

Curriculum

at Malin Bridge Primary School

Updated November 2023

What is a curriculum?

Curriculum lies at the heart of education: it determines what children will know and what they will be able to go on to do. It includes what children learn in the classroom and beyond.

Vision

Children are engaged in an enriched, relevant, diverse and inspiring curriculum, which meets statutory requirements whilst being personalised to the needs of the Malin Bridge community. Clear progression enables children to achieve to a high standard.

Good is not enough if it can be better and better is not enough if it can be best.

AT MALIN BRIDGE PRIMARY OUR PUPILS...







Intent

A curriculum that provides pupils with a solid foundation of knowledge as well as the opportunity to develop values such as empathy, respect and responsibility, helping them to become well-rounded individuals.

High quality outcomes that evidence the progression in skills of children.

A rigorous framework which ensures teachers can focus on *how* to teach as opposed to *what*.

Regular enrichment of the curriculum, through visits, visitors, practical activities, experiences and extended learning opportunities.

Curriculum Design

3D Approach

At Malin Bridge, the curriculum is **meticulously designed** and **sequenced** to ensure knowledge is firmly anchored in pupils' **long term memories**, so they are empowered to **apply** their knowledge effectively and confidently. All aspects of the curriculum have been designed with **progression** in mind, to ensure children build on existing skills and knowledge, which enables them to make links to new learning more easily. In order to provide children with opportunities to revisit previous learning, and build their long-term memories, the curriculum follows a **3D approach** (a similar approach to *spiralling*).



The links within a given subject that ensure key concepts are encountered again and again. For example, the concept of 'empire' is taught through a range of different History units throughout different year groups.



Horizontal links are made in each year group or phase to ensure purposeful links across different subjects can be made. For example, in Year 3, learning about Ancient Egypt in History and rivers in Geography.



These links join concepts across both year group and subjects. For example, pupils learn the word 'source' refers to the place where a river begins when studying rivers in Y3, but they later learn it is also a person or book that provides information for news stories or for historical research when we discuss primary and secondary sources in history.

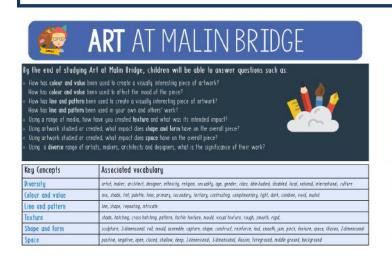


The approach outlined above has been chosen because it aligns with principles of cognitive science and is specifically tailored to the unique context and community of Malin Bridge. It sets ambitious goals for all learners, whilst promoting inclusivity.

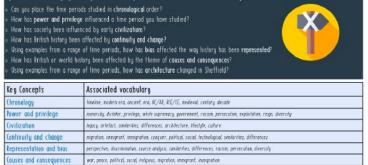
Foundation Subjects

Subject Stories

There are **Subject Stories** for all foundation subjects, which detail the journey pupils go on through each curriculum area during their time at Malin Bridge. They contain the **key concepts** (*substantive and disciplinary*), which are built over time, as well as how each unit fits into the 'bigger picture' of the curriculum. Finally, the subject stories also contain an agreed glossary of definitions to ensure **consistent language** is used throughout school.







Knowledge Sheets

Each unit taught has a corresponding knowledge sheet which details the precise substantive knowledge that pupils will be taught. This provides consistency across all classes, so all children are exposed to the same knowledge. The knowledge listed is not all for memorisation; rather, it provides a context to support children in developing skills and disciplinary knowledge.

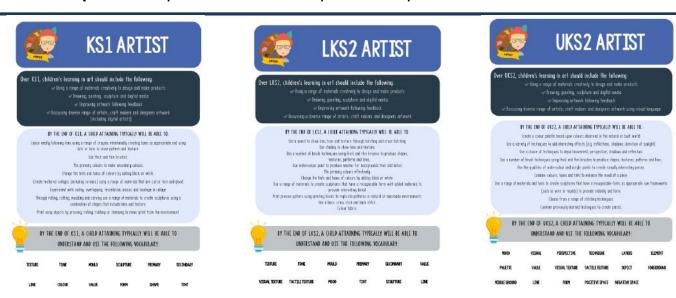
These documents also detail the prior knowledge children need to have in order to assimilate new knowledge into existing schema.



