

Curriculum Policy

MARINE ACADEMY PRIMARY POLICIES

VERSION CONTROL SHEET

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Curriculum Policy

Our Beliefs and Principles

At Marine Academy Primary, we have developed our own Marine Curriculum which is comprehensive, has a clear process of learning with specific learning goals for every National Curriculum subject, for personal learning and for international mindedness. Our Curriculum sets out clear progression and application of skills across all areas. Parents can have total confidence that the needs of every child, as they grow and develop, can be catered for throughout their years in education with us at Marine Academy Primary. We offer a broad, exciting curriculum which enables each individual pupil to become an effective learner who can go on to realise his or her ambitions. The Marine Curriculum has been developed for pupils to follow with their specific learning needs in mind. The demands of the 21st Century mean that our pupils will need to be alert to the new technologies and possibilities that these will create, and be able to swiftly adapt to change. We aim to ensure pupils are independently minded and confident citizens of the future. We have created our own Marine Curriculum by adapting the best of The International Primary Curriculum (IPC), which is a practical tool for teachers to help children learn. Behind the practical components of the IPC are our own beliefs about education, teaching, learning and curriculum.



Great Teaching, Great Learning, Great Fun!

Marine Academy Primary is proud to have adapted the International Primary Curriculum; a curriculum which has been highly praised by Ofsted and is revolutionising learning in over 1600 schools in 87 countries. At MAP2, we have made sure that the curriculum is a thematic one, teaching all National Curriculum subjects, including French from Year 1, through themes such 'Chocolate', 'The Circus' and 'Time, Place, Earth and Space'. Additionally, all units have a strong international theme and take greater account of modern technology and Computing.

Each new theme or topic includes a 'WOW' event in order to introduce the theme to the children. We ensure that every class either goes on an educational off site visit or has a visitor to the Academy at least once every six weeks. Our trips have included visiting local beaches, Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery, the National Marine Aquarium and we took part in the National BioBlitz with the Marine Biological Association. The very first lesson is always completed as a knowledge harvest in order to understand children's prior knowledge and each unit ends with a celebration event to which Parents/Carers are invited.

Furthermore, as an IPC school, all children have access to a learning platform in order that they can link to other IPC schools over the world. This helps to bring learning to life as, for instance, if studying earthquakes, the children could link to pupils living in an earthquake zone and interview them about what life is like there and see footage of the earthquakes that have taken place there. You can't get much more real than that!

To find out more visit: www.internationalprimarycurriculum.com

Marine Academy Primary has developed the International Primary Curriculum to ensure that we have created a curriculum which enables children to:

- Learn the essential knowledge, skills and understanding of the broad range of National Curriculum subjects.
- Engage with their learning so that they remain committed to learning throughout their school careers and beyond.
- Develop the personal qualities they need to be good citizens in an ever-changing world.
- Develop a sense of their own nationality and culture at the same time as developing a profound respect for the nationalities and cultures of others, especially those throughout Modern Britain.

What does our curriculum at Marine Academy Primary cover?

- Literacy
- Maths
- RE
- Science
- Art and Design
- French
- History
- Geography
- Citizenship
- PSHE
- SMSC including 'Britishness'
- Design and Technology
- Music
- Performing Arts
- Computing
- PE
- Internationalism

We teach discrete Phonics and Reading, Mental Maths, Literacy, Maths and Computing sessions but also provide links to our topics where possible. In addition to this, we ensure that we apply the basic skills learnt in these subjects when teaching the other National Curriculum subjects throughout our themes.

How is the curriculum at Marine Academy Primary structured?

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, we teach a very Marine themed curriculum with one topic every six weeks. The topics include; Dinosaurs, Under the Sea, All About Me, Journeys Over Sea, Pirates and Princesses and Growing Up.

In Key Stages 1 and 2, we broadly follow the IPC units and themes. The IPC is split into 3 phases which cover Years 1 and 2, Years 3 and 4 and Years 5 and 6. Due to us having no split age classes, we have developed a long term curriculum map which means that each year groups cover a

different topic but there will be a consistency in theme, for example, we aim to all teach a History based topic during the same term. This allows year groups to share the information they have learnt with each other. During each year group, pupils study a variety of topics each usually lasting for a half term but occasionally a whole term. Each unit has a major subject focus e.g. History and covers other subjects to a lesser degree. At Marine Academy Primary we have selected Units for each phase that give pupils an exciting variety of themes, whilst ensuring full coverage in each subject by the end of that phase. We have created Curriculum Maps which show that throughout the academic year and Key Stage the children have covered all of the parts of the National Curriculum.

