



Curriculum

A new statutory National Curriculum was introduced for primary schools in September 2014. It sets out what children should learn from Year 1 to Year 6 in the:

- **Core subjects:** Maths, English, Science
- **Foundation Subjects:** Art and Design, Computing, Design and Technology, Geography, History, Languages (KS2), Music and PE.

Alongside these subjects, all schools are expected to teach RE and PSHE, but the content of these subjects are to be decided at a school level.

The new curriculum provides increased challenge, particularly in the Core subjects, and some areas are more demanding than in the past e.g. fractions.

The Department for Education (DfE) clearly states that *"the school curriculum comprises all learning and other experiences that each school plans for its pupils. The national curriculum forms one part of the school curriculum."*

PARENTS GUIDE TO:

Curriculum and Assessment



Parent Guide No 19

'...achieving excellence for ourselves and others'

Our School Curriculum

At Peasedown St John we call the school curriculum "**The Irresistible Curriculum**" as we aim to provide learning opportunities for children which engage and inspire them to reach their full potential. We achieve this in a variety of ways including:

- Engaging **contexts** for learning e.g. which reflect real life or follow children's interests.
- Using different **locations** e.g. taking learning outside or going on visits.
- Making good use of local and national **events** e.g. the school's centenary or Remembrance Day.
- **OUR TIME** - where all children are part of teams which make a positive contribution to school life.
- Offering a wide range of **clubs and extended opportunities**
- Providing "**Essential Experiences**" such as public speaking or poetry competitions, living history days, opportunities to work with artists or visiting a place of worship.

In providing an "Irresistible Curriculum", which includes the national curriculum, we aim for children to become successful lifelong learners; confident, creative individuals and responsible citizens.

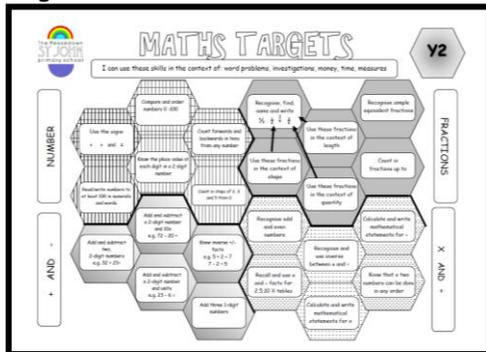
The curriculum area of our school website has more information on year group and subject programs as well as coverage of the elements of our Irresistible Curriculum.

Assessment

As part of the DfE's reforms to the National Curriculum (NC), the current system of 'levels' used to report children's attainment and progress has been removed and will not be replaced. This will allow teachers greater flexibility in the way that they plan and assess pupils' learning.

The Programmes of Study (PoS) within the new NC set out expectations at the end of each key stage. Since pupils are expected to know the content of these PoS, the curriculum becomes a "mastery" curriculum where the goal is for each child to achieve a secure level of knowledge, understanding

and skills competence. Teachers plan a curriculum to support all children in securing their learning. If your child is achieving well, rather than moving on to the following year's work, they will be provided with more in-depth and investigative work to allow greater mastery and understanding of concepts and ideas.



We use ongoing formative assessment which enables us to know what pupils have learned and whether they are on track to meet expectations at the end of the year/ key stage. Pupils' achievements and next steps can be discussed during PPT Consultation meetings. A judgement as to whether your child has reached the age-related standard at the end of the year will be reported in their annual report in July. Children will be reported as being either below the expected standard (B), developing the expected standard (D), secure within the expected standard (S) or exceeding the expected standard (E).

Key changes to National Curriculum tests and assessments

The NC tests and teacher assessment at the end of Key Stages 1 and 2 (SATs) will continue, although they will be reported in levels for the last time in summer 2015, as pupils in Year 2 and Year 6 this year will not have been taught the new NC.

The first new KS1 and KS2 tests in Reading, Mathematics and Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling, based on the new NC, will be completed by pupils for the first time in the summer of 2016. More information on reporting the outcomes of these will follow from the Government in due course.

Targets

For children to make good progress it is essential that they know what they do well and what they need to further improve. Setting pupil targets is an important part of this process. Children who are clear about their next steps in learning are more likely to:

- know what they need to do to improve
- take responsibility for the improvement in their work
- achieve their targets
- make better progress.

As with all learning, children are more successful when their parents are engaged in the process.

Our targets have been updated in line with the expectations of the new primary curriculum. Each year group will have their own set of targets to be achieved over the year. Targets cannot cover the entire curriculum, so we have chosen key elements of Literacy and Maths which will make the biggest difference to children's learning. In Literacy we will set children targets in spelling, handwriting, composition and VCOP (grammar). Maths targets will cover the areas of number, the four operations (+ - x ÷) and fractions.

Targets sheets are in children's books and are updated when they are achieved. We expect children to know their targets and teachers to refer to them in their daily teaching. There are plenty of opportunities for children to practise their targets at school and we also expect some practice at home (often through homework activities). Updated target sheets will be sent home at least 3 times per year so that parents can see their child's progress; in fact many children in KS2 will have them in their homework folders. Children receive house or reward points when they achieve their targets and these are celebrated in our weekly Achievers assemblies.

Support at home - from learning times tables to practising spellings - will make a big difference.