Foundation Subjects

Skills Sheets

There are skills sheets for each foundation subject, for each phase, detailing the disciplinary knowledge. These include what a child who is attaining typically, should **be able to do by the end of their phase**. They also include the key vocabulary which children should be able to use.



The overview document provides teachers and support staff with an overview of all units covered across a phase, over the 2-year cycle.









Core Skills

The school places Oracy,
Reading, Writing and Maths as
the key focusses of the
curriculum, as we feel these
provide children with the skills
needed to access a wide range
of learning. These core skills
are developed and utilized
across the curriculum.

See the English and Maths booklets for more information about teaching core skills.

Foundation Stage (FS1 and FS2)







The Foundation Stage curriculum, like the curriculum in KS1 and KS2, is built around the three school values; **celebrate diversity, be aspirational** and **enquire about the world**. These values have been woven through the six bespoke topics, which have been designed to lay the foundations for further learning in KS1 and beyond. Each of the six topics has a **topic story** which outlines the learning the unit will cover. It also details the ambitious vocabulary the children will be exposed to in both Nursery (2-4 year olds) and Foundation Stage (4-5 year olds).

To accompany these documents, there are also **knowledge sheets** to available for each unit, which detail the precise knowledge children will encounter. FS1 and FS2 focus on the same context for learning to provide children will time to consolidate learning and build on existing knowledge.

FS1 and FS2 example knowledge sheets for a topic on dinosaurs.



Additional FS1 and FS2 curriculum documents available on request.









Planning

Teaching staff at our school are deeply committed to ensuring the highest quality of curriculum planning and delivery. To achieve this, phases conduct three curriculum planning meetings each term, fostering a shared understanding among the team regarding the unit's intent, lesson objectives, purpose and strategies for scaffolding and stretching learners. These meetings help teachers crystallize the knowledge and skills being developed, with a clear focus on the key concepts underpinning each unit of study. Teachers utilize knowledge sheets and skills sheets as benchmarks to guide their instructional planning, with Foundation Subject Assessment Guidance aiding in the seamless sequencing of learning, ensuring that pupils progress toward end-of-year expectations.

Micro-scripts are available to assist staff in articulating how new learning integrates into the broader curriculum, emphasizing the key concepts being cultivated. We've also established a user-friendly planning template to capture essential unit details without burdening teachers with excessive paperwork. These documents effectively encapsulate the essence of each unit, ensuring that all staff members are well-prepared to deliver engaging and effective lessons. Moreover, any gaps in staff knowledge and understanding are thoughtfully addressed through tailored CPD sessions. Support staff also receive dedicated time to familiarize themselves with the curriculum documentation and receive specialized training to enhance their readiness for classroom engagement.

This approach to planning and CPD, along with the way the curriculum has been meticulously designed and sequenced, helps to close the attainment gap for disadvantaged pupils, ensuring all pupils can reach their full potential.



Available on request:

Phase curriculum meeting cycle, micro-script, curriculum intent/implement/impact model, foundation subject assessment guidance documents, planning template, CPD materials.

For further information about planning, please refer to the booklet

Planning Learning vs. Filling in Lesson Plans

Scaffolding and Stretching

Teachers are highly skilled in adapting lessons to ensure they cater to the diverse learning needs of pupils. For those who need additional support and scaffolding, teachers and support staff use a range of techniques. These include providing more time to grasp concepts through pre-teach session and extended practise, using bespoke visual resources to support understanding, dual coding information, use of Kagan® structures to aid children's ability to formulate responses, use of knowledge organisers to aid recall of key information, adapted tasks and the opportunity to work with an adult or peer(s). For early graspers who quickly understand new concepts, teachers and support staff provide routine opportunities to extend their thinking. These activities encourage critical thinking, creativity and independent exploration. Flexible lesson structures allow early graspers the opportunity to access tasks sooner, whilst slower graspers have more time to practise skills and consolidate their understanding before moving on to independent work. Support staff are guided by the EEF's self-scaffolding model (taken from Making Best Use of Teaching Assistants) which helps to identify the most appropriate level of support for a child. Our goal is to create an inclusive learning environment where every student can thrive at their own pace and level of understanding.







