

English

Speaking and Listening

Children need to be able to communicate effectively. Throughout every aspect of our curriculum we encourage children to use discussion as a learning tool, to build strong vocabulary, and to confidently and appropriately express their ideas and opinions for a range of audiences.

Reading

Reading is at the heart of children's learning, and is given great emphasis in our timetable.

All children from Reception onward have dedicated Guided Reading time each day. During these sessions children are taught reading skills by their class teacher and have opportunities to practise and apply comprehension skills and to read for pleasure.

Reading is an essential key to unlock learning across the curriculum. Opportunities for children to apply their skills across a wide range of text types are woven in to our creative curriculum.

Reading schemes

We use a variety of reading scheme books and 'real books' to provide a rich diversity of quality texts, matched to children's reading abilities and interests. Where possible we link guided reading texts to our creative curriculum topics.

The main reading schemes currently in use are:

Reception and KS1 – Collins Big Cat, Collins Big Cat phonics, Pearson Bug Club.

KS2 – Pearson Bug Club and Phonics for Comics.

SEND – Heinemann Rapid Readers.

These are supplemented with Oxford Reading Tree and Rhyme World books to allow for further reading at a particular level where needed.

To provide challenge and independence of choice for more advanced and older readers we have an extensive library of 'real books' which pupils can select with guidance from our librarian.

The School Library

Our new library facility is a wonderful resource to support and enrich our reading curriculum. The library is managed by our school librarian Mrs Thomas, who is a qualified teacher with a wealth of experience in teaching children to read. Every child from Reception onwards has a weekly opportunity to borrow books, assisted by our Year 6 Junior Librarians. Older and younger year groups are paired up to allow reading buddies to share books in the library at morning break times. Every class is able to use the library in their literacy lessons for at least one week each term with Mrs. Thomas on hand to share delivery of the lesson with the class teacher. Mrs. Thomas also works with various different groups of children throughout the day.

We are lucky to have a group of dedicated volunteers who kindly give their time to read with children across the school.

Every child is issued with a book bag as they enter school. Children are expected to take home their books and to read at home on a regular basis. Parental support in sharing books with children is greatly appreciated.

Phonics and early reading skills

All children in Nursery, Reception, and Key Stage One have a daily phonics lesson to enable them to develop strong early reading skills. We follow the Letters and Sounds phonics programme

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/190599/Letters_and_Sounds_-_DFES-00281-2007.pdf

In addition to daily class based lessons, we employ a specialist teaching assistant to deliver focussed additional phonics sessions to strengthen children's progress and achievement if required.

Writing

Writing is taught through daily literacy lessons. Children are taught how to write in a range of genres and text types, and for different audiences. Editing plays a huge part in improving writing and in developing independence and positive learning behaviours.

Children are given the opportunity to embed these skills in various subjects across the creative curriculum.

Spelling, Punctuation, Grammar and Handwriting

These elements of literacy are taught within the daily lesson. Teachers will introduce new skills and ideas explicitly and plan for plenty of opportunities for children to practise using them, until they eventually become effortlessly incorporated into everyday writing.

Maths

Being able to do maths is a key life skill, necessary to allow each of us to make informed choices and decisions in all aspects of everyday life. Examples include, checking our wage slips, planning our weekly shopping budget, cooking a meal and even playing sport.

Confidence and enjoyment of maths is key to children achieving success. At the Bluecoat School, we believe that is essential for children to develop a strong understanding of how to solve problems, interpret information and apply their knowledge of number facts in different situations, and not to simply know how to arrive at correct answers using a method.

To enable children of all ages to do this, we teach them with the support of practical materials. We highlight the importance of using informal jottings and pictures on the way to being secure in formal written calculation strategies for solving problems.

All children have a daily maths lesson which will include strong emphasis on practical, oral and mental activities. Mental calculations are a fundamental part of developing mathematical understanding and teachers will use rhymes, games and a range of different strategies to help children learn how to do mental calculations with confidence.

We endeavour to take a practical approach to maths both in and out of the classroom and opportunities to apply mathematical skills and knowledge are a core element of our creative curriculum.

Science

Wherever possible, science is taught as part of our new theme based creative curriculum. Some discrete teaching of science based topics may take place, particularly in KS2. Practical investigation skills are given high priority within all science based learning as are opportunities for children to apply their English and maths skills and knowledge.

ICT and Computing

We aim to provide a high quality computing education that will equip our children to use a wide range of technology and programs creatively within their learning. Computing will be taught through our theme based creative curriculum wherever possible so that it is meaningful and relevant to the children.

E-safety

Teaching children to use technology safely and respectfully is a high priority. Opportunities to provide relevant e-safety advice and guidance for children and their parents are planned within our computing curriculum.

For further information on E-safety follow this link <http://www.bluecoat.lincs.sch.uk/E-Safety.asp>

Specialist Teaching and Learning Opportunities

We believe that for some subjects children benefit from tuition from experts and we currently offer specialist teaching in physical education and music.

Physical Education

We are pleased to work in partnership with expert coaches from Inspire+ to deliver our P.E. curriculum. Children from Y1 to Y6 enjoy weekly P.E. lessons

which are planned and delivered jointly by the specialist coaches and their class teachers.

Working in partnership with trained P.E. coaches is a key element of our strategy for the use of sport premium and our drive and ambition to provide high quality sporting provision for our children.

Swimming

All children from Y1 to Y6 have swimming lessons in the autumn, spring or summer terms. The current schedule is as follows:

- Y5 and Y6 – autumn terms
- Y3 and Y4 – spring terms
- Y1 and Y2 – summer terms

Children are taught swimming by specialist swimming coaches at Stamford Leisure Pool. The costs of weekly swimming sessions are subsidised. We currently seek a parental contribution of £1.00

In addition to our quality curriculum provision, we also provide a wide range of extra-curricular sporting activities including opportunities for children to participate inter and intra competitive sporting events.

For further information about our sports provision please follow this link <http://www.bluecoat.lincs.sch.uk/sportsPremium.asp>

Music at KS2

We are also proud to work in partnership with Premier Performing Arts and Lincolnshire Music Service to deliver specialist music tuition. All classes from Y3 to Y6 have weekly singing lessons with an experienced vocal coach. The children have regular opportunities to sing and perform for various audiences, including their parents and families, within the local community and to take part in live concerts.

Classes from Y4 to Y6 also have weekly brass, wind or string instrument tuition from specialist coaches at no additional charge to parents.

Modern Foreign Languages

From September 2014, we are introducing weekly French lessons for children in Key Stage Two. These lessons will be planned by and delivered by fluent French speaking teachers.

R.E.

The content of our Religious Education curriculum is in line with the Lincolnshire Agreed Syllabus 2012 outlined in the school's R.E. policy. A parent's right to request that their child is withdrawn from R.E. is respected by the Governing Body.