Implementation

At Tollesbury School we base our learning on a broad and balanced curriculum and strive to deliver a wide and varied learning experience. We are fully committed to developing each child's unique potential within a secure and caring environment. We use a range of sources to meet the needs of the curriculum and provide an exciting and enlightening learning experience for our children, maximising the opportunities in our local area. We believe that our children should not only reach their best academically, but also develop a thirst for knowledge, foster a love of learning and leave our school with independent learning skills. Teaching and learning give children opportunities to be successful in a creative, safe and calm environment.

Our Curriculum Implementation

The curriculum consists of many planned experiences both in school and out: lessons, topic days, school council, assemblies, clubs, sports, 'WOW!' days, trips and visits, workshops, team building activities, Year 6 residential, fund raising and community work. Outcomes are designed to meet the requirements of the National Curriculum but also to develop the skills needed for learning and for life. Our curriculum is designed so that the subject specific skills are scaffolded within a cross-curricular theme or context each term. In order to ensure that progression and balance is maintained, the programmes of study are then developed into long and medium term plans which clearly highlight the learning objectives and assessment opportunities, as well as links to other subjects. These topics work towards a final project, show or community event (our 'authentic outcomes'). Teachers then translate these into weekly plans where the specific needs of the learners are addressed. We are constantly reviewing ways of assessing children's needs and measuring impact on progress and attainment and, as such, teaching is carefully tailored to meet the needs of all the children.

Reading

Reading is a key tool for life. Teaching children to become excellent readers is a large and exciting part of what we do at Tollesbury School. We have lots of opportunities for reading exciting books and materials. Each week staff, parents and volunteers listen to children read in school and we ensure reading books are carefully matched to ability. We use the 'Letters and Sounds' phonics curriculum every day in both in EYFS and Key Stage 1. Daily whole-class reading starts in Key Stage 1 and continues throughout the school. This approach allows all children to be exposed to a range of high-quality and aspirational texts. All of the children are given the opportunity to discuss these texts (fiction/non-fiction) as well as record written responses.

Writing

Writing is an essential part of our curriculum offer, and very important at Tollesbury School. Good teaching and targeted support ensure that children enjoy writing. In EYFS children learn how to hold a pencil correctly and begin to form letters, words and sentences. We explicitly teach handwriting and we award pen licences to children who can prove they can maintain a clear and consistent handwriting style across a range of subjects. We link our writing context to our curriculum topics, finding real life reasons for children's writing to enthuse them with purpose.

Maths

Our mathematics curriculum covers everything from cooking with weights and measures all the way through to long division and algebra. New mathematical ideas are introduced with lots of hands-on experiences. Children self-assess, are constantly challenged and have clear models and images to help their understanding (Concrete, Pictorial and Abstract). Our SPACE approach to maths (Scaffolding, Practice, Apply, Challenge and Extend) develops children's conceptual understanding enabling them to apply their skills to different problems. We practise mental arithmetic daily and explicitly teach strategies for calculation with a focus on mental methods, jottings and formal written methods.

Science

In our rapidly evolving world, science is a vital part of our curriculum. Science stimulates and excites pupils' curiosity about phenomena and events in the world around them. It also satisfies their curiosity with knowledge. Science links direct practical experience with ideas. It engages learners at many levels. Scientific method is about developing and evaluating explanations through experimental evidence and modelling. Pupils learn to question and discuss science-based issues that may affect their own lives, the direction of society and the future of the world.

Foundation subjects

In **Design and Technology**, the children are involved in designing, making and evaluating their projects. Children are taught to use tools correctly and safely.

In **Art**, children have opportunities to draw, paint, print, make collages, use fabrics and threads and use clay. They are taught the skills and techniques and then are given the opportunity to practice them to produce individual and group pieces of work. Children are encouraged to critically evaluate their own work and that of others in order to learn from their experiences.

Music is mainly delivered using an online music program which incorporates singing, percussion and the reading of music. Every year, a class is given the opportunity to play the ukuleles. Throughout the year, all children take part in a performance e.g. Harvest, Easter, Christmas, summer production etc. We have a school choir that travels biannually to London for the 'Young Voices' event, and takes part in Partnership events.

We support pupils to develop their **Computer and IT** skills including researching, typing and editing skills. They then use those skills in cross-curricular work. Computer coding and programming is taught through various methods including Scratch. A very popular Minecraft Club is run weekly.

French is enjoyed by our Key Stage 2 classes. We use 'Rigolo' as our main teaching resource. Children have opportunities to orally practise before they are expected to read and write.

Religious Education at Tollesbury is based on the agreed Essex syllabus. It is an entitlement for all children and the school plans lessons to link with the termly topics. Religious Education does not seek to force religious beliefs on children or to compromise the integrity of their own beliefs by promoting one religion over another. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from Religious Education. Suitable alternative provision will be made.

Physical Education is taught by class teachers and our sports' coach. We have termly inter-team events held in school and we participate in a large number of sporting events run by our Partnership groups. We offer a large of sporting clubs before and after school and at lunchtimes. The aim of Physical Education is to promote physical activity and healthy lifestyles. We provide many opportunities to develop this outside of the normal curriculum time: Daily Mile, Football Club, Playground Leaders etc. We encourage the children to follow the six School Games values - determination, honesty, passion, respect, self-belief and teamwork. These values are

acknowledged during PE lessons and sporting events. Swimming lessons are offered to children in Year 5 and 6.

All of our topics are **Humanities** based and draw in cross-curricular links. The humanities curriculum focuses on children's knowledge and skills and forms a spiral curriculum to ensure skills are embedded and that there is a depth of understanding. Regular visits are planned to enrich the curriculum.

PSHE and SRE

We teach Personal. Social and Health Education in a weekly whole class Circle Time. Our spiral PSHE curriculum is designed to enable Tollesbury children to become confident, resilient, empathetic and independent. We also teach them the skills to stay safe and healthy and be able to develop healthy relationships. We teach Sex and Relationship lessons as part of the PSHE and Science curriculum with children learning how we change as we grow up. As well as being taught discretely, PSHE permeates many aspects of school life as children are given plenty of opportunities to work as team, take on new challenges and practise leadership skills.

The **Rainbow Room** is where our nurture groups are held. Nurture groups are designed to run for children who need support because of social, emotional or behavioural problems. We aim to provide an inclusive, inviting and secure environment for children to build their confidence and learn the skills they need to succeed and achieve, both academically and in their wider lives.

SEN

At Tollesbury School we believe that all children are entitled to a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum through which we support children with additional needs. All children are encouraged to achieve their full potential and to be included in the social and academic life of the school. We aim to provide educational experiences that take into account the individual needs of children, appropriate to their level of ability. At Tollesbury School we have developed a culture of early intervention in order to identify pupils who have special educational needs. This process is coordinated by our SENDCo who is supported in her work by outside agencies, who provide specialist advice.