Adaptations for SEND

We are deeply committed to providing an inclusive education that caters to the diverse needs of all our students, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Our curriculum is thoughtfully adapted to ensure that SEND pupils receive the support and accommodations necessary to thrive academically and personally. We employ a personalized approach that follows the Graduated Approach system. It consists of 4 elements: Assess, Plan, Do, Review, and enables the SEND team to make a judgement about the SEND status of a child and whether it needs to progress. A collaborative approach to planning, involving teachers, special education staff, and parents, ensure that each pupil's

individual needs are comprehensively addressed, leading to a more personalized and effective educational experience. Pupils with SEND are encouraged to maintain high standards and be ambitious with their learning across all subjects. Bespoke, high-quality training is available to staff to ensure they are knowledgeable about the needs of the children they work with and how

to support them.



Responsive Teaching

Teachers plan for learning carefully based on needs and current levels of understanding of their pupils. They use a variety of techniques to gather assessment information in order to consolidate and expand children's knowledge. Techniques routinely used across school include:

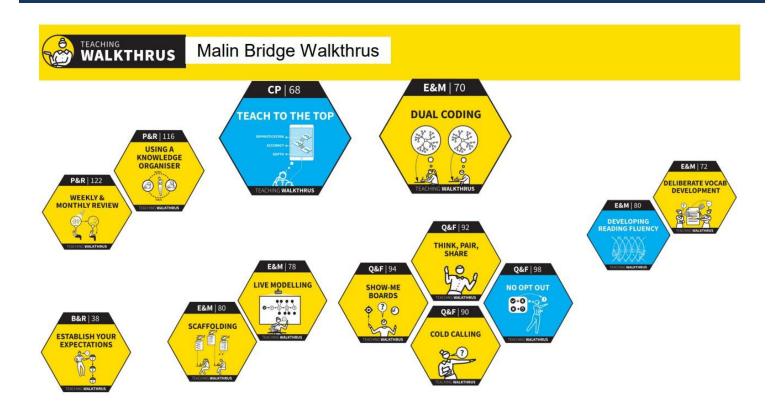
Flexible Grouping: Organizing pupils into different groups based on their learning needs, allowing for small group work, peer tutoring, and collaborative learning.

Questioning: Encouraging critical thinking and deeper understanding by asking open-ended questions that promote discussion and exploration of ideas.

Response Cards/Whiteboards/Plickers: Using cards, whiteboards or Plickers for students to respond to questions or polls, allowing teachers to quickly gauge understanding and adjust instruction.

Exit Tickets and Hinge Questions: Answers to exit questions are used to reshape learning for the next lesson, whilst hinge questions are planned into sessions to help guide teachers in shaping that lesson, responses to these tell a teacher what the next stage of the lesson ought to be - whether to recap or move on.

Kagan Structures and Walkthrus: Teachers use a variety of techniques to ensure all pupils are active participates in their own learning. Each phase has an agreed set of Kagan structures to support collaborative work, and teachers have a set of Walkthrus to implement evidence-based research into the classroom.







Spaced Retrieval

Spaced retrieval is a powerful strategy that forms the basis of **effective learning** at all levels. Our foundation subject retrieval flipcharts, meticulously designed to span content from Early Years through to Year 6, exemplify this approach. Through the practice of **interleaving**, where topics and concepts are deliberately mixed and revisited over time, pupils are provided with opportunities to consistently engage with and reinforce their understanding of subjects. This method isn't just about passing tests; it's about **fostering deep comprehension** and ensuring that **knowledge is retained in long-term memory**. By revisiting and recalling information at spaced intervals, pupils build stronger cognitive connections, making the information more readily accessible when they need it most.

