



Ark John Archer Primary Academy *Curriculum*



Ark John Archer Primary Academy: Curriculum design

In designing the intent on which our curriculum will stand, our thinking stretched far beyond the outcomes derived from summative assessment points throughout the year, or end of key stage results. Here at Ark John Archer Primary Academy, we aspire for all of our pupils to reach their full potential both academically and socially and, with this in mind, aim to develop highly aspirational, emotionally literate and knowledgeable individuals who have a genuine passion for learning and a positive sense of identity. From Early Years to Year 6, our curriculum should build the foundations on which life-long learners and confident leaders of the future can grow.

Deep rooted within our vision is the need for pupils to be exposed to practical, creative, engaging and challenging opportunities that develop their natural curiosity to learn, broadens their understanding and 'brings learning to life'. We believe that by working ***together as one*** we can provide our pupils with the strong start to their journey in education that they need, and more importantly, deserve.

The Ark John Archer Curriculum is rooted in five key principles:



Knowledge rich and learning through enquiry



A holistic approach



Inspiring joy for learning



Developing character



Parents as partners

Knowledge rich and learning through enquiry

Knowledge is an essential social construct upon which our learners can be provided access to a wealth of opportunities, make well-informed decisions and begin to shape their own personalities - after all, '*knowledge is power*'. We aim to ensure that our pupils have the necessary knowledge to engage in their worlds in a meaningful way, while navigating a diverse range of contexts and challenges with confidence. They should thrive in meeting their personal ambitions and learn to appreciate the value that continually building upon their current knowledge base can add to their success.



The Ark John Archer Curriculum poses *driver questions*, encouraging our pupils to develop a natural curiosity and to form their own, well-considered, lines of enquiry. We aim to develop pupils who are perseverant and relentless in their quest for knowledge and understanding, and who are confident to speak openly about their experiences and share their learning with others. We opt for a *deep learning* approach and advocate a depth of knowledge over breadth - pupils explore content in detail and then apply this knowledge to practice, developing and demonstrating a wide range of skills.

A holistic approach

In designing the Ark John Archer Curriculum, it has been crucial to place our pupils at the heart of the process. Through doing so, we are able to present a continually evolving curriculum that aims to maximise pupils' exposure to a progression of skills and knowledge across units, terms, year groups and their entire learning experience within the academy. With the belief that learning can act as a catalyst for further learning, our aim is for pupils to continually build upon their individual starting points while making the necessary connections in content that will piece their learning together.



The curriculum covers all areas of the statutory National Curriculum and offers equal importance to all subjects. Pupils are offered a broad range of learning experiences, each offering their own invaluable progression of knowledge and skills. We now place greater focus on interspersing *core* elements in all curriculum subjects, allowing pupils to flourish across a range of areas and to be exposed to multiple disciplines so they can ascertain where their passions and interests lie.

Inspiring joy for learning



At Ark John Archer we are mindful that for our pupils to excel, our curriculum offer must be one that both engages and inspires them daily. We want our pupils to become immersed in the curriculum with a sense of fascination, awe and wonder and for our teachers to deliver the curriculum in a similar vein. Pupils should feel compelled to share their discoveries with others, speak enthusiastically about the new knowledge they have gained and conduct their own independent research and activities to further enhance their learning. Throughout the design and evolution process, pupils and teachers are given ownership of the curriculum, enabling learning to be personalised, taught with passion and determination, and to spark and feed curiosities from all parties.

Developing character

We at Ark John Archer believe passionately that the education we provide our pupils should not be constrained to academics alone. We want to produce pupils who are not only academically secure but who are compassionate, empathetic and able to navigate their social relationships with others confidently. We aim therefore to expose our pupils to a broader range of social contexts and experiences in order to develop a sense of their own identity and pride in both themselves and their school. We seek opportunities for pupils to participate as a team member in sporting events, perform as part of a choir/band in concerts, visit places of specific interest and experience different career paths – amongst many others.



Furthermore, our curriculum ensures exploration of key virtues and values using our core texts as a vehicle for this learning. Our pupils employ *habits of discussion* to explore key themes, characters and ideas and explore how we can apply these ideas to our everyday lives. They are then able to translate this idea to situations they might face inside and outside school and practice this crucial virtue. In this way, our pupils don't just leave us with academic credentials but a strong social identity and virtues that will stand them in good stead for the rest of their lives.

Parents as partners



Parents and the wider community are very much integral to the success of our curriculum, and we therefore seek opportunities to bring them along with us on the journey. They are kept well-informed about the learning that takes place in the classroom, engage practically in their child's education through curriculum events and workshops, and are supported to continue the learning journey beyond the school gates. Through this, pupils should feel enabled to assert themselves as independent learners and bring this joy for learning back into the classroom to drive the curriculum forward.

Ark John Archer Primary Academy: Curriculum Impact

The impact of the Ark John Archer Curriculum is continually monitored and reviewed and, where necessary, adaptations are made to ensure it continues to provide a high standard of education while remaining reflective of our pupils' interests and needs. If we are to achieve our intent for each and every pupil, we should ask ourselves the following questions:



Do our pupils express their knowledge around a subject with confidence, and is this replicated in their outcomes?
Can our pupils apply their knowledge in a range of different contexts and within changing perimeters?
Do our pupils feel confident to draw upon their learning outside of the classroom?
Do our pupils form their own lines of enquiry when scaffolds are removed or reduced?
Are pupils able recall taught knowledge and replicate taught skills with the same confidence further down the line?



Are our pupils able to draw upon prior knowledge to make links and inferences in their current learning?
Does each and every lesson / unit of work build suitably upon the one before?
Does each and every lesson provide opportunities for pupils to engage with new learning?
Do all of our pupils have the opportunity to flourish in at least one area of the curriculum?
Can pupils express their passions, goals, strengths and areas of development with confidence?



Do our pupils look forward to coming to school every day, and what motivates them to do so?
Does every lesson enthuse pupils in the same way?
Do our pupils actively engage in lessons and what motivates them in doing so?
Are our parents confident in engaging with the curriculum and encouraging their pupils to achieve great outcomes?
Do parents and pupils speak enthusiastically about the curriculum offer and the impact on their education?



Are our pupils able to express their aspirations, and do they make the necessary links with their current education?
Do our pupils make the necessary links in order to thrive socially and face challenges in the future?
Do our pupils communicate confidently and eloquently within society, both written and verbally?
Do our pupils demonstrate an understanding of how they can contribute positively to the wider community?
Do our pupils demonstrate a sense of identity, belonging and responsibility?