



'Together We Grow'

Smithdown Primary School

Curriculum Policy

Reviewed annually

Last reviewed: September 2025

‘Together We Grow’

Our Key Values

Our school motto is ‘Together we Grow’.

We ensure that every child has access to a broad, balanced and supportive curriculum. Through this we are able to give our pupils a range of opportunities and experiences to grow and develop academically, physically socially and morally.

Our School Vision

At Smithdown Primary School, we aim high for every member of our community—pupils, parents, and staff. We are committed to creating a happy, safe, and stimulating environment where children are inspired to learn and grow together. We have high expectations of ourselves and each other and we equip our pupils to face opportunities and challenges with confidence, resilience, and determination. We nurture curiosity about the world and strive to develop children who make a positive contribution—both now and in the future.

Introduction

At Smithdown Primary School we aim high. We want every part of our school community- pupils, parents and members of staff to experience success. Our motto is 'Together we Grow'.

We aim to achieve the following through our curriculum design and delivery:

- To provide all pupils with a rich, diverse, stimulating and challenging curriculum
- To provide opportunities for all learners to develop detailed knowledge and skills across the curriculum.
- To ensure that pupils are ready for the next stage in their education, ensuring that they acquire the knowledge and skills required to meet their interests and aspirations.
- To encourage pupils to read widely and often, with fluency and comprehension.
- To encourage and support pupils to be responsible, respectful, fair and tolerant as they grow into young adults in line with British Values.
- To foster and encourage children to be independent, resilient and ambitious learners who solve problems collaboratively; celebrating the achievements of themselves and others.
- To be a central point for all members of our community – working towards our motto: "Together we Grow"

Intent

At Smithdown Primary School, we aim high. Our motto, *"Together we Grow"*, reflects our belief that every member of our school community — pupils, parents and staff — can experience success and reach their full potential.

Our curriculum is rooted, and has grown from, a solid agreement between all subject leaders. It is ambitious, broad and balanced and designed to give all pupils the strong foundations they need for academic achievement, good health and well-being, and for success in later life.

Opportunities for reading are woven through every subject, including access to high-quality non-fiction texts, age-appropriate magazines such as *Whizz Pop Bang* and *National Geographic*, and explicit teaching of subject-specific vocabulary. Reading is central to learning across the curriculum and underpins pupils' success in all areas.

We strive to ensure that the needs of all of our pupils are met, making appropriate adaptations and providing tailored support to any pupil who may face barriers to their learning and well-being.

We ensure that our curriculum:

- is coherently planned and sequenced, building knowledge and skills incrementally so pupils know more, remember more and can do more over time;
- establishes firm foundations in communication and language, reading, writing and mathematics, enabling all pupils to access and succeed across the wider curriculum;

- provides a wealth of opportunities and experiences that promote academic, physical, social and moral development;
- reflects our local community, enabling pupils to engage with local events, exhibitions and heritage, while broadening their understanding of the wider world;
- nurtures pupils' curiosity, creativity and critical thinking, helping them to become independent, motivated and resilient learners;
- supports pupils' academic success, physical health, emotional well-being and moral development;
- ensures reading is prioritised across all subjects, developing pupils' vocabulary, comprehension and enjoyment of literature;
- prepares pupils to be responsible, respectful and active citizens, ready for the next stage of education and for life in modern Britain.

Through our curriculum, we ensure that every child at Smithdown Primary School has the opportunity to grow, achieve and flourish, — truly living our belief that *“Together we Grow.”*

Planning

Using the National Curriculum as a starting point, we plan and organise our curriculum to ensure that there is clear progression both within and across year groups. Curriculum planning provides us with a route to our desired outcomes but we are not bound by it – any local events/ exhibitions will be interwoven into our curriculum.

‘Yearly subject overviews’ for each subject illustrate how new knowledge and skills build on what has been learnt before. These also ensure that all teachers understand, and know, what is needed for our pupils to achieve our agreed and defined end points.

Clearly identified end points ensure that children’s progress is carefully monitored through a thorough cycle of teaching, learning and assessment. Where children are found to need additional support, we have a variety of personalised interventions to ensure that they reach their full potential.

Professional Development

As part of our continuing professional development, we value educational research and, as such we are members of all of the appropriate associations (e.g. Geography Association, Association for Science Education and History Association). Subject leaders remain up to date with current research and initiatives for their subject through primary journals, social media and by attending local authority briefings. Relevant information is shared with staff via staff meetings/INSET.

We currently hold the following quality marks:

- History Quality Mark (Gold)
- Artsmark (Gold)
- Primary Geography Quality Mark (silver)
- Primary Science Quality Mark (Gilt)
- Sportsmark (Gold)
- ADHD Friendly School Award
- IQM (Inclusion Quality Mark)

We continually aim high; our determination to improve learning outcomes for all learners is evident in our continuous drive to raise standards across all subject areas.

Implementation

Outstanding teachers have been appointed to key posts within the school and, when appointing subject leaders, we match individual strengths to the needs of the subject. We ensure that all of our teachers have expert knowledge in the subjects that they teach and both teachers and subject leaders regularly attend training throughout the year to ensure that we are up to date with any new initiatives.

Our curriculum is carefully planned and sequenced to ensure that, over the course of study, pupils remember long term the content that they have been taught and integrate new knowledge into larger areas.