At Malin Bridge, we use a variety of resources to help deliver effective retrieval practice, including: retrieval flipcharts, recap stickers, knowledge organiser recaps, mini quizzes, partner recap tasks and last lesson/last week/last unit/last year reviews.



EYFS Dinosaurs			, k	Cey Concepts
KS1 Ice-Age to Iron-Age	KS1 Victorians	KS1 Great Fire of London	KS1 The Brilliance of Bread	KS1 Ancient Greece
LKS2	LKS2	LKS2	LKS2	
Ancient	Kingdom of	Invaders	Tudor	
Egypt	Benin	and Settlers	England	
UKS2	UKS2	UKS2	UKS2	UKS2
First	North	Identity &	Islamic	The
Nations	America	Inequality	Empire	Romans









Enrichment

We are immensely proud of the enrichment opportunities at Malin Bridge; they provide unique learning opportunities to develop key skills, create lasting memories, forge positive community links, engage pupils and provide a real purpose for learning.

When planning any learning, teachers will consider and identify how they plan to engage children in their learning. This may take a wide variety of forms for example through an educational visit, visitors into school or theme linked activity days. Teachers also make use of subject expertise to engage children, such as through weekly choir master sessions with a music specialist. Teachers also identify how the learning is to be demonstrated or shared. Again, this can take many forms, from putting on an event for parents/carers, sharing learning with designated partner classes, sharing learning and photos through Instagram, undertaking an



investigation question to demonstrate application of skills, presenting learning through drama or various ICT and whole school communication with parents/carers via social media. We strive to give the children a real sense of purpose to their learning.

All enrichment activities are planned with a focus on skill development. Skills are grouped under the headings Head, Heart and Health, which support children in becoming well-rounded individuals.

www.instagram.com/malinbridgeprimaryschool





MBPSBRIDGE









MBPSLKS2

MBPSUKS2









Personal Development

Personal development is exceptional at Malin Bridge; it is at the core of our curriculum. We believe in equipping our students with essential life skills, and fostering their confidence, resilience and independence. Through various aspects of the curriculum, both inside the classroom and beyond, pupils learn about how to maintain a healthy and active lifestyle (keeping both physically and mentally healthy), how to develop and maintain healthy relationships, as well as the importance of the fundamental British values. This holistic approach is evident through various initiatives across school including: the citizenship and RE curriculum offer, residential trips in Y2, Y4 and Y6; the development of a leadership and coaching model in PE; delivering high-quality swimming lessons; the introduction of Balanceability® and Bikeability®; school council elections, extra-curricular clubs and financial education sessions with HSBC bank.

Beyond the classroom, SMSC and Development of Character are the focus of school assemblies and the behaviour policy throughout school. Pupils' behaviour and attitudes are developed through dedicated citizenship lessons, assemblies and at break times. Pastoral support for pupils is strong, class teachers and support staff have a deep understanding of the pupils they work with and are skilled in addressing issues which arise. They are further supported by the curriculum support team, SEND team, safeguarding team and wider school leadership to ensure pupils feel safe, happy and involved in the school so they can perform to their full potential.

Other initiatives which contribute to pupils' personal development include the Healthy Minds project, CBT therapy sessions, Green Team and the Holiday activities and food programme (HAF Project), which provided 120 hours of support to vulnerable pupils over the summer holiday.







Behaviour Curriculum

Vision

A high-quality behaviour curriculum encourages exemplary behaviour and promotes productive learning. Children at Malin Bridge are encouraged to make good choices, build positive relationships and accept responsibility for their behaviour. Encouragement, praise and rewards underpin our three school rules and children are taught how to develop as responsible members of society.



Our Rules

Listen and join in.

Care for everybody and everything in our school.

Try hard.

How we teach behaviour

We take a whole school approach to ensuring high standards and expectations of good behaviour permeate through school, we regard behaviour as a subject, teaching the subject content to the children, providing examples, modelling and feedback.

Teachers and support staff ensure their own behaviour is a model to pupils and look to always exemplify expectations.

