

Curriculum overview

Denham Green Academy's curriculum policy is based on the following aims,

- To have students at its heart, putting their interests first.
- Have a curriculum that is fit for purpose, offering differentiation and personalisation.
- Be a centre of excellence in learning and teaching.
- Prepare all students for a successful adult and working life
- First achieve and then exceed national standards in achievement, attainment and progression.
- Be committed to excellence and continuous improvement.
- Value vocational and academic routes equally.
- Nurture the talents of all and celebrate success.
- Involve the community.
- Involve parents/carers.
- Be in a learning environment that is above all else inspiring.

We believe that the curriculum should inspire and challenge all learners and prepare them for the future. Denham Green's aim is to develop a coherent curriculum that builds on young people's experiences in the primary phase and that helps all young people to become successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens.

Specifically, we believe that the curriculum should help young people to:

- Achieve high standards and make good/excellent progress.
- Enable those not achieving age-related expectations to narrow the gap and catch up with their peers.
- Move towards enabling students to more easily progress based on ability not age and to be able to enter students for public examinations when they are ready rather than dictated by age.
- Have and be able to use high quality personal, learning and thinking skills and become independent learners.
- Have and be able to use high quality functional skills, including key literacy, numeracy and computing skills.
- Be challenged and stretched to achieve their potential.
- Enjoy and be committed to learning.
- Value their learning outside of the curriculum and relate to the taught curriculum

Curriculum Overview

Early Years Foundation Stage

The first curriculum your child will encounter when starting at Denham Green, is the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum (EYFS). In Early years the children learn through free flow activities which are planned by the class teacher.

The EYFS works within four key principles:

A Unique Child + Positive Relationships + Enabling Environments = Learning and Development

The curriculum is divided into seven areas, three prime and four specific areas.

Three Prime Areas	Four Specific Areas
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Literacy
Communication and Language	Mathematics
Physical Development	Understanding the world
	Expressive Arts

We follow a topic led creative curriculum. We listen to the children interests and ideas and enhance our curriculum around them. We love to go on visits and also welcome visitors into school to enhance the Curriculum.

Year group	Yearly Topic Planner					
	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
EYFS	Marvellous Me!  Exploring what makes us special. Learning new rules and routines in school/nursery	Lets celebrate  Learning about special times such as Bonfire night, Diwali, Birthdays and Christmas.	Magical Monsters  Reading stories such as 'The Gruffalo' and 'Room on the Broom'.	Once upon a time  Reading lots of different traditional tales. Include Disney films and stories	People who help us  Finding out who helps us in our local community. Invite lots of visitors into school to help us with our learning.	All Creatures great and small  Looking at different animals - zoo, farm, jungle. Explore dinosaurs. Trip to Farm

KS1 and KS2

Literacy

At Denham Green we follow the 2014 National Curriculum for Literacy. The Literacy curriculum consists of 4 main learning areas;

- Reading
- Writing

- Speaking and listening
- Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation (SPAG)

The children have 1 hour of Literacy a day, as well as 20 minutes of spelling/grammar and punctuation (SPAG) 20 minutes of guided reading and 20 minutes of handwriting every day. Our phonics teaching follows the Primary National Strategy scheme 'Letter and Sounds' and when teaching SPAG our teachers use CGP to support their teaching.

Children are exposed to and taught to write a variety of different genres of writing such as;



Reading

Denham Green has a variety of independent and guided reading books. The books are grouped and the children work through the bands as they become more proficient. Children are encouraged to change their book daily.

All children at Denham Green take part in a reading challenge where we ask the children to read for at least 10 minutes a day at home and have their reading record signed by an adult.

Numeracy

At Denham Green we follow the 2014 National Curriculum for Numeracy. The Numeracy curriculum consists of 6 main learning areas;

Number and Place value
Addition and Subtraction
Multiplication and Division
Fractions
Measure and Shape
Position and Direction
Statistics

Children are taught Numeracy for an hour a day, the children are taught within their classes and work is differentiated accordingly. At Denham Green we like to adopt a hands on approach to Numeracy where the children are given opportunities to experience their mathematical learning through practical activities and investigations. Since the launch of the new curriculum lots of strategies, methods and approaches to Numeracy have changed. As a result of this we hold regular curriculum evenings where teachers are happy to talk through calculation methods with you.

Foundation Subjects

The foundation subject curriculum involves the teaching of Science, Geography, History, Art, Computing and Design and Technology. We cover these subjects through a topic based curriculum which also underpins our learning throughout the curriculum. Each year group has a topic for the term or half term and each of these foundation subjects are taught through the theme of the topic. Our topics this year can be seen below and are on our website on the class pages.

