

What Are The Children Taught?

The school curriculum

As with other schools, Silkstone Common School is obligated to meet the requirements of the National Curriculum and RE. For Key Stages 1 and 2 the subjects are:

- Mathematics and English are the core subjects.
- Science , History, Geography, Design Technology, Art, Music, Modern Foreign Language (French), Physical Education and Physical, Social, Health and Citizenship are the foundation subjects.
- Information and Communication Technology is a foundation subject taught through the other National Curriculum areas.
- Religious Education is a core subject and considered to be an essential part of the school's basic curriculum.

The curriculum is delivered through programmes of study, which are structured in terms of what is appropriate to teach pupils at a particular key stage. A child's years at Silkstone Common School are covered by three key stages: the Foundation Stage covers our Reception children, KS 1 covers the next two Infant years in the school and KS 2 covering the next four years.

The purpose of the Foundation Stage and KS 1 is to lay the foundation for future learning by developing basic skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening; introducing the children to the content spanning all the subjects of the curriculum and promoting positive attitudes to learning. In their Reception year (Foundation Stage) children are taught from the Early Years and Foundation Stage Curriculum. Areas covered include:

- Personal, social and emotional development
- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

In KS 2, as well as continuing the work begun in KS 1 by consolidating basic skills, more time will be spent studying science and the specific knowledge of other foundation subjects. Subject areas covered by the National Curriculum include:

Curriculum topics

Art

From an early age children are encouraged to work in various media encompassing drawing, printing, textiles, collage, 3D work and painting. Children are encouraged to look carefully at their own artwork and the work of artists from a variety of periods and traditions.

Design and Technology

Design and Technology gives all the children some experience in developing processes and skills that will enable them to satisfy their natural curiosity about the world surrounding them. Lessons planned by the teacher will help children understand the world through practical problem solving in conjunction with design and making activities. Learning through doing can be exciting and stimulating.

English

Teachers plan English lessons from the National Literacy Strategy. Every child in the school has a Literacy Hour in which the following National Curriculum areas are taught:

Speaking and Listening

This programme of study is concerned with the development of effective speaking and listening. Children are taught to use vocabulary and grammar of spoken standard English, express their ideas and feelings and to listen, understand and respond appropriately to others.

Reading

Reading is the most vital skill learnt in the early years at school. It is about enjoyment, making sense of text and understanding and learning to read to obtain information as well as experiencing satisfaction and pleasure. At Silkstone Common the development of the ability to read begins as soon as possible and initial reading skills are learnt by each child.

- Parents have an important role to play in this process by taking an interest in the child's reading and by being supportive.

Writing which includes Spelling and Handwriting.

Our main objective in this area is for the child to develop the necessary skills, which enable her/ him to express himself independently through the written word. During their time at Silkstone Common children will write both factual and creative text.

They will be taught to write poems and stories and to record facts and experiments. At later stages they will be encouraged to draft and redraft work in order to produce work having depth and quality. Throughout all this work attention is paid to grammar, spelling, punctuation and presentation.

Geography

Pupils will be involved in the study of places - the human and physical processes that shape them and the people who live in them. Much of the pupils learning in the early stages will be based on practical activities and explorations of the local area. They will be given opportunities to develop their geographical skills and knowledge through studying other localities and the quality of the environment.

History

Pupils will be given the opportunity to develop an awareness of the past and how it differs from the present. They will be taught about important episodes and developments throughout history with the emphasis on Britain's past and will have the opportunity to investigate the local history of Silkstone Common. They will be helped to develop a sense of chronology and to learn about changes in everyday life over long periods of time.

Information and Communication Technology

Our aim is to use Information and Communication Technology across the curriculum. Most classes have three computers. In addition, as a result of the recent extension we have a dedicated IT Suite containing 28 computers. This is used for small group work across the curriculum. There are a further 16 Lap-top computers for classroom use.

All the computers are connected to the Internet. In line with best practice for schools there are safeguards in place to prevent both inappropriate access to sites by children and access to children through the Internet by inappropriate persons.

Mathematics

Lessons are planned based upon the Numeracy Strategy. As with English there will be approximately one hour each day given over to the teaching of mathematics.

Mathematics in the National Curriculum is delivered through programmes of study for each Key Stage. The elements of which are:

- Using and applying Mathematics This area involves the application and transference of mathematical skills. It develops the skills of prediction, interpretation and communication.

- **Number** This area deals with understanding the conservation of number, place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, to explore patterns and relationships within numbers.
- **Shape, Space and Measures** These areas include work with 2D and 3D shapes, symmetry, angles and all areas of measures: length, capacity, weight, time and temperature.
- **Handling Data** Here we look at skills of data collection, communication and interpretation.

During KS1 children are helped to develop an awareness of the patterns in number and shape so laying the foundation for calculations and measurement.

The children working within KS2 are encouraged to build upon those experiences and so extend their mathematical skills to become confident of numbers and be able to solve more complex problems.

Music

Our aim is to encourage children's understanding and enjoyment of music through an involvement in performing, composing, listening and appraising. Through practical activities such as singing, clapping and playing percussion instruments children learn about rhythm, pitch and harmony.

In addition we have a good relationship the School's Music Service. They hold weekly guitar, cello and flute classes. Musical instruments can also be hired for a small charge through the School's Music Service.

There are extra-curricular music lessons at lunchtimes.

Mrs Smith runs a School Orchestra which is becoming well known in the Barnsley area. Rehearsals are usually held within the school day. [Please visit our Extra-curricular pages for more information](#)

Physical Education

Physical Education includes games, gymnastics, dance and athletics. Children have the opportunity to swim at KS2. In all areas we try to plan and structure the activities with the needs of each child taken into account as well as the general development of the group.

Religious Education

In line with the Barnsley Local Education Authority agreed Religious Education Syllabus we provide religious education, which can be considered as 'broadly Christian' in nature. Parents who, on the grounds of conscience, wish to withdraw their children from acts of collective worship and RE lessons have the right to do so.

Science

Science for young children should be natural and simple. It is exciting because it concerns their world and finding out about it in all its aspects. By discovering the way things live and work within the immediate environment the children in our school will find the answers to questions about the world around them, through first-hand experiences and observations.

We aim to develop the children's understanding of: living things and their interaction with the environment: materials and their characteristics: energy and its interaction with materials and forces and their effects.

Sex and health education

Some formal Sex Education takes place in Class 5 (Y6), but in general the school tries to deal with the subject incidentally as it arises through topic work on animals, ourselves etc.

Similarly Health Education tends to be taught through other subjects. Drug education will be taught as a part of Health Education.

The school's aims and provision for sport

All children are encouraged to take part in a variety of sports and games with the aim of providing enjoyment, developing sportsmanship and improving skills. These include soccer, rounders, netball and swimming. The

school has a playing field and a hard surface playing area. Occasional matches are played against other schools. Practice sessions for a range of sports are conducted after school hours, with parent's permission. [Please visit our Extra-curricular pages for more information](#)