Whole staff training is delivered to teachers and support staff to ensure there is consistency in approach and variations in approach, specific to age and stages of the children, is shared through phase leader handbooks. This sharing of information creates consistency and ensures there is fidelity in the implementation, with monitoring undertaken by school leaders to provide quality assurance.

In addition to our three school rules we have behaviour expectations that apply to both learning and social times, and to peers and school adults, and the children are rewarded for demonstrating these, along with the school rules through Class Dojo, which is set up in every classroom.





Our Expectations



Assessment and Monitoring

Behaviour Guidance

available upon request.

Each term, class teachers assess every child's behaviour and attitudes using behaviour descriptors on a four point assessment scale. In order for children to be 'meeting expectations' they must fulfil all of the criteria listed and to be 'exceeding' they must have firstly met all of the criteria on the 'meeting expectations' list.

Our behaviour tracking focuses on each child's, 'engagement in learning', 'relationships with school staff' and 'relationships with other children'. Children who are identified as having behaviour that is less than expected in any category are a focus for class teachers, who will be able to articulate how they are supporting the child to address any issues. Phase Leaders will be aware of these children and will support teachers in deciding if a behaviour and attitudes support plan is required so the child can meet behaviour expectations.

To ensure we have fidelity in our behaviour curriculum, school leaders undertake monitoring of behaviour each half term. Behaviour tracking scores provides quantitative data that can be analysed and this will generate monitoring questions that leaders can investigate for school improvement and inform stakeholders on the quality of education, provision and support. In addition to this, we seek the views of other stakeholders to support effective decision making and develop our understanding. Staff voice is understood through surveys and through communication between staff and school leaders during break and social times. We complete annual parent and carer questionnaires and seek their feedback through end of year school reports. We also complete exit questionnaires with Year 6 parents/carers and pupils.

Behaviour Tracking at Malin Bridge

Behaviour Score	1	2	3	4
Behaviour descriptor	Causing significant Concern (Rarely follows the school rules)	Less than Expected (Regularly does not follow the school rules the majority of the time)	Meeting Expectations (Following the school rules the majority of the time)	Exceeding Expectations (Following the school rules the all of the time)
Engagement in Learning	Is not fulfilling any of the meeting expectations criteria.	Is not fulfilling some of the meeting expectations criteria.	Joins in with learning. Responds positively to challenges. Responds to feedback positively. If distracted can get back on task quickly.	Never distracted from learning. Challenges themselves. Seeks feedback and is relentless in trying to improve.
Relationships with School Staff	Is not fulfilling any of the meeting expectations criteria.	Is not fulfilling some of the meeting expectations criteria.	Follows instructions quickly. Displays good manners consistently. Is respectful to all adults.	Always displays impeccable manners. Is trusted by adults to act as a role model to others.
Relationships with Other Children	Is not fulfilling any of the meeting expectations criteria.	Is not fulfilling some of the meeting expectations criteria.	Does not intentionally distract other children. Treats other children kindly. Is able to resolve conflict and friendship issues with regular success. Can work well as part of a team.	Is a role model for other children during lessons. Supports other children in solving friendship and conflict issues. Works well in a team and if needed can lead a team well.

Above are the descriptors used for behaviour tracking. This information is shared at Parents' Evening and included in annual reports to parents and carers.

Inclusion and additional needs

At Malin Bridge we work hard to create a school environment where everyone feels welcome and valued. When supporting pupils' behaviour we look to ensure that every child receives the support that they need, recognising their starting points, barriers, circumstances and conditions.

Some children may not meet behaviour expectations because of additional needs and these children will be known to the SEND team and members of the Core Leadership Team. We focus on the progress these children make and recognise that for children with significant additional needs, the behaviour descriptors may not be attainable in the same way as for others. In this circumstance, our focus is always on providing the support

that each individual requires in order to succeed.

For children with additional needs, the school's expectations ensures that children with additional needs do make progress. By using these as learning targets, the expectations for the children are not being lowered, but may be a focus on how they are achieved, for example, with additional support or scaffolds.



Please see the Behaviour booklet for more information.





