

Why do we teach science and what does it look like in our school?

At Oasis Academy Fir Vale we aim to give all our pupils a strong understanding of the world around them, together with the acquisition of the knowledge and skills to help them think scientifically, gain an understanding of scientific processes and also an understanding of the uses and implications of science, today and for the future. Through science all pupils learn to be curious, question, investigate, test and explain.

Regardless of starting points, we provide practical, engaging, memorable sessions that all pupils can all access. Our high-quality science curriculum provides the knowledge for understanding the world through the specific disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics. In key stage 1 pupils are taught about the changing seasons, the importance of plants and the need to explore different materials. Knowledge is carefully sequenced so that new learning builds on what has been taught before. Our pupils are taught to understand how science can be used to explain what they have observed, make predictions and analyse cause and effect. We teach science in a practical way enabling children to develop their vocabulary and know and remember more. Learning is recorded in creative ways in either floor or science books, for example using masking tape and post it notes to create a graphs or tables. Children progress to recording independently relative to their stage of English acquisition.

Why do we teach personal, social and health education and what does it look like in our school?

At Oasis Fir Vale Academy, we want our pupils to become healthy, independent, and responsible citizens. We are committed to promoting personal, social and health education (PSHE) within a curriculum that brings together citizenship with personal well-being whilst also promoting fundamental British values alongside the Oasis 9 habits. PSHE not only underpins all our classroom activities but also assemblies, educational visits and extra-curricular clubs.

Our pupils need well thought out, well-planned, bespoke sessions to build and develop skills to prepare them for the future. The curriculum is underpinned by an analysis of the local context and the strengths and needs of the pupils in our school. Daily check in sessions enable children to discuss their feelings and learn self-regulation strategies that support them to manage their emotional state. In this way staff equip pupils to manage their own wellbeing. Weekly sessions are part of a 7-week cycle. This helps mitigate the high in year mobility as it ensures constant coverage of topics. PSHE sessions are carefully designed to create a safe place where pupils can ask questions and discuss ideas and beliefs. The Oasis 9 habits support them to develop their character and become positive role models. This is further reinforced by the culture of mutual respect that staff model around school. Pupils are regularly taught how to make safe and healthy choices including how to stay safe online. They are also taught what they can do if they are unhappy with something that has happened.

Why do we teach geography and what does it look like in our school?

As a large proportion of Oasis Academy Fir Vale pupils were born outside the UK, we believe that first and foremost, it is important that they learn about the area in which they live and develop geographical knowledge that is of significance to themselves. We want our pupils to nurture and encourage their natural curiosity to help them learn about the world around them. They need to be equipped with the knowledge and understanding about diverse places, people and resources within the natural, physical and human environment. We want children to enjoy learning about geography by gaining this knowledge and skills, not just through experiences in the classroom, but also with the use of fieldwork and educational visits.

We provide a bespoke, well sequenced curriculum that takes account of this. For example, in Year 4 pupils learn about Slovakia and compare it with the local area Page Hall. First hand experiences are planned to capture the pupils' interest and deepen learning over time. These include local walks and visits to places of interest in Sheffield, Rotherham and Derbyshire. Cross-curricular links are made with history to enable children to research how areas have changed over time. Through this, pupils learn about different physical and human features and the interaction between them. The skills learned in geography develop pupils' curiosity and fascination with the world and people around them. Pupils are provided with carefully planned learning opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding of different countries, diverse places, people and resources, and natural and human environments in the world. To ensure pupils have a strong knowledge of the seasons and weather, all classes discuss and complete a daily chart.

Why do we teach history and what does it look like in our school?

It is our firm belief at Oasis Academy Fir Vale that history is essential for our pupils to understand and have opportunities to observe a variety of changes throughout time. We aim to develop their sense of belonging through looking at the past, finding inspiration through the lives of others and reflecting on personal history. Our intention is to provide opportunities for the pupils to understand the uniqueness of different societies and the challenges faced by groups of people at different periods in time. Through the teaching of history our pupils will gain the knowledge, skills and understanding that enables them to ask questions, think logically and critically and make judgements about arguments and evidence. At the core of our history intent is the importance of high-quality teaching which provides children with consistent and logical knowledge of what Britain and the wider world was like in the past.

