



The Milestone School Curriculum

Ethos

The Milestone School offers a child-centred 'needs led' curriculum, which incorporates elements of the EY Foundation Stage, National Curriculum and external accreditation as appropriate, including Life Skills and Social Skills. The school uses Total Communication and the following as appropriate: Multi Sensory approach; Thematic approach; Active Learning approach and Structured Teaching approach.

The Milestone School places a high emphasis on functional skills, preparing pupils for adult life and, where appropriate, preparing pupils for the world of work. We therefore consider English, Maths and PSHE/ life skills as the core areas of our curriculum. Science is considered a foundation subject along with the other foundation subjects of the national curriculum 2014; data is also available for these subjects.

Rationale

The curriculum at the Milestone School takes account of the differing abilities and experiences of our pupils and will provide an education appropriate to individual needs. It will give pupils the opportunity to develop and learn within a supportive atmosphere and foster positive attitudes to learning, including British Values, that lead to success and achievement, in accordance with our mission statement, 'Removing obstacles and enabling access to learning'.

The curriculum at Milestone School will promote the spiritual, intellectual, personal, social and physical development of all our pupils. It consists of a modified National Curriculum to meet the needs of individual pupils, Life Skills, Personal, Social, Health and Moral Education and Religious Education as well as cross curricular themes and key skills. Extra-curricular activities also form an important part of the curriculum.

The Milestone School provides all pupils with the opportunity to be challenged and achieve their potential within a supportive atmosphere and through personalised learning. Development of positive attitudes to learning will lead to success and achievement. Education is promoted as a life-long process whereby developing the key skills for all our pupils will enable pupils to continue to access learning opportunities.

PMLD Curriculum

The Milestone School PMLD curriculum is designed to provide an appropriate and stimulating education for pupils who have profound and multiple learning difficulties and complex learning needs. This P1 to P4 curriculum delineates four core areas of learning, which are both highly interrelated and dependent on each other: Sensory and Cognitive Development, Communicative Development, Physical and Motor Development and Emotional and Social Development. These will be taught through activities and linked, where appropriate, to each Hub Curriculum.

Complex Needs curriculum

Enterprise and Haven Hub are piloting a complex needs curriculum in 2016-17, which will be evaluated in July 2017.

RE

At the Milestone School, Religious Education is taught to pupils so that they are able to understand and appreciate the nature and differences of religious belief, cultures and practices, and the importance of these to people's lives. We endeavour to help our pupils understand and accept 'difference' so that they are prepared for life outside the school in modern Britain. The Religious Education curriculum is planned using the Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus and is a part of the curriculum for each Hub. Pupils study the main beliefs and festivals of the major world religions, investigate artefacts and visit places of religious worship.

Collective Worship

"Provision shall be made to secure that, so far as practicable, every pupil attending a special school will attend religious worship and receive religious education, or will be withdrawn from attendance at such worship or from receiving such education, in accordance with the wishes of parents." Education Act 1981.

In keeping with the requirements of the law, provision is made for acts of worship, which are wholly or mainly Christian in character but not distinctively of any denomination. Parents who do not wish their child to attend religious worship or religious education should inform the Headteacher of this in writing. Separate arrangements will be made for their supervision at these times.

Phonics and Reading Schemes

At the Milestone School we consider enjoying and experiencing books and reading to be one of life's most enriching skills. We aim to create a stimulating environment where children are encouraged to engage with and experience books and all forms of written material. The reading and literacy opportunities that we provide reflect the unique learning needs of our pupils. We provide a range of experiences that include multi-sensory approaches and encourage practical application of reading to support the development of life skills. Every pupil participates in daily phonics and regular story-telling sessions that are fun-filled opportunities to develop speaking and listening skills, and where the emphasis is on children's active participation.

At the Milestone School we follow a whole-school phonics and reading readiness pathway which is based on robust assessment and on choosing the right pathway and tools for each individual pupil. It is essential that pupils have a firm foundation of early phonics skills at Phase 1. This includes the teaching of sound discrimination – environmental sounds, instrumental sounds, body percussion, rhythm and rhyme and voice sounds. Once these skills are embedded, children progress to the next Phase where we continue to teach phonics and also introduce one of a choice of specific reading schemes, including 'Read, Write, Inc', 'Dancing Bears', 'Fresh Start', 'Wolf Hill'. We acknowledge that some of our children may require greater opportunities to robustly acquire skills at Phase 1 and may continue to generalise these skills throughout their school life. Some of our pupils may learn to read using a whole word approach to reading which places emphasis on developing social sight and functional vocabulary.

Pupils at the Milestone School do not undertake statutory testing, including the phonics screening check at the end of Year 1. As pupils progress through to Key Stage 4, they use the phonics and reading skills that they have acquired to gain national accreditation in preparation for adult life.

Curriculum Enrichment

We enrich the curriculum with as many different learning opportunities and experiences as possible both in and out of school. These include:

Swimming

All pupils in Rainbow and Woodland Hubs have the opportunity to develop their confidence and swimming skills with hydrotherapy and/or swimming sessions. Pupils throughout the school with profound and multiple difficulties and complex needs participate in weekly hydrotherapy sessions. Swimming sessions include water games to develop confidence and understanding of water safety. More able swimmers have the opportunity to develop swimming skills and learn different swimming strokes. They are taught at school by a qualified swimming teacher and are supported in the water by the swim team and by Milestone staff. Pupils in Venture and Enterprise and Haven Hubs have the opportunity to swim at GL1 Leisure Centre.

Horse Riding

Pupils in Woodland Hub participate in weekly horse riding sessions at two venues in the county, Hartpur College and RDA at Cheltenham Racecourse for part of the year. These are wonderful sessions for the pupils where they are able to develop not only their horse riding skills but also have therapeutic opportunities to develop their social and emotional needs.

Educational visits and experiences

Each Hub has its own programme of extra-curricular activities and experiences which are linked to termly topics and life skills development.