How does it work?

Pupils are made aware of their new IPC Unit just prior to a holiday and invited to contribute ideas. Parents/Carers are also sent a letter informing them of their child's next topic at the Academy so they can further support their learning at home. Each unit kicks off with an 'entry point' activity to capture the pupils' interest and imagination. Each unit culminates in an exciting 'exit point' activity which pupils will have been working towards.

Our curriculum is an effective one that provides the most appropriate support for teachers and others to develop children's learning. The curriculum provides opportunities for teachers to assess or judge the quality of children's learning through a range of assessment and evaluative opportunities. It addresses the development of knowledge, skills and understanding in three key areas – subjects, personal development and international understanding. The last of these must be a component of any curriculum designed for international primary schools. Our curriculum is respectful of teachers in that it provides them with most of the tools they will need to encourage effective learning but it allows opportunity for teachers to bring these tools to life in the classroom and to develop school specific tools for use in their own location. The curriculum design is influenced by two ideas. First, the key concepts of independence and interdependence which underpin our view of what it is to have an international mind-set and, second, the lessons learnt as a result of a decade of research into the brain and the development of brain-friendly learning and teaching strategies.

Why did we choose to adapt the IPC and create our own curriculum at Marine Academy Primary?

There are currently over seventy different units of learning from the IPC for our team to choose from in conjunction with our Assistant Headteacher. This releases our teaching staff leaders from the task of planning the 'what', thereby providing time and energy to focus on the 'how' which engages learners in a creative curriculum. In contrast, teachers are still able to choose topics which are not part of the IPC as long as they inspire our learners and ensure the correct coverage across the National Curriculum.

This unique curriculum also has a strong element of internationalism built into learning. For our children at Marine Academy Primary, we recognise the constraints on cultural provision in the

Marine Academy Primary

South West of England. By adapting the IPC, we are central to a learning global community. The elements of the International Dimension for our children to:-

- Recognise their own culture and have a sense of identity
- Be open-minded
- Be respectful of other cultures and beliefs (be sensitive to other cultures and beliefs)
- Be aware of and be able to celebrate diversity and commonality
- Have respect for and value other people and their ideas and opinions
- Be able to communicate (have good intrapersonal skills)
- Be adaptable
- Be aware of and have an interest in global issues

Learning for the Pupils at Marine Academy Primary

Children's learning is the central purpose of everything we do at Marine Academy Primary. Helping children learn – academically, socially, spiritually, emotionally, morally, culturally and physically – is the real purpose for us at the Academy. What children learn should respect the past but should be of help to them in their future lives. This involves a degree of prediction which may not always be accurate and which will always need to be revised. Prediction is a risk. Not to engage in it is a much bigger risk to children. Children's learning must respond to their current and future personal needs, their future career needs and the needs of the varied societies and cultural groups in which they are likely to play a part.

Learning needs to be active, in the sense that children must engage with their own learning. For primary children, this means that learning which is relevant to the future must be placed in a context that is meaningful to their present lives.

Children need to share responsibility for their learning with their teachers, Parents and Carers. The proportion of responsibility each bears will depend on the age and characteristics of the children. Nevertheless, learning must be constructed in such a way that, by the end of the primary years, children begin to see and experience the potential for taking responsibility for their own learning.

Teaching at Marine Academy Primary

The purpose of our teaching is to facilitate children's learning in appropriate ways. Wherever possible, teaching should also be enjoyable for teachers. The ownership of 'good or better' teaching is rooted more in the highly developed learning of children, than it is in highly enjoyable teaching or successful curriculum development. Teachers of primary children need to be both teacher-as-facilitator and teacher-as-deliverer. Teachers are likely to be more successful in helping children learn if they work closely with colleagues, Parents/Carers and other members of the child's community. Teachers should spend more time thinking about helping individual children learn than writing whole-school curricula. It is important to support teachers with well-designed, up-to-date, practical and relevant help.