

Curriculum

Ensuring an outstanding, knowledge-rich curriculum for all pupils at Willowbrook

The four key principles our curriculum is built on:



Balanced



Vertically aligned



Powerful links



Rigorous



1

In 2018, our Deputy Head and AHT (Curriculum Lead) attended a conference by Clare Sealy and Andrew Percival about Curriculum. This inspired us to improve what was already in place, working to design a knowledge-rich curriculum based on four key principles: Balanced, Vertically aligned, Powerful Links, Rigorous. See document on website: *'Curriculum Design: Key Principles and Approaches'*.



2

'Unit Overviews' (UOs) were developed for every unit in the curriculum. These outline precisely the knowledge that must be taught in each unit. Retrieval quizzes are built into UOs, as are links to previous learning. The curriculum is now vertically aligned, and starts in EYFS, where our AHT has worked with our EYFS team leader to develop a curriculum that links powerfully to all future learning. See website page: <https://www.willowbrook.devon.sch.uk/eyfs>



3

Extensive staff training has been delivered about the thinking behind our curriculum design. Emphasis was put on the four principles and a desire to embed an understanding of Cognitive Science in the way that this curriculum is delivered. Teachers understand that the curriculum must support children to know more and remember more. Deep knowledge underpins all skills.



4

Subject leadership roles reflect areas of interest or expertise in the school. Each SL has clarity about the progression in their subject and knows strengths and areas for development. Some SLs have supported SLT in curriculum design and writing UOs. All SLs engage in a yearly monitoring plan for their subject areas, allowing them to evaluate the impact of the curriculum and to make adaptations.



5

The curriculum is in its third year of implementation. Despite the disruption of Covid, our pupils have become more knowledgeable, more curious and now remember much more than they used to. We gauge curriculum impact in a variety of ways (see document on website: *'How do we gauge curriculum impact?'*)