British Values

Pupils learn about the fundamental British values through a mixture of dedicated lessons, usually as part of the Citizenship offer, and through other parts of the curriculum where meaningful links can be made. For example, learning about tolerance and respect as part of the UKS2 History topic on *Identity and Inequality*. Pupils can talk confidently about the importance of the values, and why we are lucky to live in Britain today.

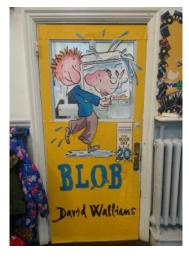




Learning Environment

As a school we use communal areas to share and celebrate learning and what has been going on in and out of school. A display plan is used to ensure boards are changed appropriately and that the learning of all children in school is celebrated. Within classrooms, displays will be used to celebrate and support learning. These are regularly updated to ensure they are relevant to the current unit of work. Ensuring the environment is organised contributes to pupil attainment.





Vocabulary

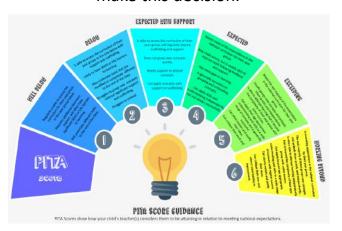
At Malin Bridge Primary, we have placed language acquisition and comprehension at the heart of the curriculum. Within our curriculum progression documents, there are key words in each subject that have been identified as those which children will be able to confidently use at the end of a phase. Alongside these words there will be other key words included in learning journeys and individual lessons, which signifies the importance in learning them to the children. Time will be spent during lessons exploring language with teachers identifying vocabulary that may not be familiar to children and ensuring their meaning is understood. The subject story documents contain a glossary for each foundation subject with agreed definitions for key words. This is to enable children to embed key vocabulary so they can use if confidently and consistently.





Assessment: The Impact

To help staff make a **summative assessment** of pupils achievement at key points during the academic year, there are clear skills and knowledge outlined that a child is expected to achieve by the end of each school phase. **Foundation Subject Assessment Guidance** sheets provide additional clarity about the end of year expectations. Children will only be assessed against what they have covered and teachers use their professional judgement to give a PITA (*Point in Time Assessment*) score; these range from 1-6. Please see the image below for more details. Teachers use class questioning, outcomes in books, discussions and the results of tests or quizzes to make this decision.



A range of **formative assessment** strategies are used to help teachers to reshape the learning to meet the needs of all pupils in their class and ensure the pitch of the lesson is appropriate.

See Responsive Teaching section for more detail.











Exceptionality

The curriculum at Malin Bridge Primary School is exceptional for several reasons. Firstly, it takes pride in its commitment to diversity, seamlessly weaving it throughout various subjects and across the entire school. This approach ensures that pupils gain a broad understanding of different cultures and perspectives, preparing them to thrive in an increasingly interconnected world. Secondly, the school's curriculum is both ambitious and balanced. It challenges pupils academically, motivating them to reach their full potential, while also emphasizing the creation of lasting memories and personal development. This dual focus ensures that pupils not only excel academically but also grow as well-rounded individuals. The logical and well-structured **nature** of the curriculum is another remarkable feature. It's designed with careful consideration of cognitive load and working memory, facilitating effective learning and helping pupils build on their prior knowledge. Furthermore, the curriculum is deeply rooted in research and tailored to the specific needs of the Malin Bridge community. This custom approach ensures that the education provided is not only relevant but also responsive to the unique challenges and opportunities that pupils encounter. Lastly, Malin Bridge Primary School's curriculum plays a crucial role in shaping pupils into socially aware and compassionate individuals who excel not only academically but also in their ability to contribute positively to society.

In essence, the school's curriculum harmoniously combines **academic excellence** with a **strong sense of social responsibility**, offering pupils a well-rounded education that thoroughly equips them to navigate life's complexities and seize its opportunities.

Appendices

(available on request)

Overview documents, Foundation Subject booklets, SEND booklet, Core Subject booklets, Skills Sheets, Knowledge Sheets, Behaviour Policy

