

East Bridgford St. Peter's CE Academy

How we organise mixed age classes



St Peter's is a 'Take Care' school where we take care of ourselves, each other, the world and with our work.

At St. Peter's we have designed a bespoke curriculum that is designed to excite, engage and challenge children to help them achieve, flourish and be the best they can be.

Due to the numbers of children that we have in school, we currently teach in classes that often have a mixed age range in them e.g. your child may be in a class with Year 1 and Year 2 children. As in many schools this can change from year to year and determines the need for us to provide a rolling curriculum. The rolling curriculum consists of a number of cycles that are taught so children will achieve the national curriculum outcomes by the end of the programme. At St. Peter's we have planned for groups of children to experience the full curriculum, however, it may be completed in a different order to another group of a similar age.

We teach English and Mathematics independently of our project themes. This ensures that all children can follow the correct expectations for their year group. We hope this will reassure all parents that all children will be supported and challenged to reach their full potential irrespective of the class in which they are placed.

To ensure the full coverage of the other subjects in the National Curriculum we have designed 6 curriculum cycles. There are two cycles that cover work for children in KS1 and four cycles for KS2. These curriculum cycles have been designed to be flexible and adaptive to all pupils' needs and to build upon previous learning.

In each of the curriculum cycles, there are three termly learning questions, that centre around many of the foundation subject areas e.g. history, geography and science. When exploring and answering these questions, children develop the key skills and knowledge to know and remember more about subjects areas they are studying.

Cycles

KS1 Cycle A – What is it like to live in the UK?

KS1 Cycle B – Who are the significant people and the special places of the UK?

KS2 Cycle A – What do we know about people who lived a long time ago?

KS2 Cycle B – How do things and people travel?

KS2 Cycle C – What have we learnt from significant people and civilisations?

KS2 Cycle D – How are we impacting the world?

At St. Peter's we have taken a long-term approach to this mix by organising when each group of children will be following each of the cycles described above e.g. a child in KS2 may follow cycles B, A, D and C in this order. As each cycle is adaptable, teachers can tailor the content to the needs and current achievement of the children in their class. By following this plan, no child will repeat a topic, and the work will be planned to support and challenge depending on the child's needs not necessarily their age.

As they move through the school, your child will stay in a small group from their academic year. Each year smaller groups will move to merge with other groups to form new classes, but your child will always have a core group of peers around them that they know, whilst enjoying the ability to make new friends in the new group and work with a wider circle of friends.