

Junior School Curriculum

2009 - 2010

Children at Bedford Modern Junior School are provided with the opportunity to experience a broad and varied curriculum. The structure of the School day contributes to this significantly. A cyclical timetable with extensive lesson times enables us to ensure each child is challenged, nurtured and given the chance to reach their full potential through the use of a range of different learning activities.

The resulting Junior School environment means that we are able to extend an individual's abilities in advance of the education they might otherwise receive elsewhere.

At the heart of our curriculum are the academic subjects of English, Mathematics and Science. Our aim is for children to be highly literate and numerate for their age and to have developed enquiring, scientific minds. Consequently, girls and boys are exposed to proven, traditional teaching methods as well as to more recent, successful methodologies and pedagogical theories.

In addition to the disciplines mentioned above, children study a number of other important and valuable subjects. The list below shows the subjects that have time dedicated to them in the timetable. All of the children participate in these subjects:

Art

Design Technology

Drama

English

A choice of Modern Foreign Languages

Humanities (Geography, History, RE)

Information Communication Technology

Mathematics

Music

Physical Education & Games

PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education)

Science

Swimming

Teaching and Learning

Girls and boys spend a significant amount of their school week with their class teacher. Class teachers are responsible for English and Humanities. The children are put into groups for Mathematics lessons and are usually taught by one of the teachers from their Year Group. This arrangement for Mathematics facilitates differentiation, allowing learning activities to be directed using methods delivered at a pace best suited to the pupil.

Modern Foreign Languages at Bedford Modern Junior School provide a good example of the pupil-centred learning that exists at the School. Pupils are offered a choice of a multitude of languages to learn that are of most relevance and interest to them. We offer a choice of up to twenty-five languages in Years 3, 4 and 5, that allow children to have an understanding of a range of languages or an in-depth knowledge of one particular language. The girls and boys move onto the next level when they are ready, rather than when the class is ready. Children in Year 6 then study French in preparation for their move to the Senior School.

Throughout the course of a child's education at Bedford Modern, we seek to enhance the curriculum wherever appropriate, through the use of educational trips and visits. Regular trips include visits to an Anglo-Saxon village, the National Space Centre and Randall's Farm operated by The Woodland Trust, amongst others.

Specific Learning Requirements

Following a child's entry to the School or during their time with us, some pupils may be identified as requiring an enriched curriculum to ensure that their curiosity and abilities are challenged. Our entrance procedure dictates that the standard of teaching and learning meets the needs of the more able, and is further developed via extension work during the normal course of the day. In addition, there are a number of lunchtime clubs and activities designed to appeal to and to develop a child's abilities.

Similarly, clubs and activities also exist to offer assistance to those who need a little extra help in understanding. At the time of going to print for example, a sample of the academic clubs includes the 'Explorers' Club' (for children identified by us as 'Gifted and Talented'), 'Maths Club' and 'Wordshark' clubs (to develop multiplication tables and spelling abilities respectively).

Bedford Modern School also supports children identified as having a Specific Learning Difficulty such as dyslexia or dyspraxia. Throughout the School, children have access to the Academic Support Department. We are able to offer assessment, advice and individual or small group tuition as required.

Monitoring and Assessment

The progress and happiness of each and every pupil is closely monitored. Written reports supply information about a child's progress and current ability. There are two organised parents' evenings each academic year. More informal contact is maintained via the 'Student Organiser' and it is always possible to arrange to speak to a teacher at a time that is mutually convenient. The children's work is continually assessed throughout the year using both formative and summative methods.

Entrance Requirements

Pupils join us from both pre-prep, prep and LEA primary schools from the age of seven and can enter in any year group. Entry is by written, verbal and computerised assessment. Prospective pupils are welcome to spend a day with us prior to or after our assessment mornings. Further details about the entrance procedure can be found in the **Entrance Assessments Guide** in the prospectus.

Full details regarding any aspect of curriculum content are available on request, or you may find an answer to your query by looking at the more detailed information on our website: www.bedmod.co.uk.