

# Brackenwood Junior School

## Curriculum Policy



### Oak Trees MAT Curriculum Rationale

<b>Approved by:</b>	Headteacher	<b>Date:</b> December 2023
<b>Adopted by Governors</b>	December 2023	
<b>Next review due by:</b>	September 2024	

### Vision and Values

#### **Our Vision**

**'Achieving Excellence Together.'**

#### **Our Mission/Values**

**R**espect  
**C**ollaborate  
**I**nspire

Brackenwood Junior School is part of Oaks Trees Multi-Academy Trust.

As a school within the Trust, we aim to provide every child with enriching and exciting learning opportunities through the provision of high quality teaching, and we promote learning within a challenging and creative curriculum that enables all children to achieve their full potential.

We are committed to promoting high levels of pupil engagement and ensuring enjoyment of their learning.

We are dedicated to meeting the individual needs of all pupils in a safe, engaging and stimulating environment.

We are committed to creating an environment in which all children are included, respected and valued for the ideas that they have and what they offer to the wider school and Trust community.

We aim that all children adopt safe and healthy lifestyles, develop resilience and confidence, value and respect others and are given the best possible chance to go on and achieve their hopes and ambitions.

## **Trust Aims**

- We are dedicated to helping the whole child, to unlock their potential and instill a love of learning
- We share the wealth of experience and expertise from across our trust to enrich and bring learning to life for our children
- We mix the pursuit of academic excellence in core subjects with a creative curriculum which expands minds and instill a sense of curiosity of the wider world
- Every member of staff in our trust genuinely cares about the achievement, development, well-being and future of all of our children
- We are here for all children, to raise aspirations, inspire them to go far and develop a lifelong love of learning.
- Our teachers, support staff, heads and administrators work in partnership with our families to help the children be the best they can be.
- We believe in the power and potential of all people to make a lasting difference.

# School Aims

## Quality of Education

- Consistently deliver an ambitious, coherent and relevant curriculum to ensure that all learners are equipped with the knowledge, skills and understanding to be successful in the next phase of their education
- Ensure the development of curriculum content with a clear focus on the main aims of the National Curriculum and provide opportunities to build on previous learning using a wide range of retrieval strategies to strengthen knowledge and understanding
- Create a purposeful and stimulating learning environment that supports our pupils as learners and celebrates their achievements

**A key principle of the Oak Trees MAT is that each school has autonomy on its curriculum intent. i.e. the planned knowledge it wants its pupils to learn.**

**Central to the core values of Oak Trees is that collaboration is at the heart of school improvement and for this reason, each school will implement its curriculum according to the following agreed principles:**

1. Learning is a change to long term memory and if nothing has been altered in long term memory, nothing has been learned;
2. Each school's curriculum will:
  - Link strongly to the Oak Trees values above;
  - Be progressive, knowledge-rich and based on ideas from cognitive science;
  - Be based on key concepts which allow pupils to make links and put their understanding into context;
  - Be delivered creatively, to engage and excite pupils;
  - Provide high challenge, repeated practice and low stakes testing;
  - Be underpinned by purposeful assessment which guides teaching;
3. Teaching staff will have the pedagogical understanding and subject knowledge to deliver the curriculum effectively.

## Intent, Implementation and Impact

On each school website you will be able to see the Intent, Implementation and Impact of the schools' curriculum delivery within their school.

Each school delivers their curriculum under the framework of the MAT curriculum rationale above but bespoke to the individual nature and needs of their community. MAT leaders work collaboratively to ensure an agreed strategic direction for the curriculum under the MAT umbrella, but it is down to the individual schools to ensure that their curriculum is of the highest quality for their pupils.

The rationale above highlights the elements of the curriculum which are common and those where the schools have the discretion to innovate for the individual and unique communities of each school.

## Intent

The **intent** of the curriculum is the content we want children to learn and the sequence in which they encounter the curriculum. Here at Brackenwood Junior School, we are currently developing a curriculum that is coherent and progressive, engaging and challenging. The intent of our curriculum allows pupils to learn about how the past influences our lives now and how our current actions will affect our future world, enabling our pupils to compare their lives to others by examining current events and topical issues both on our own doorstep and further afield. We work hard to ensure that children are given opportunity to consolidate and retrieve prior learning whilst developing new and deeper knowledge and skills.

Curriculum subject Intents are available for each subject (Curriculum tab) and a Long Term Plan and Termly Overview for each subject are accessible (Year Group tab), which exemplify the sequence of learning taken by children at Brackenwood Junior School.

## Implementation

The **implementation** of the curriculum is concerned with how the intent is taught. How will the school go about the business of teaching the curriculum?

At Brackenwood Junior School, we aim for learning to be 'sticky': children will remember knowledge and understanding through meaningful, collaborative and where possible hands-on lessons. We also aim for learning to have repetition to ensure that knowledge is deepened and enhanced over time; each lesson will refer back to previous learning and through our coherent design based around key knowledge, learning will refer back to knowledge learned in previous year groups.

The implementation strategies recorded within each subject Intent and Implementation document explain how our children will be taught and why our teachers are teaching in the way they are. These documents also highlight any schemes we are using in specific subjects to enrich learning.

## Impact

The **impact** of the curriculum lies in whether students have learnt the content outlined in the curriculum intent and how effective this learning has been on developing their understanding of the world around them. At Brackenwood Junior School, we are busy collecting evidence to highlight the positive impact our curriculum has had on pupil learning.

We firmly believe that our curriculum delivers a high quality experience for all pupils, and is well developed and monitored by staff to ensure excellent progress by our learners. We collect evidence of and monitor the impact of our curriculum in a wide variety of ways:

In core subjects, pupils undertake regular formative and summative assessments, which are carefully reviewed to establish ways forward. Staff record formative assessments in feedback books and summative assessments are completed in reading, maths and grammar, termly. Pupils also complete pieces of writing which are assessed against year group writing frameworks, devised by Oak Trees MAT.

In non-core subjects, teachers assess pupils by the knowledge that they remember. This knowledge is outlined in the subject knowledge organiser. Individual lessons are coherently planned and learning intentions and activities are devised to maximise pupils ability to know and remember more. Lessons also include retrieval activities to develop spaced retrieval. Key knowledge from each lesson is added to the class working wall and formative assessments are recorded on subject medium term plans to inform learning, targeted questioning, conferencing and retrieval before and during the next lesson. Images are matched to each lesson to develop dual coding. At the end of a unit of work, pupils complete an end of unit quiz to identify what knowledge they have remembered.

Pupil voice exercises are undertaken by subject leaders regularly to identify impact of their subject intent and implementation on pupils. Pupils are also given the opportunity to speak to senior members of staff during deep dive style appraisal arrangements.



Finally...

We believe that there are many other ways to enhance the curriculum within school and we look at utilise those opportunities as often as possible to create a wider offer. This includes schools trips, residential and guest speakers and visitors to school but also celebrating diversity, raising awareness of well-being and mental health, understanding our rights and looking at protected characteristics as part of our day to day school life as a Brackenwood pupil.

Staff at Brackenwood Junior School have worked tirelessly to plan an engaging, memorable, challenging curriculum for all learners that develops key subject disciplinary and substantive knowledge. We will continue to reflect on our intent and implementation strategies every academic year. We are excited to continue to further enhance and develop our curriculum in line with research-based evidence surrounding long term learning, pedagogy and subject specific developments.