DENHAM GREEN E-Act Primary Academy		Yearly Topic Planner				Chalfont Valley	
Year Group	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2	
1	 <p>Our place in Space</p> <p>What is space? Which planets are in space? How are they similar/different? Travelling in space. Where do we live? What is earth?</p>	 <p>Let's Play</p> <p>Toys we play with. Toys from the past. Materials toys are made from. How toys work.</p>	 <p>This is Denham and Chalfont!</p> <p>Local area study. Explore school environment. Different types of homes. Old and new buildings. Compare Victorian homes to now. Different types of buildings in Denham and Chalfont. Walk around the local area Compare different areas Create map of route taken</p>	 <p>Take a Look!</p> <p>Exploring Cezanne and Michelangelo. "Meeting Cezanne" by Michael Morpurgo. Artist study Compare Cezanne and Picasso Use a range of media to copy and use the style of. Study the French Provence</p>	 <p>Take a walk on the wild side</p> <p>Use Hansel's Surprise or The Lion King to explore Africa. Use maps and atlases to find Africa. Compare to own locality. What animals would you see in Africa?</p>	 <p>Oh I do like to be beside the seaside</p> <p>Where could we go on holiday? Explore different countries. How would we get there? Which continents are places in? Which oceans would we travel over? What were holidays like in the past? Explore Victorian holidays.</p>	

Yearly Topic Planner

Year Group	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
2	Frozen Planet  Exploring our own winter season. Use maps to locate Antarctic. Compare to own locality. Use Ice Age to explore weather conditions? Which animals live there? Explore Randolph Fenner and expeditions of the Antarctic.	London's Burning  Introduce Great Fire of London. Explore buildings – how they differ to buildings today. Explore materials of houses. Samuel Pepys kept a diary. Why is it important to record historical events?	Happy Ever After  Castles Countries in UK Compass skills. Exploring King and Queens of our country starting with Elizabeth II.	Incredible Mel  Health and wellbeing of ourselves. How we have changed. Nurses and doctors to help look after us. Florence Nightingale – Where did she go? What did she do? What changes she made to medicine practices we see today?	Magnificent Machines  Transport. Explore transport today and in the past. Look at how bikes have changed. Trains and George Stevenson. Cars and Henry Ford. First zero plane flight by Wright brothers.	Plant a little seed  Exploring plants and trees in our school environment. Naming plants and trees. What do plants need to grow – investigations? Explore conditions for plants to grow in this country and in others? Life cycles.

Yearly Topic Planner

Year Group	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
3	Dawning of the Ages  Stone Age to the Iron Age Last Neolithic hunter-gatherers and early farmers – Skara Brae Bronze Age religion, technology & Trade – Stonehenge Iron Age hill forts – tribal kingdoms, farming, art & Culture The Croods	Where in the world are we?  Local Study, Geography focus Fieldwork skills to observe measure & record. Sketch maps, plans, graphs, digital technologies – Human Geography – Study Buckinghamshire	What makes the earth swing?  Volcanoes Earthquakes Tsunami. Extreme weather	Rotten Romans!  Invaders and Settlers Celts & Romans Changes in Britain What did the Romans do for England? A study of life and achievements	How Humans work  Why we need light in order to see How we can make and hear sounds How human teeth compare to animal teeth How our body uses food and water How our heart works to keep us alive All about skeletons and muscles About the human life cycle Why exercise is good for us Foods keep us healthy and why?	

Yearly Topic Planner

Year Group	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
4	Reging Rivers and Fantastic Pharaohs  Rivers Water cycle River Nile Timelines Location Uses of the Nile Pyramids Howard Carter Life Goods	Chocolate  Aztecs & Mayans Fair trade and location knowledge Name and locate countries and cities What it means to be fair trade What do we need from the world	Greco Greeks  Ancient & Modern Greece Mediterranean Jotas Location Climate Produce Economic comparison Life Myths & legends	Land, sea and Sky  Habitats How water plants are different from other plants How fish have adapted to living in water How birds are adapted to flying How to create a classification key to group animals Food chains in different world habitats Life cycles of plants / animals	Victious Vikings!  Invaders and Settlers Saxons & Vikings The struggle for the Kingdom of England Edward the Confessor A study of life and achievements	

Yearly Topic Planner

Year Group	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
5	World War  World War Battle of Britain – a significant turning point in British history Mend & male do World War II Battle of Britain Eden Camp Normandy landings	Go Green!  Climate & Global Issues Understanding similarities and differences across climates and countries Paper bag Prince by Colin Thompson	Extreme Survival  Extreme conditions – Ernest Shackleton Shelters Physical geography including climate issues and trends Biomes and vegetation belts Rivers and mountains and volcanoes	Space Travel  Movement of earth and other planets relative to the sun The movement of the moon relative to the earth Sun, Earth and Moon as spherical bodies The earth's rotation and understanding day and night.	Forces and motions  Understand and explain gravity Identify the effects of air resistance, water resistance and friction. Understand the forces acting between moving surfaces. Recognise the effects of forces on mechanisms such as pulleys and gears.	

