



# HEATH HOUSE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

## Curriculum Policy

All children are introduced to and understand the school's ethos – 'Give me a place to stand and I will move the Earth'. With that in mind and with a further inclusion of the school motto 'Work Hard and Play Hard', the children develop a strong sense of self-worth with the added value of a work ethic which ultimately is reflected in their achievements.

All children have a form tutor who develops and nurtures a sense of identity and self-image from a young age. It is further supported by a house system made up of six houses named after Greek Gods; clear evidence of the school's classical background and identity. Each House has a House Captain with a member of staff allocated to a House. This system encourages interaction across all age ranges and promotes healthy competition in sporting and other events.

From the inception of Heath House a robust child-centred approach has been maintained with an environment designed to encourage every child, of all ages and abilities, to achieve their maximum potential. Our school day is orchestrated to be busy and productive where children feel a sense of excitement and achievement - a fast structured pace giving a sense of urgency in their quest for excellence.

Each class has its own form room, library area and cloakroom section, as well as a minimum of 1 interactive board and a minimum of two PCs. The main school library is in the Old Library building in Blackheath Grove.

Heath House has three buildings accommodating children in the following classes:

Kindergarten and Reception in Tranquil Hall, Tranquil Passage.

Year 1 and Year 2 in the Wemyss Road building.

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 in the Old Library in Blackheath Grove.

The school has interactive whiteboards installed and an ICT suite of 18 computers with broadband. The School operates password-protected Wi-Fi across its buildings with adequate firewalls in place. Pupils access the Internet via the school laptops or classroom PCs during class time and under supervision.

The school has wide range of sporting equipment including the wall-mounted gym apparatus at the Old Library building. For outdoor games Heath House utilises the vast open area on Blackheath, where both the Lower and

Upper School have afternoon games, enjoying a varied range of team games. Although we are small in size we have large objectives and ambition, and offer extensive activities, making use of our facilities whether on site or off site. The school uses the well-equipped gym and sports hall together with the swimming pool of the nearby Waterfront Leisure Centre to enrich the physical education provision for children. All children have swimming lessons once a week throughout the academic year, taught by the leisure centre's instructors and supervised by Heath House staff. Upper School pupils use the sports hall at the leisure centre once a week under the instruction of Heath House staff, allowing team sports including basketball, indoor hockey, football, dodge-ball, and badminton, as well as gymnastics and dance to be taught year round. Our children often enter competitions against local schools held by the Borough of Lewisham, including swimming galas, team sports events and festivals such as the London Youth Games. The school also competes in tournaments with other independent schools, selecting teams to represent Heath House in football, netball, hockey, basketball and rugby.

The school makes good use of local facilities, using Blackheath Village as the setting for the annual Chinese New Year Parade and the Easter Hat Parade. Whole school performances with parents and friends of Heath House attending take place at local venues including the Blackheath Halls for Gym & Dance shows, the Greenwich Theatre for the Summer Production, and the All Saints Church for the Christmas Miscellany and end of term services.

### ***Give me a place to stand and I will move the Earth***

Heath House does not operate a streaming system. Instead we have small groups, maximum 16 children per class with an average class size of 15, which nurtures individual children's skills encouraging children of all aptitudes and needs to thrive and maximise their potential. It is an approach which allows us to go beyond the requirements of the National Curriculum introducing some subjects earlier and delivering others in greater depth.

If a child has a Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) or an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan they will be supported by the school using an individual education plan (IEP), and the full support of the school, the child's parents and the Local Authority (LA) working together will facilitate the provisions in the statement/EHC plan. If a child with a statement of SEN or EHC plan needs additional support, the school will liaise with the child's parents and LA to facilitate this. IEPs are used throughout the school to support individual children's learning difficulties, and record the progress they make. Where the school and a child's parent identify extra support is needed, the school will also facilitate for additional support for that child, for example speech and language therapy.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) at Heath House follows the standards of learning, development and care set out in the *Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage* (EYFS Framework) and *Development Matters in the Early Years Foundation Stage*.