We achieve this by using photographs, diary entries and timelines which supports acquisition of knowledge. Our pupils learn how changes and events have affected and influenced life today. Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole are a focus in key stage 1 as significant individuals in the development of nursing and medicine. In key stage 2 children learn about The Battle of York between the Vikings and Saxons and children also study World War 2. To develop knowledge and understanding effectively, we have invested in relevant, high quality, purposeful artefacts for different eras in history. This helps to bring the subject alive and provides prompts for questioning, discussion and ensuring experiences are memorable. We make our history about real people and real events. For example, Year 2, children learn about The Great Fire of London and working together. Our cross-curricular links support learning and the application of skills in both English and geography.

Why do we teach art and what does it look like in our school?

At Oasis Academy Fir Vale, we believe that art and design are a means for pupils to express their feelings, process thoughts and experiences and relax as well as being a way to experience a sense of creating something. We intend to foster the pupils' sense of curiosity and fascination with the creative world through hands on, practical 'play' with art materials. We want to engage, inspire and challenge our pupils, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to experiment, invent and create. They should also know about how art and design both reflect and shape our history, and contribute to the culture, creativity and wealth of our country.

The art curriculum is sequenced so pupils have access to high quality teaching and modelling of skills alongside repetition and practise. Pupils have opportunity to experiment and create their own works of art. The subject should be enjoyable for all pupils as there is no language barrier, this helps build self-confidence and pride in their own achievements. Lessons enable children to be imaginative and challenge themselves. A range of different artists and movements are studied throughout the curriculum allowing the pupils to explore different media, for example, Pablo Picasso and Andy Warhol in key stage 1 and Dame Barbara Hepworth in key stage 2 as well as artists from the Roma Slovak community such as Erik Demeter and Ceija Stojka. As pupils progress through school the structured curriculum promotes critical thinking and a deeper understanding of art and design.

Why do we teach design and technology and what does it look like in our school?

At Oasis Academy Fir Vale, we aim to provide pupils with a real-life context for learning. We want to develop pupils' aspirations by creating opportunities for them in the wider world. By teaching design and technology skills through the creation of a range of real-life structures, mechanisms, textiles, electrical systems and food products we aim to inspire them to be engineers, designers, architects and chefs. We want pupils to learn how to take risks, be resourceful, innovative, enterprising and capable citizens. By evaluating past and present designs we aim to ensure that the pupils develop a critical understanding of its impact on daily life and the wider world.

We have planned the curriculum so it offers a range of new experiences for pupils through largely practical sessions. Pupils are given the opportunity to express themselves creatively in a subject that holds fewer language barriers. This poses a huge opportunity for our school to develop success for children who are enthusiastic about hands on learning. Our curriculum in this area engages, inspires and challenges the pupils. It equips them with the knowledge and expertise to experiment and take risks, in a safe environment and develop skills they will use for life. Linking to our learning characters, pupils develop their perseverance and resilience through tackling problems independently; which is a key focus in school. As pupils progress, they develop a deeper understanding. Pupils also learn how developments in design and technology have shaped the future and contributed to the culture, creativity and wealth of the UK. Pupils are taught how to cook and apply the principles of nutrition and healthy eating to instil a love of cooking. The wide diversity of culture and experience is celebrated amongst children and staff.

Why do we teach physical education and what does it look like in our school?

At Oasis Academy Fir Vale we know that high quality physical education contributes to improved psychological health, social development and supports cognitive and academic performance. We want to ensure that our pupils have access to a physical education curriculum that not only helps them to keep fit and healthy but also supports them to develop both mentally and physically.

The physical education curriculum we have implemented helps raise aspirations and enables our pupils to develop self-confidence, pride and resilience. We provide a range of practical experiences that develop physical literacy. Using the Rising Stars and Archers materials to plan and provide children with physical skills, they gain a developing understanding of healthy lifestyles and the opportunity to develop teamwork, turn taking and leadership skills. These skills help children develop into responsible citizens and also support learning across the curriculum. Taking part in a range of competitions, including our yearly summer sports event, and different festivals where pupils compete against other schools provides opportunities for them to build character and help to embed values such as fairness and respect. The delivery of dance, gymnastics and games sessions by skilled professionals not only provide strong role models but also increases pupils' aspirations and widen their experiences.

