Acorn Education Trust: The Curriculum

Overview

The Trust has grown steadily since its foundation in 2013 - to provide a local solution to the national strategy. We are a family of: 4 nurseries; 10 primary schools and 2 secondary schools. All schools, bar 3, have joined Acorn because of an Ofsted special measures or requires improvement category, or their own self - evaluation signaled a requires improvement grade. Much of our work has inevitably been spent on primary English and Maths, and, on aligning assessment, reporting and recording. We firmly believe in alignment as it provides the consistency between schools and the sharing of good practice, which in turn drives school improvement. While still allowing leaders to be creative and take risks. We can proudly say, every school has improved and is ready to face the exciting curriculum challenges initiated by the new Ofsted Inspection framework.

Following work with all senior colleagues and consultation Trust wide, the **Acorn Curriculum Statement** was produced in Spring 2019.

At Acorn Education Trust our aim is to ensure every child/student:

1. Feels they belong.
   Feeling safe, happy and supported is the first priority in every setting. They are the foundations upon which the next 5 aims can be established and achieved.
2. Is challenged
   Every day in lessons, in regular and one off activities and events, the children and students are encouraged to feel like ”bambi on ice”, instilling confidence, resilience, the desire to take on new opportunities, take risks, and, accept failure and success.
3. Develops a love of learning.
   The interests and talents of each child/student, alongside the key skills of literacy and numeracy well as consideration of breadth, balance, and specialised provision, drives each curriculum, allowing all learners to flourish.
4. Has aspiration.
   Opportunities to widen their horizons locally, nationally and internationally ensures every child/student is engaged, has a sense of inquiry and continues to work with rigor, enthusiasm and a sense of purpose. In Church Schools a sense of spirituality infuses the culture and learning of the school.
5. Makes a unique contribution to their school.
   Independence, leadership, teamwork, a sense of community, of giving and taking and being the best that you can be, is developed at every educational stage.
6. Is ready for their world in their time.
   Every trust leader and school leader must know and understand their schools, their children/students and their community, and, through regular monitoring and evaluation is able to adapt the curriculum to ensure it is preparing every learner for their next stage.

Key Principles:

- Each Headteacher must create a curriculum vision which links to the Acorn Curriculum Statement and reflects their school.
- We will not rush our work; time will be taken to ensure the curriculum is well thought through, meets the needs of our learners, and, staff have received appropriate training.
- We recognize all schools are at different stages and we will work with each school as needed.
- At KS2, schools will be encouraged to teach all subjects discreetly to ensure key knowledge and skills are remembered.
- The PE/Sport curriculum is lead through the trust.
- MFL provision in primary schools is under review. A working party lead by a secondary MFL specialist will create a vision and strategy for the delivery of languages at KS1/2.
- Within 2 years we plan to provide drama and dance teaching programme on similar lines to PE/Sport.
- At KS4 our secondary schools will provide an option programme which is aspirational; meets the needs of the students and prepares them for the next stage of their lives, be it in the local community, the UK or globally.

Next steps

- **Trust wide**
    - Executive Head to lead on primary curriculum; Secondary Heads liaising with CEO and Head of School Support on training and school to school support.
    - All Headteachers are currently working on their vision and in the secondary schools middle leaders are meeting to share ideas.
    - To use subject specialists across the Trust to lead on intent and implementation in all primary schools
    - Training day on October 23rd on curriculum and workload
    - Training programme throughout the year using external consultants, focusing on the curriculum.

- **Nursery Education**
    - Complete a curriculum audit and plan next steps.

- **Primary Education – see detailed programme below**
    - Subject specialists from across the Trust will now lead curriculum planning in years 1 to 6, providing schemes of work with key learning intentions and content which is clearly sequenced.

- **Secondary Education**

Clarendon joined Acorn on September 1st 2018, so the 2 secondary schools have only recently started to align. By September 2019 there will be:

- Co-ordinated approach to GCSE and A level syllabuses
- An aligned assessment calendar
- Sharing of ideas on KS3 curriculum

- Sharing of ideas with all subject specialists

Acorn School's Primary Curriculum Planning 2019-2022

Ongoing Trust goals

- To relieve workload pressure on Schools
- To establish joint primary and secondary subject specialist working groups

Short term goals (Year's 1 –2):

- All schools to have a fully formed intent for the whole curriculum. In Maths and English Intent, Implementation and measuring of Impact to be comprehensive and in place. In all Foundation Subjects, Science and R.E. a clear plan for Implementation and Impact to be in place showing how work will be complete for 2020-21
- School's to undertake the Acorn 'Curriculum Review' tool, to help them establish priorities for their Implementation.
- To ensure that all schools, whether through their own design or through accessing Trust Schemes of Learning (SoL) have a curriculum that is progressive, knowledge rich and sequential.