Children in Key Stage 1 (Pre-Prep Year 1 and 2) and Key Stage 2 (Prep Year 3, 4, 5, and 6) study English, Maths, Science, Religious Education, History, Geography, French, Spanish (introduced in Year 3), Mandarin, Music, Art and Design, Drama, ICT, and Physical Education. P.S.H.E and citizenship is included in all classes and during the tutor group period in the mornings. In Years 1 and 2 some subjects are integrated through topics, and cross

curricular links between subjects are made for older children. For example Classics is taught within the History curriculum.

To develop a healthy work ethic, homework begins in Kindergarten with reading and writing with the addition of spelling in Years 1 and 2. Formal written homework with Maths, begins in Year 3 together with research of classroom topics. We provide homework journals so that children and parents are clear what the homework is, when it is allocated and when it is to be completed by. The school's "open door" policy means parents have access to discuss homework with their child's teacher at any time. The school also provides extra morning and afternoon sessions delivered by class teachers, to provide additional support for children, for example, maths, English, verbal reasoning and non-verbal reasoning tutorials.

The school takes note of the spirit and content of the National Curriculum and combines these within its own work programme and derives inspiration and breadth from the resources of London. As such, Heath House provides children with a full and stimulating experience in all areas of *linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical, and aesthetic and creative* education. Personal, social, health and economic education, citizenship, and regard for British values is also reflected in our school ethos and values and embedded in everything we do.

### **Linguistic**

#### **English**

English is a vital way of communicating in school, in public life and internationally. Literature in English is rich and influential reflecting the experience of people over time and from many countries. In studying English pupils develop skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing. It enables them to express themselves creatively and imaginatively and to communicate with others effectively. Pupils learn to become enthusiastic and critical readers of stories, poetry and drama as well as non-fiction and media texts. The study of English helps pupils understand how language works by looking at its pattern structures and origins. Using this knowledge pupils can choose and adapt what they say and write to different situations. Plenty of opportunities are provided for public speaking and oral expression, through assemblies, plays and productions, workshops, show and tell, and debating. Heath House believes that the teaching of English is the fundamental vehicle for all other learning within the curriculum.

#### **Modern Foreign Languages – French, Spanish and Mandarin**

At Heath House Modern Foreign Languages are highly valued. The pupils and staff alike come from a variety of cultural backgrounds and we aim to encourage pupils to understand and appreciate different countries, cultures, people and communities. Modern Foreign Languages should also be seen as a vehicle for the building of pupils' self-esteem and confidence and for the development of their thinking skills. We encourage pupils to participate in a variety of activities and games through which we aim to build their linguistic confidence. Through singing songs, pupils learn to memorize vocabulary associated within a specific topic.

### **Mathematical**

## **Maths**

Maths is integral to all aspects of life and with this in mind we endeavour to ensure that pupils develop a healthy and enthusiastic attitude towards Maths that will equip them for their future. Maths should provide pupils with the uniquely powerful tools and skills to understand the world. These include numeracy, logical reasoning, problem solving and the ability to think in abstract ways. As such it is treated as a creative discipline where pupils can achieve moments of insight and mastery taken further can provide a strong foundation for future learning.

## **Scientific**

### **Science**

Science at Heath House is taught in order to stimulate pupils' curiosity about the natural world, by making the connection between direct practical experience and ideas. Pupils are encouraged to develop their scientific method by evaluating explanations through experiment. In this way pupils begin to understand how major scientific concepts and discoveries have contributed to technological change.

## **Technological**

### **ICT**

Information and Computer Technology (ICT) is a tool to help our children to meet the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Children need to understand the power and potential of ICT. They need to handle information in a variety of forms and for a multitude of purposes. Our children learn to use ICT tools safely and effectively, and use information sources to analyse, process and present information. ICT can support their learning and help them to understand the implications of ICT for working life and society. Children need to understand the effects and limitations of technology as well as the huge opportunities it provides.

## **Human and Social**

### **Geography**

Geography is concerned with the study of places, the human and physical processes that shape them and the people who live in them. It can inspire pupils to think about their own place in the world, their values and their rights and responsibilities to other people and the environment. We are therefore ready and keen to explore the world beyond the classroom to engage in research focussing on the natural environment.

