

Foundation Subjects:

At Downe, we believe a broad and balanced curriculum is essential to maximise a child's learning potential and increase their life choices and opportunities. We want all our children to leave Downe well-rounded, accomplished and well-informed.

Every subject in the primary curriculum is necessary, and every subject is the key to what is fascinating, thought-provoking and useful in all of life.

We teach the foundation subjects partly through carefully selected and relevant topics that were originally based on the Connected Curriculum (Edison Learning). We find that topics are motivating and interesting for children. The curriculum is enriched by educational visits and visitors to the school. These are planned into the topics as this enlivens their experiences, strengthens their recall and makes it meaningful and relevant to their lives.

Please see the topic maps for each class. They are in a two year cycle; the children are in the same class for two years and will cover each topic once during this time.

However, we know there is a body of learning specific to each subject, which is why some aspects of most subjects are taught discreetly too and some subjects are taught entirely discreetly (Spanish, RE, RSE/PHSE, Science, Computing and Music)

There is progression built into the planning for each subject. We have Downe Passports which identify the key learning in each subject in each class, and which support assessment. We are working to establish long-term memory and recall of this learning.

Curriculum Enrichment and extra-curricular activities

Along-side educational visits and visitors, we enrich the curriculum in numerous ways.

We engage in shared curriculum activities with our partner schools in the AFACT trust eg. Combined school choir performance every spring. We annually participate in STEM challenges eg Knex challenge. Years Five and Six attend a residential at Downe Activity centre every summer term, fostering independence, confidence and team building. We have sports coaches working with the children every lunchtime. Individual music tuition is available. We have various clubs available after school: eg. sport and drama