

Cranford Park Academy's Curriculum

At CPA, at the heart of what we do is a desire for all children and families to have high aspirations and a will to achieve and excel across the curriculum. We do not want any child to be limited by their circumstances or by their needs. As a result, we pride ourselves on being highly inclusive, supportive and aspirational. We celebrate the diverse nature of the community which we serve and our children leave us with a clear understanding of our shared values.

CPA's curriculum is focused on the development of children's knowledge and skills across all primary subjects with the aim of ensuring pupils are ready for the next stage of their learning. We prize rigour and quality and aim to achieve both. Subjects are taught discretely with appropriate opportunities found for cross-curricular links. Our curriculum is refreshed as part of our drive to continually strive to improve our teaching and learning in light of the latest research as well as by learning from other schools and practitioners through our work with National English and Maths hubs and a range of project and CPD work.

We understand very clearly the crucial importance of partnership with parents and we offer an extensive range of opportunities for our parents to find out more about our curriculum so they can best support their children. We offer multiple How to Help workshops with parents, every term, in every year group. From Nursery to Year 6 we encourage parents to be in the classroom through projects such as Stay and Engage, Family Reads and Curriculum Drop Ins.

In Maths we follow a mastery approach where all pupils are taught to their year group expectation with challenge for the more able and support for those who may need it. We follow the White Rose schema and invest time in high quality internal and external Maths training for staff.

Reading is at the core of our curriculum as it is the ability to read and understand which opens up learning for children. We follow the Sounds Write phonics programme after researching innovative ways to develop children's phonics knowledge. From Year 2 onwards staff use Accelerated Reader to ensure children are accessing accurately levelled texts to ensure maximum progress as well as helping to engender a love of reading alongside. Better Reading Partners supports any struggling readers.

We have opted to use The Reach Curriculum resources for History and Geography. This ensures that pupils in each phase receive a rigorous, coherent and intelligently sequenced curriculum which builds on what has come before. The work is grounded in the strongest available evidence about how pupils learn and retain knowledge in the long term – focusing in particular on research from cognitive science. All other subjects have moved towards a similar approach. Knowledge harvests capture the prior learning, a focus on vocabulary ensures greater understanding, regular retrieval quizzes check retention and the focus is on knowledge acquisition with skills ladders working alongside. Assessment is carried out across the curriculum through set tasks and low risk quizzing. Children complete summative assessments termly to show progress in reading, writing and maths.

There are a number of additional curriculum aspects of which CPA is particularly proud. As part of the Federation's Childhood Promise programme CPA provides a fully funded annual trip or experience, which is planned to increase opportunities for cultural capital growth. In 2018-19 we introduced Forest School to our Early Year curriculum following on from a successful curriculum research project which CPA was part of, looking at increasing resilience. Forest School offers all learners regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in our woodland on site area. We have seen the increased resilience, team skills and confidence positively impact on the outcomes for our children.

Play to Learn is CPA's unique pre Nursery parent and child group that supports families with pre-school learning and models high quality interaction and learning through play. It aims to give children a head start in their education and help empower their families. CPA runs an extensive range of extra-curricular activities and opportunities to give children the chance to develop their skills and talents beyond the school day. Being part of the Park Federation enables children to take part in numerous additional inter school competitions both sporting and academic. CPA also has its own performing arts group 'The Centre for Excellence' that annually puts together a performance as part of the Shakespeare Schools Festival. We offer all these experiences to build aspirations and self-belief alongside our emphasis on academic rigour.