### **History**

In History we encourage pupils to consider how the past influences the present, what past societies were like, how these societies organised themselves and how beliefs and cultures influence people's actions. In this way pupils gain a chronological framework for their knowledge of key events and people. What they learn can shape their decision about personal choices, attitudes and values.

## **Classics**

Classics is an integral part of the History course within the National Curriculum. Classics gives pupils the knowledge of the ancient cultural and intellectual foundations of European civilisation. Through the teaching of classical culture we aim to cultivate a curiosity about the ancient cultures of Greece, Italy and Egypt, to develop a chronological understanding of periods of time and to increase knowledge and understanding of these ancient civilisations. To know about key historical figures and events that have influenced the course of ancient History. To identify key mythical figures of Ancient Greece and Rome; to explore the myths, legends and national relics of Greece and Rome; to gain an understanding and appreciation of ancient civilisations by participating in school trips abroad to Greece, Italy and Egypt.

## **Religious Education**

Heath House is a multi-cultural school that teaches Religious Education (R.E.) within a pluralistic framework where the diversity of religious experiences, traditions and practices are equally valued. We believe it is essential that no one religion is promoted over another and our teaching and learning programme embraces this. In this way, R.E. contributes to children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, ensuring that mutual respect and tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs is actively promoted. R.E. is not the same as collective worship which has its own place within our school life.

## **Physical**

### **Physical Education**

Heath House believes in physical fitness and in the striving for excellence in sporting endeavour. We believe in competition conducted within the rules of the game and in good sportsmanship. Sport is vital to pupils' physiological development to their good health, to their performance in class and to their general self-discipline.

## **Aesthetic and Creative**

### **Art and Design**

We believe that pupils should be given the opportunity to enjoy, discuss and critically respond to a variety of art, craft and design forms. By teaching Art and Design we aim to encourage the natural abilities that every pupil possesses in this curriculum area and promote enjoyment in all Art and Design activities. We aim to help pupils

communicate confidently and develop aesthetic judgements applied to their own work, to the work of others and to the world around them. We teach pupils to look carefully at images and artefacts of the past, the present and from other cultures, develop skills and knowledge of materials so that ideas can be generated, undertaken and completed with success. In this way children can learn to use increasingly expressive language and art specific vocabulary to respond to their own work and that of others. We further provide the opportunity for the children to experience a range of workshops at the famous Dulwich Picture Gallery where specialists teach the children Art through storytelling and workshops where children have hands on experience of a variety of skills and techniques used by artists, craft workers and designers. By doing this the children can make judgements about the nature and quality of their own work. As a result their personalities can blossom through these experiences and their enjoyment of the visual arts will enrich their lives into adulthood.

## **Music**

Music is a foundation subject within the National Curriculum and at Heath House Music offers a unique way of communication that can inspire, encourage and motivate pupils. It enables personal expression and fuses intellect and emotion, self-discipline and creativity. At Heath House we provide opportunities for all pupils to create, play, perform, appraise and enjoy music. We also aim to develop the skills to critically appreciate a wide variety of musical forms.

## **Drama**

Drama is the expression of ideas, feelings and human experience through movement, sound, visual image and the realisation of role. The purpose of teaching drama is to combine these elements, communicate meaning and enable us to understand ourselves, the people around us and the world in which we live.

## **Personal, Social, Health and Economic**

### **P.S.H.E and Citizenship**

Personal, social, health and economic (P.S.H.E) education is central to the educational entitlement of all children at Heath House. PSHE at the school is supporting and encouraging the children's understanding and learning of all British values. It allows individual growth through co-ordinated educational programmes. Having a cross curricular dimension, it permeates all aspects of life at school. It is all inclusive within the teaching of all subjects. PSHE is further supported with visiting speakers, assemblies, workshops, and visits outside school, and is linked to the children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

The school is a member of the PSHE Association, and as part of this provides teachers with a PSHE scheme of work covering all aspects of the PSHE curriculum, for all age groups, to support their lessons.

Internal use only

<b>Last reviewed</b>	14 March 2018
	7 October 2016

	22 September 2016
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