



Marden Vale C of E Academy

'With God, all things are possible.'

Matthew 19:26



Our Curriculum drivers

At Marden Vale we believe that our curriculum should offer not only the national curriculum but life skills and experiences beyond this. When designing our curriculum, we took into account the needs of our learners and community, our vision and values, and the location of our school. These curriculum drivers are used to underpin the development work we undertake in all areas of school life and to ensure our curriculum offer is enriched and personalised to our children and their families.

Our four key drivers are Language and Communication, Community, Creativity and Aspiration.



Language and Communication

Communication and language are at the heart of what we do. We teach all children communication skills so they are confident communicators who are equipped to succeed. Our environment is language and vocabulary rich, where spoken language, listening and understanding is held in high regard and modelled effectively by all staff. Being able to communicate with others is a valuable skill; it enables children to articulate their understanding.

Our work through all the curriculum subjects provides opportunities for children to:

- develop a rich and varied vocabulary;
- visit local library
- use a range of different words and vocabulary linked to a topic;
- encounter a variety of books to help to develop a love of reading;
- critically evaluate what they read;
- read to inform learning;
- discuss opinions;
- justify opinions and give reasons for them;
- listen to others and respond appropriately;
- agree and disagree with others respectfully;
- present information for different audiences.
- Visitors such as story tellers

Learn a second language

All children in Key Stage Two learn the French language. Learners use their skills to harvest vital knowledge and understanding that improves communication and literacy skills in their own language. We teach languages to broaden horizons and enhance future opportunities for study, work and travel as well as developing a lifelong

passion for languages. We also ensure children and parents who have communication difficulties are supported to access the curriculum and school life.



Community

Our curriculum enables the children to develop the emotional understanding necessary to experience and grow positive relationships, to develop a sense of justice and an ability to empathise, which in turn will lead to respect for themselves and each other. Our school is a learning community and is key to enabling everyone to reach new heights and to aim high. Through parental and community involvement, we enhance the learning for both pupils and adults. We encourage parents and carers involvement and for them to feel welcome and valued in our school. We help the children to understand that they are all part of a global community, to gain a sense of place and understand that they play a part in our world's future.

We aim to do this through:

- ensuring clear communication with parents is in place to enable them to support their child's learning;
- providing opportunities for children to work together in real life situations, for example growing vegetables and plants
- holding open afternoons and evenings for parents and carers
- Year 5 and 6 participate in Wiltshire Mini Police Scheme
- Year 6 participate in the Junior Good Citizen scheme
- Community / Calne clean-up
- Annual Lantern Parade at Christmas
- Open the book visits
- Services at Saint Mary's Church / links to Saint Mary's Church.
- Visits to Marden House to participate in Easter celebrations / give Easter hampers, Christmas plays for the residents
- Participation in town council events and celebrations
- Annual Calne duck race
- Calne in Bloom

Creativity

At Marden Vale anything is possible! We inspire curiosity and fuel imagination in our pupils whilst empowering them to delve into the unknown and embrace the uniqueness of their ideas. We engage our children in a wide range of artistic pursuits and encourage them to show creativity in their approaches to all subjects and situations.



We aim to do this through:

- A rich and engaging art curriculum
- Providing opportunities for children to learn to play a musical instrument
- Celebrating children's talents during collective worship
- Learning about famous artists
- Inspiring children to have a go
- Providing children with open-ended learning tasks across the curriculum
- Holding an Art week



Aspiration

Through our carefully crafted curriculum, effective teaching and learning and mastery lesson design we engineer success in our children. Children know how to be successful and what this feels like enabling them to build on their experiences, so they can grow to the next step of their education. We broaden our children's horizons and expand their knowledge of the world of work whilst nurturing their interests and encouraging the self-belief and ambition they'll need to accomplish their goals. The development of aspirations encourages children to produce work of high quality, take pride in themselves and be the very best that they can be.

We aim to do this through:

- providing positive role models
- Setting goals related to pupils' areas of interest
- Providing opportunities for children to see and hear about the wider world
- Giving children skills that equip them throughout their life
- Maintaining clear links with secondary schools
- Developing understanding of our British Values to prepare for life in modern Britain
- Our PSHE curriculum, which provides opportunities for children to explore feelings around self and others, providing a base for self- belief and aspiration.

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What do our curriculum drivers look like in our curriculum at Marden Vale CE Academy?

Language and Communication

- Games / songs / counting
- Links with Speech and Language specialist
- Topic webs with vocabulary linked to the topic
- Whole Class reading (WCR)
- Reading reword system
- Poetry Slam
- Word of the day
- Radio Two competition – 500 words
- Daily reading / love of reading
- Library time / school librarian
- Debating (English / PSHE lessons)
- School council
- Story writing
- Manner and school rules
- English as an Additional Language learners



Community

- PSHE lessons used to discuss issues in the local community
- Reading and singing at the local care homes
- Collecting and delivering Harvest produce to others
- Tesco's food scheme
- Taking part in festivals that are held in the community (Lantern parade, sports festivals etc)
- Wiltshire Mini police
- Walking around the local community / visiting places of interest / church
- Local clean up
- British Values of
- Parent Support Advisor
- Workshops for parents
- Communication with parents through fortnightly newsletters / emails
- Breakfast and after school club
- Sports day / family picnic
- School PTA
- School council
- Playground buddies / monitors



Creativity

- Themed days / weeks
- A rich and engaging curriculum studying famous artists, designers and architects and being inspired by their work
- A music curriculum that is exciting and inspiring which also provides the children with opportunities to play a range of instruments
- Outside music providers
- Children's creativity celebrated; displays around the school celebrate children's success and creativity
- Christmas productions
- Year Six productions
- Marden's Got Talent
- Young Voices
- Use of ICT and photography
- PE/Dance festivals
- Outdoor learning
- Visiting authors / artists
- Art / Design / creativity celebrated on the school's newsletter
- After school clubs
- Celebration of the year assembly / open afternoons



Aspiration

- High expectations of work and behaviour
- Golden rules
- School values
- Star of the week, celebration certificates and stickers
- Year group expectations in Reading, Writing and Maths
- Career talks
- Wiltshire Mini Police



- Linking closely with secondary schools
- Sports week / day
- Head boy and Head girl
- House Captains
- High Attendance
- School council
- Buddies throughout school
- Interventions and catch up funding
- Highly skilled teachers and Teaching Assistants