



The Curriculum at Dormer House School

'Education is an atmosphere, a discipline and a life.'

At Dormer House the curriculum consists of planned activities organised in order to promote learning, personal growth and development. It includes not only the formal curriculum, but also the range of extra-curricular activities that the school offers to enrich the experiences of the children. It also includes the 'hidden curriculum', which is what the children learn from the way they are treated and expected to behave.

At Dormer House it is our aim to give children a comprehensive education through a wide curriculum based on the philosophy of Charlotte Mason, founder of the PNEU (Parents National Education Union). The 'Dormer House Way' ensures that each child is treated as a person of importance, able to develop their true potential, and so become independent learners and self-reliant adults capable of thinking for themselves and standing by their decisions.

The 'Dormer House Way' ensures that we:

- Value each child's uniqueness, listening to their views and promoting respect for different cultures;
- Value the spiritual and moral development of each child, as well as their intellectual and physical growth;
- Value the importance of each person in our community, and we organise our curriculum to promote inclusion, cooperation and understanding among all members of our community;
- Value the rights enjoyed by each person in our society. We respect each child in our school for who they are, and we treat them with fairness and honesty. We want to enable each person to be successful, and we provide equal opportunities for all our pupils;
- Value our environment, and we want to teach our pupils, through our curriculum, how we should take care of the world, not only for ourselves, but also for future generations.

We aim to achieve this by:

- Promoting a positive attitude towards learning, so that children enjoy coming to school, and acquire a solid basis for lifelong learning;
- Giving all pupils the opportunity to shine through academic excellence, sporting challenges, creative expression, technology and music;
- Providing a stimulating and creative curriculum. We are not confined to the National Curriculum; our aim is to cover it and more.

- Embracing the key skills of communication; application of number; information technology; working with others to improve one's own learning and performance and problem-solving;
- Delivering challenging and well-planned lessons;
- Monitoring and assessing individual and class progress regularly;
- Using specialist teachers who have high expectations and a passion for what they are teaching;
- Using subject coordinators to provide a strategic lead and direction for the subject reviewing policies, Schemes of Work, planning and when necessary instigating changes to reflect best practice;
- Enabling children to have respect for themselves and high self-esteem, and to live and work cooperatively with others;
- Catering for the needs of all pupils, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, in small classes where every child has a voice.

At Dormer House:

- Parents receive a curriculum overview outlining what their child will be covering over the course of the term. If necessary, further detail and clarification can be sought from either the class teacher or the subject specialist;
- Each subject taught has its own policy which is regularly reviewed to reflect current practice;
- The Education Committee meets termly to discuss teaching and learning working with the head teacher, who is responsible for the day-to-day organisation of the curriculum and reporting back to the Board of Trustees assisted by the Deputy Head.
- Curriculum Files, which include subject policies, termly planning, annual subject reports and training materials are maintained in the Head's office for the following subjects :

1. Art and Picture Study
2. Design and Technology
3. Drama
4. English
5. Geography
6. History
7. Information, Communication and Technology (ICT)
8. Mathematics
9. Modern Languages and Latin
10. Music
11. Nature Study
12. Personal, Social, Citizenship and Health Education (PSCHE)
13. Physical Education/Sport
14. Religious Education
15. Science Policy