakers often visit the school including representatives from different faiths, emergency services, fund raisers for charities and experts in particular fields.

Extra-curricular activities

The school offers a wide variety of extra-curricular activities to enhance pupils' learning experiences. The following clubs are regularly offered to pupils during the school year: cross country, football, netball, , dance, multi-skills, cookery and art. They will be age-range regulated (due to numbers) and may vary throughout the school year. Many of these activities are offered by Acre Hall staff but a number of others are offered by outside agencies.

Several clubs run by outside agencies are funded by the additional sport funding grant.

Cross curricular links

In Key Stage One pupils learn geography, history, art and DT through a balance of cross curricular themes and subject specific lessons. Themes also offer the opportunity to implement English and mathematics skills. Subjects are taught mainly in subject specific lessons in Key Stage Two in order to get the pupils ready for secondary education and give them a deeper and more rigorous learning experience. Nevertheless, natural links between core and foundation subjects in Key Stage Two are encouraged and developed eg history and English, design technology and mathematics. Safeguarding, entrepreneurial, spiritual, moral, social, cultural and personal areas of learning are also incorporated into lessons wherever possible.

Transition to secondary school

In Year 6 pupils get the opportunity to spend a whole day in a local secondary school as well as experience some individual lessons. Acre Hall provides a programme of transition sessions to prepare pupils for life in secondary school. Pupils learn about how to find their way around new places; who they can ask for help; how they can organise timetables and manage resources so that they have everything they need at the correct time; making friends etc

Trips and residentials

In every year group pupils enjoy a number of trips relating to curricular themes and timetabled subjects. Museums, concert halls, theatres, zoos, country parks, seaside towns and historic buildings are all regularly visited by classes. Year 6 undertake a three day residential each year in Lancashire in the first half of the Summer term.

Sports enhancement

Acre Hall employs a sports coach who delivers sports lessons to all classes in school. In addition to this our sports coach delivers a number of after school clubs and lunchtime sports activities. Leadership development sessions are also delivered culminating in older pupils getting the opportunity to act as sports leaders for younger pupils.

Sports festivals and competitions

Each academic year pupils from Acre Hall attend sports festivals where they compete against pupils of the same age from other schools. The festivals are organised by Trafford School Sports Partnership. In addition Key Stage Two pupils get the opportunity to compete at inter-school level in cross country, football, netball, skittle ball, cricket, rounders and athletics. The school is regularly entered into leagues and tournaments.

Charity fund raising

Acre Hall pupils get the opportunity to raise money for charity by wearing casual clothes and bringing in a contribution. On these days there is an assembly about the chosen charity to inform the pupils about the work it does and what will happen to the money that is raised. The Acre Hall school community participate annually in fund raising for Children in Need and Comic Relief. Acre Hall's School Councillors organise cake sales and book sales for charity and members of staff have even been known to run marathons to raise money for good causes!

Curriculum days/weeks

Every year subjects are focussed and their profiles raised through special days eg World Book Day or International Languages Day. On those days pupils will move from their regular timetable to focus on one particular subject for a day. This enables them to work in more depth in that subject and try activities that may normally, due to lack of time, be impossible to complete in a day. Pupils often attend a celebratory assembly where they present their work. Each term, each class produces a display for the corridor. The displays change on cycle and can reflect special historic events or cultural events eg centenary of WW1 or the Olympics.

Art projects

Pupils from each class are given the opportunity to work in small groups once a year on an art project. They undertake this with The Dunham Trust's 'Artist in Residence' along with other visiting artists who have the skills, materials and tools to enable the pupils to create fantastic work such as ceramics, sculpture and large scale paintings and tapestry that wouldn't generally be possible within a whole class setting.