Longer term goals (Year's 2 – 3):

- To ensure all Primary schools are creating secondary ready pupils for whatever secondary school they join
- To ensure that all pupils are energised by learning from a knowledge rich curriculum
- Specifically, in Warminster there to be a 4 –18 curriculum using the Trust work on curriculum as its core.

Action	Outcome
2019-20. Term 3-4 • Schools to undertake the Acorn Curriculum Evaluation Tool. Partnerships of Secondary subject leads and Primary Heads to meet, to formulate Schemes of Learning from year's 1 to 6, either: (I) Through using the national curriculum and creating a scheme (ii) Evaluating commercial schemes available and using expertise together to adapt them into a Primary Scheme of Learning (iii) Exploring work other Trusts have done to adapt their schemes to Acorn Primary's. • School's may also liaise with other Trust Primaries who have an embedded Curricula approach. • All schools to have completed their Curriculum Intent, how it will be implemented, and Impact will be measured.	2019-20. Terms 5-6 Schemes to be presented to Primary Heads/Curriculum leads and rolled out to schools for initial 'experimentation' in Terms 5-6 and planning for delivery in 2020-21.
2020-21 Schemes to be being delivered. School's to be incorporating these into their whole school Curriculum Mapping and adapting their 'Intent' where necessary. 'Working Pairs' to take feedback through two meetings in the year and adapt as necessary.	2020-21 Curriculum Maps to clearly show Intent, Planning to show Implementation and SLT's and staff to be able to measure Impact.
2021-22 TD day to review where work has got so far and how this forms in to an overarching Acorn approach to the Curriculum, reviewing the Trust Intent, it's Curriculum Vision and how, in Warminster this pertains to a specific 4-18 Curriculum.	2021-22 • Warminster to have a bespoke through Curriculum. • Based around this Year 6's across the Trust to be Secondary Ready in all areas of the curriculum. • Pupil feedback to show positive attitudes to learning • OFSTED reports to reflect progress made in Acorn Schools in 'Quality if Education' judgements

Subject Partnerships and Development

Subject	Whom and contact e mails	Potential Links and notes
Geography	Danny O'Callaghan and Jill Hibbs jh@diltonmarsh.wilts.sch.uk DOC@clarendonacademy.com	• Danny's work so far on the Curriculum • Commercial scheme Dilton have been working on **https://collins.co.uk/collections/primary-geography**
Science	Lindsey Hermon LH@keevil.wilts.sch.uk Amalie Millest mt@kingdown.wilts.sch.uk	• https://www.hamilton-trust.org.uk/science/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIs4HU-uaH5gIVVuDtCh3xtgeAEAAYASAAEgLL2PD_BwE • https://www.risingstars-uk.com/subjects/science
History	Ellie, Head of History Clarendon, Caroline Thomas, ct@avenue.wilts.sch.uk	• https://www.history.org.uk/primary/categories/787/news/2122/primary-curriculum-schemes-of-work • https://www.grange.outwood.com/history
MFL	Acorn working party: Sue Fulbrook Anna Williams Max Burr Louise Kilminster Debby Huxham	(Decision to be made on provision terms 3 and 4 2019-20)
P.E	Selwyn Widger	Being presented to Primary Heads terms 2 and 3 2019-20
Religious Education	Max Burr and Steph Cleaver head@greatwishford.wilts.sch.uk mb@acorneducationtrust.com	Starting from Discovery R.E.
ICT	Donna McInnes and Martine Liggins dm@st-johns-warminster.wilts.sch.uk mkl@clarendonacademy.com	Work done by Martine and Donna already

Dance and Drama	Long term plan for Trust provision as with P.E.	
English	Sarah Ashton sarah.ashton@acorneducationtrust.com	Ongoing work, particularly around Reading.
Maths	Charlotte Robinson	Undertaking teaching of Maths across Primary element of the Trust.