



- The School at Hackney City Farm -

Curriculum Policy

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English

English is vital for communicating with others in school and in the wider world, and is fundamental to learning in all curriculum subjects. In studying English, students develop skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing that they will need to participate in society and employment. English lessons at the PRU for KS3 and KS4 cover the National Curriculum requirements in Reading, Writing and Speaking and Listening. Students are assessed so that an individually designed programme of study will meet their specific needs. All students work towards gaining qualifications in English whether at GCSE or Functional Skills levels.

Students also learn to express themselves creatively and imaginatively and to communicate with others confidently and effectively. By developing English skills, students can choose and adapt what they say and write in different situations, as well as appreciate and interpret the choices made by other writers and speakers. Speaking and listening skills are important life skills and we encourage students to take account of and to respect others' difference in their engagement with English studies.

Maths

The Mathematics Department at Hackney City Farm School aims to develop each student to their full potential. We provide challenging, varied and interesting lessons so that all students enjoy their work, often using games, IT resources and practical activities.

An emphasis is placed on identifying any gaps that students may have in their mathematical understanding and supporting them to overcome these difficulties, especially problems that may arise with number skills. Students are also helped to apply their skills to everyday life through problem-solving activities and as far as possible the full range of topics are explored. In Key Stage 4 we offer a number of academic qualifications in which students are encouraged to achieve a GCSE or Functional Skills qualification.

PSHE

PSHE is a major part of the school's curriculum and planned learning experiences take place formally in lessons, as well as informally during breakfast club and at break times.

The aims place personal development and the acquisition of personal, learning and thinking skills at the heart of the curriculum. We want to enable all our young people to become

successful learners who enjoy learning, who make progress and achieve. We want to support students to become confident individuals who are able to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives. We also want to encourage young people to become responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to society.

Learning is personalised to meet the needs of our pupils and in response to local priorities and circumstances. The design of this curriculum links learning to life outside school and makes connections between subjects and cross-curricular themes where possible.

Our curriculum covers the major ideas and challenges that face society and have significance for individuals in the 21st century. These provide unifying themes to give learning relevance and help young people make sense of the world.

Social and emotional well-being provides personal competencies (such as emotional resilience, self-esteem and interpersonal skills) that help to protect against risks relating to social disadvantage, family disruption and other adversities in life. Such competencies provide building blocks for personal development which will enable children and young people to take advantage of life chances.

As examples of some of our themes, see below:

- Identity and cultural diversity
- Healthy lifestyles

- Community participation
- Enterprise
- Sustainable futures and the global dimension
- Technology and the media
- Environmental Sustainability
- Financial Capability
- British Values
- Conflict Resolution (SEAL)

Our lessons are delivered mainly as whole-group, classroom-based learning.

PE

(Swimming/football/basketball/bike riding)

Students are encouraged to engage in physical activity daily, at break time from 11 till 11.20 and after lunch from 1.30 till 1.50. We also have timetabled PE lessons at least once per week during which time we engage the students in group activities such as bike riding, basketball and football. Swimming is on the timetable each week for an hour and tuition is offered by staff members leading to basic swimming qualifications and awards.

Vocational courses

(Bike mechanics)

Students are given the opportunity to work on their bikes on a regular basis throughout the week and as issues arise. They are encouraged to support each other with this and they learn from each other. Staff are also on hand to assist when necessary.

Film School

We work with the Mouth that Roars a local film studio on film-making projects running over a number of weeks that involve filming, sound recording, acting and editing. The students also do animation and engage in discussions about film.

Careers

Careers interviews with individual pupils are held by Ian Herring from the Learning Trust at least twice per year, as well as during reviews of pupils' progress and EHCP meetings with parents and other appropriate professionals in attendance.

Pupils' future plans are raised in discussion frequently by staff in lessons and used as a tool by which functional skills English can be taught, e.g. in the creation of CVs and formal letters to colleges as well as application forms etc.

Parents are able to access their children's latest careers guidance details by contacting Adrian Johnson or Ian Herring.

External organisations

A range of groups come in to deliver sessions on a termly basis. In the last year we have had representatives from the following groups running sessions:

The Brave - St Giles: radicalisation, extremism and gangs

CAMHS: mental health and wellbeing

Battersea Dogs' Home

Young Hackney

Dental nurse

Safer School Officer