



## **North Star 82° Curriculum Rationale**

### **English**

Our aim for English at North Star 82° is for all children to be confident speakers, listeners, readers and writers. We teach English using Talk 4 Writing, wider reading, SPaG and Read Write Inc.

#### Talk 4 Writing

With Talk 4 Writing children first learn a text by heart. This helps children to develop a long term memory of the language needed for reading and writing. It then gives them the confidence to read and write independently. Children can work independently because they become very familiar with the words they are writing. The stages of Talk 4 Writing are:

1. 'Cold Write' – what can I already write without any help?
2. The imitation stage – learning the text by heart
3. The innovation stage – looking at what changes we can make to the text we now know well. Writing that new text independently.
4. The invention stage or 'Hot Write' – what can I now write without any help and is it better than the 'Cold Write' I did at the start.

This process takes 2-3 weeks to complete so children will learn many texts over the year.

Working this way helps pupils become more confident when writing in other lessons.

### **Reading**

At North Star 82° we want every child to have a love of reading and books. Many children come to our school with a negative view of themselves as readers. We use high quality reading books at the right level for the child. Children read regularly in school and at home. This gives them the skills and confidence to make great progress.

Reading is a key life-long skill. We to be able to read a text out loud, e.g to sound out the words and say them (phonics). We also teach them to understand the meaning what they are reading (comprehension) . Each child reads to an adult at least twice a week. We encourage the children to read at home with their parents and carers. Because we feel reading at home is so important we award the pupils points for doing this. We check reading progress three times a year.

We also encourage reading in other ways, including our reading raffle. Any pupil who reads at home receives a raffle ticket which goes into our raffle box in each Friday assembly. At the end of each week the raffle is drawn and two children win a book of their choice. Each

year we take part in World Book Day, when children are encouraged to dress up as their favourite character. The winner from each class wins a book voucher to use on a trip to Waterstones.

### SPaG (Spelling Punctuation and Grammar)

For 25 minutes of each school day we have SPaG. In these quick sessions pupils are encouraged to improve their spelling, sentence structure and increase their vocabulary. Each child has a set of weekly spellings. We practice of these in the SPaG lessons and have a spelling test every Friday.

We have a daily 'Word of the Day.' Pupils are encouraged to learn, use the word throughout lessons, and they are then discussed in our celebration assembly every Friday morning.

### Phonics

All children are taught phonics as a way to read and write. Phonics is when a word is broken down a word into the sounds that make it up. For example, beach contains three sounds (phonemes), b-ea-ch, but five letters (graphemes).

At North Star 82° we follow the Read Write Inc (RWI) phonics scheme to give all pupils the best possible start with their reading and writing.

At North Star 82° we teach phonics for all pupils who need it, whatever their age. We use Read Write Inc (RWInc) to do this.

Through the RWInc programme, pupil will

- Learn the 44 sounds that we use in the English language
- Learn the letter or letters that match these sounds
- Learn to read words by breaking the word down into the sounds it makes and) those sounds back together to both read and spell words
- Read from a range of story books

A Read Write Inc check tells us if the pupil still needs to be taught phonics. There are three sets of phonics in the Read Write Inc. programme.

Pupils will be taught phonics three times a week. Some pupils will be taught phonics daily. At the end of every term, pupils are assessed so we know if they are remembering the sounds they have learned.

When a pupil has completed all three levels of Read Write Inc., they will be assessed reading a short text. We check that the pupil can read the words, can understand the whole text and can read at a reasonable speed. .

### Reading Books

All pupils will bring reading books home. All reading books are ordered by colour. To make sure children are successful at reading we take great care to match reading books to the sounds a pupil knows.

The Bands

- Grey Books – will be sent home with pupils working at set 1 phonics
- Pink Books – will be sent home with pupil working at set 2 phonics
- Red Books – will be sent home with pupil working at set 3 phonics
- Yellow Books – will be sent home with pupils who have successfully completed a set 3 assessment
- Blue Books – will be sent home with pupils when they have successfully read the passage of text.

After this, pupil's reading level will be checked regularly and children will continue to move through banded reading levels.

## **Maths**

We teach maths to groups of the same ability. This means teaching can be very precise and we make sure everyone understands new learning before moving on. Maths is taught every day at North Star 82°. There is also a daily Maths Meeting where children practice key maths facts.

At North Star 82° we follow the Mathematics Mastery curriculum.

Mathematics Mastery has three key ideas: deep understanding, mathematical thinking and mathematical language. Problem solving is at the heart of the curriculum. The 'mastery approach' means we want pupils to have a full understanding of mathematical ideas so they are ready for the next step of learning.

Each school year begins teaching number sense and skills. Pupils use this learning through the rest of the year and will be confident in lessons. They learn to use their knowledge in more complex problems and activities.

Pupils are given opportunity to explore, recognise patterns, question and be able to work on problems that take longer to solve. We teach them to investigate, look for all possible answers, explain their work.

When pupils learn something new they will use objects to help them understand it (concrete). They will then move to using pictures or drawings to help with the mathematical ideas (pictorial). When they are ready pupils will start working just with numbers and maths symbols (abstract).

Throughout each lesson and unit, Mathematics Mastery uses the CPA approach.

### Cold Task

At the start of a new unit, children will complete a 'cold' task so the teacher can check what they already know and if they are ready for the new learning.

Teacher and pupils then talk about what they know about a topic while the teacher make notes. Teachers will then teach the mathematical language needed for the unit.

### Arithmetic

This involves the key skills of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. spend 10 minutes practising arithmetic every day. This is also the focus of our homework each week.

For children learning at EYFS curriculum children will learn about number formation and the number of quantities. By the end of the they should be ready to move onto addition within 10 and number bonds.