Why do we teach computing and what does it look like in our school?

At Oasis Academy Fir Vale, we want to provide our pupils with a high-quality computing education which will equip them to use computational thinking and creativity to understand and change the world. This will enable them to be content creators not just content consumers. Computing has deep links with mathematics, science and design and technology.

The core of computing is computer science. Our pupils are taught the principles of information and computation. They learn how digital systems work and use this knowledge to program and code in a range of languages and applications, such as Scratch and Python. Building on this knowledge and understanding, pupils are equipped to use information technology to create programs, systems and a range of content. Pupils achievements are captured in floor books. Computing also enables them to become digitally literate, using their technology to enhance learning by asking questions, developing ideas and reflecting on inquiries. This ensures our children develop suitable knowledge and skills for the future workplace and as active, safe and responsible digital citizens in an increasingly screen-based world. We are aware pupils have different starting points in relation to experiences of and access to technology. We provide carefully planned opportunities to develop knowledge, skills and digital literacy and alongside a strong focus on ensuring pupils know how to keep themselves safe online.

Why do we teach religious education and what does it look like in our school?

As a setting which serves a diverse community, all staff at Oasis Academy Fir Vale value the religious background of all members of the school community and encourage individuals to share their own experiences with others freely. Our intention is to support the pupils' acquisition of the knowledge and understanding of the principal religions represented within the UK. We feel it is important for them to appreciate the way that religious beliefs shape life and our behaviour. Learning about other faiths and cultures encourages children to develop an enquiring mind and to think deeply, imaginatively and respectfully about their own ideas and those of other people. We want them to develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues and enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Pairing these critical thinking skills with the Oasis 9 habits enables children to become respectful citizens of the local community and the wider world.

Our curriculum is planned to ensure that our pupils to know and explain the impact that an individual's religion might have on their daily life, for example observing Ramadan or following dietary rules. Pupils are encouraged to discuss and express their own religious and world views in a safe environment, leading to a deeper understanding and respect for the beliefs of others. This enables pupils to form their own opinions and be respectful of the opinions and beliefs of others.

Why do we teach music and what does it look like in our school?

At Oasis Academy Fir Vale, we are passionate in our belief that music is a universal language that allows pupils to develop their creativity. It also gives pupils freedom from language barriers. We want to give our pupils opportunities to listen to and enjoy music so that they develop a love for it. We also aim for them to develop their talent in performing and joining in with musicians from diverse sources. Music is an integral part of our community and culture and gives the pupils opportunities to develop cultural capital and follow their own individual interests and preferences. We also intend that this subject should increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement.

We use and adapt the Charanga music scheme. Pupils are taught how to use their voice in different ways, to understand pitch and rhythm and how to compose their own music. Pupils knowledge and skills are supplemented through experiences provided by the Sheffield Music Hub. Through this pupils learn new songs, develop language, work as part of a team and develop confidence in performing to an audience.

Why do we teach Spanish and what does it look like in our school?

At Oasis Academy Fir Vale we are passionate that learning another language supports pupils to develop a deeper understanding of their home language and the building blocks which form this. We know that learning a foreign language reinforces fluency and understanding of grammar, sentence structure and verbal precision. Learning Spanish also provides pupils with an opening to another culture. It not only provides a firm foundation for their Year 7 Spanish lessons at their secondary school, it also prepares pupils to participate in a rapidly changing world in which work and other activities are increasingly carried out in languages other than English.

Pupils are encouraged to compare and contrast their own culture with Spanish traditions, which deepens respect and an understanding of the wider world. When pupils start learning Spanish in Year 3, they are generally all starting at the same point which supports self confidence. Our curriculum provides opportunities to apply the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in another language. Accessible teaching strategies are used to motivate all pupils to learn. Weekly good quality teaching enables pupils to express their ideas and thoughts in another language and respond to others, both in speech and in writing. Bilingual texts are available for pupils to access during class library time.