

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Curriculum organisation

Careful planning with the Infant Schools means that your child's education carries on smoothly at the end of Year 2. During the four years at Firside we build upon, and extend, the knowledge and skills learnt at Infant School.

In Year 3 and 4 your child will be taught mainly by their own classteacher. Later on, they will be taught by different teachers so that they may benefit from teachers' specialist strengths. It also helps prepare them for High School.

English: is not only taught in a daily Literacy lesson but through all subjects across the week. In Literacy, children are usually taught in matched ability groups within the normal class setting. Use is made of film-clips and drama to make learning come alive.

Maths: is taught in daily numeracy lessons and is used in lessons across the curriculum. Teachers plan the teaching of key objectives in maths lessons with opportunities being found in other subjects for practice and reinforcement. In geography, for example, children might draw graphs to show rainfall or temperature patterns.

Religious Education: Religious education is taught in line with the Norfolk scheme of work (a copy may be viewed at the school). There is a daily act of collective worship (assembly) which is non-denominational and broadly Christian. Parents wishing to withdraw their child from RE or the daily assembly are invited to discuss the matter with the Headteacher.

Other subjects are taught in line with National Curriculum programmes of study. A scheme of work is provided in a newsletter at the beginning of each term.

Personal and social development: The personal, social, health and emotional development of each child is as important as a child's academic progress. We plan to help children develop their understanding of themselves and others, and to be active citizens.

PSHE is taught as a separate subject but is also an over-arching element to which every subject contributes.

Sex Education is an important aspect of PSHE and Science. The topic is not concerned simply with sexual reproduction but tackles important aspects of growing up such as puberty, friendships, and respect for oneself and others.

An elected school council gives pupils a voice in the way the school develops. They also organise charity fundraising through the year and have even been involved in interviewing new staff.

Assessment & Monitoring

Teachers continually monitor your child's progress as a natural part of their work. In addition to the teacher assessment, we use the QCA tests in English and Maths at the end of each year as a further objective measure of progress. All assessment helps us plan for your child's next steps in their learning.

Planning for every child ('differentiation')

Work is pitched so that every pupil is given work that will extend, support and challenge them, so that they may make good progress. In the classroom pupils of similar ability will be grouped together and work is differentiated to meet their needs. In Years 5 and 6, pupils are taught Literacy and numeracy in "sets" of similar ability. Intervention (catch-up) groups are also run to help pupils make accelerated progress if it is felt they are at risk of falling behind.

Homework

Homework is set in each year group. Homework helps children consolidate learning from lessons, prepare for

future lessons, and develop independent learning skills. It is also an opportunity for you to share and support your child's learning. This is partly achieved simply by the interest you show in their work! This will encourage them by showing how home and school are working in partnership to help them learn. It usually consists of a piece of literacy and a piece of numeracy — and should take about 20 minutes. We also expect reading aloud at home to continue throughout all four years at junior school.