### Times Tables

We learn our times tables in this order:

2 x tables, 5 x tables, 10 x tables, 3 x tables, 4 x tables, 8 x tables, 6 x tables, 9 x tables, 11 x tables, 7 x tables, 12 x tables

The children are tested on their times tables each week in school. When children complete a x table, they are welcomed to the next challenge in our weekly whole school Celebration Assembly.

### Assessment

Children will sit a test at the end of each half term (6 across the year) to find out if children have fully learned what was taught that term. In term 6, children will sit the end of year test which covers everything they have learned that year.

### Science

Science should be fun and at North Star 82° we deliver this experience through our topics and with investigation tasks. It is important for pupils to have an interest in the world around them and science can give them answers to their questions. Through practical pupils will become confident learners and cooperate with their friends. Science is included as part of the Cornerstones TOPIC or it is taught using Love to Investigate as part of a science day.

Topics that your child will learn about in science include:

- Splendid skies – The weather
- Wriggle and Crawl – Insects and minibeasts
- Scented Garden – Plants
- Predator – Animals

- Might metals – metals and forces
- Potions – Chemistry
- Scream Machines – Physics
- Star Gazers – Space
- Beast Creator – Food chains

### **Forest School**

It is important to give children early experiences of nature, but we recognise that it can sometimes be difficult for children to safely explore the natural environment. Forest school allows pupils to explore their environment and develop social skills that will support their development. Being outside of the classroom is great for their health and wellbeing. Learning to keep safe when doing activities like, sawing, cutting, making camp fires and cooking are skills that will stay with them through life. Children begin to learn about the importance of looking after animal habitats and why the natural environment should be protected. Forest School helps children learn while giving a chance to play at the same time.

### **Wider Foundation Curriculum - TOPIC**

We provide a creative 'TOPIC' curriculum using the Cornerstones Online Curriculum

The Cornerstones Curriculum is a matched to the 2014 Primary National Curriculum. It offers creative lessons that cover Science, History, Geography, Art, DT and Music, bringing subjects together on one theme.

These lessons are taught in the afternoon, and the topic theme relates to the pupils 'Talk 4 Write' text in English.

Each term a book is chosen that relates to the TOPIC that is being studied. To encourage a love for reading in our school, we have a daily reading session when our HTLAs read these books to our pupils. We have chosen them to make sure the pupils listen to a range of different literature.

### **Assemblies and SMSC**

We have a weekly assembly that ties in with National Awareness days. These all have an SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) focus. Pupils will often do follow up work in class.

These assemblies allow pupils to explore their values, beliefs and experiences. They also learn about themselves and the surrounding world. They learn the difference between right and wrong through looking at moral issues. Through these assemblies pupils also learn about democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, tolerance and respect.

### **PSHE**

Each term has a PSHE theme. Teachers deliver at least one lesson of PSHE a week. These will be linked to either: Health and Wellbeing, Relationships, or Living in the Wider World. The lessons may be linked to the whole school assemblies.

Through PSHE and Citizenship lessons we plan to give children essential skills for life. We include the knowledge, skills and attributes children need to protect and develop their wellbeing. Children will learn how to stay safe and healthy, build and keep successful relationships. They develop the knowledge of when and how children can ask for help. We aim to help them become active citizens, who play a responsible part in society. Evidence shows that good PSHE education can help disadvantaged or vulnerable children by raising their hopes for themselves and by giving them skills to overcome any barriers they face.

Our teaching follows the PSHE Association Programme of Study which is recommended by the Department of Education. It includes lessons linked to the 2020 Relationships and Health Education, which all schools must deliver.

## **RE**

At North Star 82° We work from the Bristol SACRE syllabus. A rich and diverse curriculum that provides an effective and enjoyable education. We are focussing on the basics, whilst at the same time, developing more creative ways for our young people to learn. As well as this, through our delivery of RE we aim to build an ethos of tolerance and acceptance for difference beliefs and cultures.

Throughout their time at North Star 82° your child will learn about the 3 main religions in Bristol, Christianity, Islam and Hinduism. However, to prevent repetition of festivals and to provide a broader knowledge and understanding of all 6 of the major world religions, during a pupils learning journey at North Star 82°, there is a focus in UPKS2 on festivals celebrated by the other 3 major world religions (Buddhism, Sikhism and Judaism).

## **Swimming**

Each class will experience 2 terms of swimming every year. Swimming lessons encourage the pupils' confidence and enjoyment of swimming and water based activities. General fitness and stamina develop as pupils improve their ability to swim for longer distances. Lessons include important safety awareness and dangers of being in or near the water.

Pupils are grouped according to ability and can progress through beginner, intermediate and confident swimmers. The ability to swim widths and length of the pool are goals to achieve. Pupils' performances are recorded and certificates can be earned for the different distances that the pupil can swim.

## **5 Star U – Bristol Bears**

'Five Star U' is a sport and personal development programme based on the Rugby Football Union's five "Core Values" of teamwork, respect, enjoyment, discipline and sportsmanship. Every class has 5 Star U lessons each year. These have class based learning followed by a physical session where the skills and values discussed are put into practice.

'Five Star U' tracks and measures outcomes across the three key areas of Participation, Interaction and Acquisition of Skill.

### **African Drumming**

Experience of additional music (other than that delivered through our TOPIC curriculum) is offered through African Drumming (two terms each year).

This is delivered by an experienced music teacher. The lessons cover rhythm and skill, performance and the opportunity to compose, which are all National Curriculum objectives. For children, drumming offers an instrument you can play without the need of many instructions. It is an instrument that aids motor skills and is a multi-sensory experience that includes touch, physical movement and listening. Research has shown that drumming can have positive effects on language, literacy, motivation and self-esteem.