

Most pupils attend First Base for two days a week, dual placed with a mainstream setting. First Base curriculum aims to deliver fundamental knowledge and skills in key areas. The curriculum is derived directly from the EYFS profile and the National Curriculum. It is designed as a concentric curriculum where learning is revisited to enable progression and long term knowledge acquisition. Subject programmes of study span from EYFS to Year 2 greater depth or Year 3 objectives. Units of learning last for 3 weeks and are led by a driving question posed to pupils. The curriculum is experiential and each unit has a trip, visitor or experience linked to the locality.

Core Subjects

During a morning session at First Base pupils engage in a Phonics session, English lesson and Maths lesson. Phonics is taught from the DfE Letters and Sounds programme. Children's phonic knowledge and subsequent application is regularly assessed. This enables teachers to plan individually for pupils and as a result gaps in prior learning are addressed and maximum progress is made. Having a strong foundation in Phonics is key for our young learners in securing reading and writing skills.

English lessons focus equally on the importance of oracy and writing skills. Pupils are encouraged to develop their thinking and understanding through sustained and productive dialogue with their peers and with adults. The writing programme of study covers transcription, handwriting, composition and vocabulary, grammar. Each term, units of learning are delivered through traditional tales, non-fiction reports, instructions and story-telling and are supported by a strong literature spine.

All pupils read with an adult 1:1 on both of their days attending First Base. In addition to this, a half hour reading session is delivered on one of the days during which pupils access a carousel of activities. These include; guided reading with a focus on comprehension, a high frequency word reading activity, reading for pleasure and book evaluation activity. Reading corners are available during free-flow sessions. Each week during story time, a specifically selected text is shared with the children. The choice of text is deliberately planned to raise cultural capital and ensure coverage of world issues, festivals and celebrations, heritage texts and significant individuals.

The Maths Curriculum focuses on the key areas of number, addition and subtraction, time, money and measurement (length/height). Number is taught as a starter for every lesson to secure a strong foundation. Teaching of Maths is through the concrete-pictorial-abstract (CPA) modelling approach. It encourages a deep and sustainable understanding of Maths in pupils.

Wider Curriculum and Character Education

As most pupils attend part-time, First Base Curriculum does not aim to cover all subjects. There is a focus on key areas and on pupils securing fundamental skills. On a termly rotation pupils engage in science, art and design and technology projects. They take part in a PSHE/SRE lesson every week.

Character Education was a key influence in the development of the curriculum. Children have the opportunity to engage in sport weekly and performance and creative projects termly. They experience The World of Work through visitors and experiences where they meet role-models from a variety of occupations. Each term the children make a product to sell at their parent share afternoon. As a class they vote for a charity to donate their profits to. All of these opportunities give our pupils the chance to develop their character.

Core Values

Our core values of Kindness, Curiosity, Resilience and Reflection are at the heart of our curriculum. Children have an absolute understanding of the values and are encouraged at all times to demonstrate them. All staff model these values and support children to recognize and develop them in themselves.

Unicef Rights Respecting Schools Award

First Base is a bronze award Rights Respecting School. Children engage in a project each term considering the rights of a child. Wellbeing, participation, relationships and self-esteem are four key areas of impact for pupils. We are currently working towards our silver award.

Thrive

At First Base children's personal, social and emotional development (PSED) is paramount to their success as learners. The Thrive approach is utilized to assess and support this development. PSED as outlined in the EYFS profile is similarly used to track development and ensure exceptional progress in this area.

Challenge

First Base Curriculum is aspirational regarding pupils learning and endeavors not to put a ceiling on attainment whilst engaging pupils in progressively securing an excellent foundation of skills and knowledge. Teachers plan personalized learning for pupils, beginning at their individual entry point which is identified in collaboration with their mainstream setting during induction. Challenge cards are available at all times and pupils are encouraged to extend their thinking and to apply their knowledge and skills. Cards can be requested by pupils or given by adults as a challenge.

Assessment

First Base assess and measure progress on objectives taught through a RAG rating system. Learning objectives are RAG rated each lesson by the pupil and the adult supporting their learning. Concluding a 3 week unit of work the class teacher reviews the pupil's progress towards objectives covered and

records current attainment on learning objectives. This data is used to inform planning of learning for the next unit of work.

Full-time Offer

Where a pupil attends First Base on a fulltime offer we provide access to the complete EYFS curriculum or Key Stage 1 curriculum as appropriate. First Base endeavor to ensure that a broad and balanced curriculum is delivered.