Teaching and learning cycles are monitored by all staff during half termly 'monitoring meetings'. This is an integral part of the robust monitoring system that we have in our school and continues to ensure that teachers have expert knowledge in all subjects.

Formative assessment and revisiting of previous learning ensure that key concepts are embedded in our pupils' long term memory; giving pupils the opportunity to fluently apply prior learning and skills to new concepts.

At the end of a unit of work, teachers assess the children and subject leaders monitor the attainment of all pupils including specific groups. This information is not only used to inform future planning but it also allows the subject leader to reflect on attainment for all pupils and possible training/resourcing needs across the school.

If a class is found to be working below what is expected, the subject leader will meet with that class teacher to discuss the attainment of the class and, if needed, subject leaders will provide additional support/training for individual teachers and/or purchase new resources. Our assessment and monitoring cycle work together to help us deliver the very best curriculum to our pupils.

Throughout all areas of the curriculum, reading is prioritised. Key vocabulary for all subjects is prominent on working walls and children are given access to a range of age appropriate texts across all subject areas. This vocabulary is frequently revisited as children move through school to ensure that key vocabulary is understood and retained.

There is a sharp focus on phonics for our younger pupils and a programme of support is in place for any older children who may need additional help, these may be SEND, EAL or new to country.

Diversity throughout the curriculum

At Smithdown Primary School, we actively celebrate and reflect the rich diversity of our pupils and their families across all areas of the curriculum. We are committed to promoting equality and inclusion by ensuring that different cultures, backgrounds, and perspectives are embedded in our teaching and learning. For example, in Science and Art, pupils learn about influential scientists and artists from a wide range of ethnic and cultural backgrounds. In Design and Technology, we explore global cuisines and create dishes inspired by a variety of cultures. Our Music curriculum introduces children to traditional and contemporary music from around the world, helping them appreciate diverse musical heritage. In Geography, we study and compare different cultures, deepening children's understanding of global communities. Across all year groups, our reading materials include a wide range of books that represent diverse characters, experiences, and voices, ensuring every child feels seen and valued. Through these approaches, we ensure that diversity and equality are not one-off topics, but an integral part of everyday learning.

Language Support

With such a high proportion of EAL pupils, we have a dedicated language support teacher (managed by our Inclusion Manager) who delivers a bespoke and personalised curriculum to those pupils identified as needing additional language support. This may be pupils who have little understanding of the English language or those who are new to country and have no English.

We have skilled Learning Supported Assistants who have received extensive training to ensure that WellComm is delivered across the school to those pupils who have been identified as having areas of concern in language, communication, and interaction development in order to ensure early targeted intervention.

In addition to this, we have regular support from our speech therapists who not only deliver 1:1 sessions with our pupils but also provide continuous CPD support for our teachers to ensure that effective language techniques and programmes are interwoven into the day to day running of the school for the benefit of all pupils.

Therapy Support

In order to access our outstanding curriculum some children may need additional support. At Smithdown Primary school, we recognise all pupils as individuals; each has had different starting points in life, they may have experienced ACE's (Adverse Childhood Experiences) or they may be currently struggling with their mental health. In order to help our children be ready to learn, we offer the following therapies:

Play Therapy

Music Therapy

Drawing and Talking

In addition to this, our Family Liaison Officer offers many interventions that support children with their worries or friendship issues.

Homework

All children will be given weekly spellings and times tables to practise at home. Children should practise every night. Knowledge of multiplication facts greatly benefits children in all areas of mathematics as they progress through school and knowledge of spellings – and their definitions – supports children with the development of their writing across all subject areas.

Children are expected to read (or be read to) with their parents every evening. In EYFS and KS 1 we would suggest a minimum of 10 minutes per night and in KS2 a minimum of 20 minutes per night. Studies have shown that regular reading can have a range of benefits across all areas of the curriculum.

Why is reading so important?

Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day not only perform better in reading tests than those who don't, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures. In fact, there's evidence to suggest that reading for pleasure is more likely to determine whether a child does well at school than their social or economic background.

Supporting your child with their reading

All children will be given a home reading book and a reading record. In addition to this, children are welcome to borrow a school library book to take home and read for pleasure.

We would strongly encourage parents to visit Liverpool's Central library where children can access and borrow a wide range of books for free.

Teachers may set additional homework when they feel that it will enhance the learning of a particular piece of work, for example, children may be set a homework challenge or be given an additional piece of work to complete.

Supporting your child at home

Our school website (<https://smithdownprimary.com/>) details our curriculum coverage and our year group pages provide further information about what is being taught in each year.

Our home learning page (<https://smithdownprimary.com/curriculum/home-learning/>) provides links to websites that we feel provide quality resources for children to access at home.

Impact

As a result of our well thought out and planned curriculum, pupils develop detailed knowledge and skills across the curriculum and, as a result, achieve well.

The impact of our curriculum is regularly monitored through regular learning walks and lesson observations, the collection and evaluation of attainment data, comparing standards of learning across subjects, internal and external moderation, pupil and parent voice, and collaboration regarding the development and implementation of our curriculum within our network of schools and working closely with our local school improvement agency

At Smithdown Primary School, we are proud of our stimulating, inclusive and progressive curriculum — one that enables every child to flourish and embodies our belief that *"Together we Grow."*

Next review date: September 2026