Yearly Topic Planner

Year Group	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
6	A revolutionising way of thinking? History Focus  How has industry changed over time? Bristol Engineering railways	A revolutionising way of thinking? Geography  Transportation links Denham Valley Egges Why is Denham Valley 'Mild' as World Heritage Site? Transportation study	Who's for it then? Shakespeare  Play scripts Biographies Time lines and links to English history Equalities for males and females Take one look	Black History  Gain insight into African American history from slavery to the civil rights movement. Learn about individual people who shaped history by reading their biographies and researching the age in which they lived. Understand the causes and effects of the civil rights movement in America Study the history of jazz music to gain awareness of the cultural contributions made by different groups in America Apply critical thinking skills to answer questions regarding controversial events related to the civil rights movement.	Black Gold  A look at the oil industry. Energy and what we use it for Where oil is found How oil is formed Why oil is so important Oil spills and how they are cleaned up About the environmental impact of oil spills and oil use How we extract different products from crude oil How oil spills affect birds and other wildlife How we can investigate and identify different rock samples How oil is formed and trapped underground About alternative energy sources and sustainable projects around the world.	Canine Coast  Hardcore regions Lead use Economic activity Country studies Environment Climate Localist knowledge

Children also have at least two hours of Physical Education a week, P.E teaching consists of 6 main teaching and learning areas, outlined below;

Games
Gymnastics
Dance
Swimming
Outdoor and adventurous activities
Athletics

Children are taught by a specialist P.E teacher who visits the academy and when appropriate are taken to a local leisure centre to be taught by specialist swim coaches.

SMSC and British Values

SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural education) is at the core of all the academies teaching across the curriculum. The children are taught about the acceptance of others, cultural similarities and differences as well as looking at religions worldwide. Children learn about healthy lifestyles, keeping safe, peer pressure, physical development and relationships. All essential parts of life and learning needed as they get older. Through our SMSC teaching we teach the children about religion and expose them to collective worship. All children learn about world faiths and are taught to respect the beliefs of others. Children are encouraged to take time to reflect on their own experiences, behaviours and opinions and discuss them in a safe learning environment. A collective act of worship takes place every day in school assemblies, where the whole school are taught about events in the news or a specific theme relevant at the time. Ofsted now wants to see a school ethos and climate that promotes 'British values' at every level. British Values will be assessed through the teaching of SMSC, the curriculum and school leadership. There are five fundamental British Values that the children are taught. These are discussed and explored with the children through the teaching of our Curriculum, class reflection times, school assemblies, educational visits and people visiting the school. Denham Green prides itself on the core British values underpinning the ethos and environment of the school.

The five fundamental British Values are:

Democracy
The rule of law
Individual liberty
Mutual respect
Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith

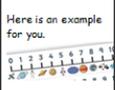
Homework

At Denham Green we believe homework plays a vital part in supporting the work your children do in class and is one of the best ways in which they can learn how to become more independent learners. Developing regular homework habits is a key area where we ask parents/carers to support their children to make progress.

Children will get two pieces of homework a week plus reading every day. The children have a maths activity to complete as well as a topic activity. At the start of the half term children are given a topic homework planner. This consists of 6 pieces of homework for the children to complete throughout the half term. It is up to the children to choose an activity and hand it in each week. Homework will always be meaningful and we expect it to be completed properly.

Year 1 Autumn 1 'Our place in space' homework

Each week you must choose one of the activities to complete for homework and hand it to your teacher on Monday morning.

Numeracy	History	Science	Geography	Design and Technology	Literacy
<p>How many planets are there in the solar system?</p> <p>Can you think of 2 more planets to add to our solar system and make them into a number line to 10? Don't forget to label the planets with their names.</p> <p>Here is an example for you.</p> 	<p>Who was the first man on the moon?</p> <p>Can you create a brainstorm of facts about the first man on the moon?</p> <p>Here is an example for you</p> <p>One Small Step</p> 	<p>Can you imagine what it would be like to walk in space with no gravity?</p> <p>If you can watch a video of Neil Armstrong walking on the moon for the first time</p> <p>http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/newsid_263800/0/2638048.stm</p> <p>Have a try at walking in space outside and take a photo or do a drawing of how it looks</p> 	<p>The original space race was between Russia and America using the map of the world can you colour Russia Yellow and America Red and label them.</p> 	<p>Can you design a new planet for our solar system? You can either make or draw your planet.</p> <p>Think about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who lives on your planet? What do they eat and drink? How do they get light? Are there buildings on your planet? 	<p>Imagine you are an astronaut. You are about to go on your first voyage into space. Your mission is to land safely on the moon and take photos of the solar system for NASA.</p> <p>Write a diary entry of your first day in space.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What can you see, hear and smell. What have you eaten. Who do you miss and who are you travelling into space with? <p>Don't forget your full stops and capital letters.</p>

Curriculum Days

Every half term our parents are invited into school for a curriculum day. This is an opportunity for parents to visit after school for half an hour and look at a range of work throughout the school. The Curriculum days revolve around a theme or a curriculum subject focus and are a great way for the children to share their work and learning with parents.