

## Clifton Curriculum

### 'To Enjoy and Achieve Together.'

At Clifton we believe every child has a right to a good, full and rich curriculum appropriate to their needs. We are determined that the curriculum will cater for all children's needs and develop the whole child.

We feel our curriculum is relevant to the learners; has breadth of subjects; develops the whole person; is aspirational; sets high standards and is socially aware.

#### Our curriculum

School's curriculum is on a two year cycle. Children complete work in either standalone books (eg science) topic books or in other books. Much of the children's learning is cross curricular – there might be maths, science, RE, English etc in a given book.

As well as 'traditional' subjects we spend a part of every week on Philosophy for Children (P4C).

P4C:

- encourages children to speak/listen constructively; create their own questions and challenge during positive discourse (supporting reading and interrogation skills)
- enables children to discuss social matters – eg persecution of individuals due to race/sexual orientation etc
- asks children the big question – who am I, what do I want to do, is it better to be
- tackles social issues

We teach P4C throughout school – our youngest children debate choices – our eldest are set questions with many possible answers and rationale – e.g. is it better to be rich and sad or poor and happy?

Via P4C and PSHE SMSC underpins all learning.

Our curriculum is taught through an increasingly dynamic, structured, themed approach which appeals to children and excites their interests. A two-year rolling programme is in operation – to cater for mixed age classes. Each unit is packed with fresh ideas and experiences to excite your child. All topics are checked to ensure rigorous curriculum coverage, so every parent/carer can be confident that their son or daughter gets the widest possible experiences – even to plan some of their own learning based on the questions they've thought of themselves: Why does light appear to be 'white'? Why can't you 'un-cook' a sausage? What might 'treasure' *really* be in life? And much more....

The aim of our curriculum might best be summed up in the phrase "to live, to learn, to love, to leave a legacy". Why? Because, like adults, all children have four basic needs:

a physical need (the need to keep healthy and be able to physically provide for oneself and, as an adult, for one's family);

a mental need (the need to continually learn new skills, knowledge and understanding)

a social need (the need to be loved and cared for) and

a spiritual need (the need to feel connection with and an understanding of life and the world around us).

Clifton's curriculum aims to attend to each of these needs in turn.

Physical needs – *the need to live* – the curriculum here focuses upon consistent balanced exercise and wise nutrition. Our physical needs is also addressed in life skills – swimming – and aspirational activities – horse riding

Mental needs – *the need to learn* – teaching in this field emphasises the value of continuous, systematic and disciplined study in all subjects. It cultivates a sense of growing self-awareness. It also focuses on learning not just by doing, but sometimes by pupils teaching others themselves.

Social needs – *the need to be loved and cared for* – children focus upon developing self-awareness, personal motivation, self-regulation, empathy, trustworthiness, and social & communication skills.

Spiritual needs – *the need to leave a legacy* – the curriculum builds inner integrity in children (the importance of making and keeping promises; being true to one's highest values and conscience) and allows pupils to

develop leadership skills within themselves, and make a contribution to both people and causes, such as the school and community.

#### ICT

School currently employs the services of an ICT specialist to ensure that the children have access to challenging lessons in line with the new curriculum. Staff and children are supported in developing skills and there is an after school programming club for children that want to access it.

The new website will provide a safe Virtual Learning Environment for all children and will offer support that will enable skills to be developed at home.

At the start of every school year children cover internet safety as part of their 'safety' topic and parents are regularly reminded of the issues surrounding use of the internet via our informative weekly newsletter.

#### Science

Science is one of the core subjects. Science may be taught within topics (where appropriate) or as a stand alone subject – school has developed its own scheme and assessment system.. School seeks to work with outside providers to ensure that children have access to scientific understanding that may not be readily available in school.

The science coordinator regularly updates the curriculum and ensures that science is given a high priority

#### Special weeks

As well as regular lessons we organize 'special weeks' to ensure the children have access to a varied and rich educational experience often utilizing individuals and organizations that will inspire and create aspiration. Our special weeks open children's eyes to the endless possibilities that can be offered to them, they further enhance the children's learning experience.

Over the past years children have experienced the following special topics:

	Activities/experiences
Aspiration week	Numerous professionals speak to children about their career and education; children also complete their own skills audit; P4C assembly is focused on the importance of the different positions
Art/DT/Enterprise week	Children design and make art work based upon class themes or artists. Children design and make products to sell at the summer fair (children are also involved in an enterprise scheme with Manchester United)
Drama/Reading/Theatre	Children work on performance art via the spoken word – have guest speakers and authors
Sports week (Annual)	Para- Olympian athlete; Manchester united; Diet; numerous coaches including dance and rugby professionals
Birds of prey	Birds of prey visited school; Swinton High taught the children about skeletons
Science week	Expert led experiments (in the class and hall)
Music Week	African drumming for all; composing on I-Pads; rap and instrument making)
Maths week	A week of class activities
RE – world religion weeks	Islamic Art , religious leader visits