

Curriculum Intent

At the Acorn Federation we believe that the curriculum we teach our children should be broad and balanced, offering the opportunity to succeed in many different areas. We seek to strengthen those moral, and at Long Lane Christian values, that parents will have taught their children during their early years. At Long Lane, Christian values influence everything that goes on in the classroom and throughout school.

We know that children learn best when logical connections are made between different aspects of their work and we endeavour to make these links where possible. Learning experiences provided by teachers aim to be both meaningful and challenging, and seek to build on children's existing knowledge and conceptual understanding. Skills already acquired are reinforced through a wide range of activities.

Children are encouraged to see themselves as active participants in their own learning. They are encouraged to develop a positive 'can do' attitude towards their work and others, through the use of Growth Mindset values.

Learning is facilitated through sensitive intervention on the part of the teacher, who actively seeks to promote cooperation, independence and self-discipline so that each child feels confident and secure with the learning environment.

We support our children in becoming 'aspirational' in order to make the most of their learning opportunities. At the Acorn Federation, we believe in active partnership between school and home to support the children in their learning journey.

At Long Lane, we aim for our children to:

- Know God, to recognise his presence in every human being and all creation

At both Long Lane and Marston we:

- Expose the children to a wider range of beliefs

We aim for our children to:

- Develop inquisitive minds, a spirit of curiosity and a passion for learning
- Reflect on their learning and seek to extend themselves mentally, physically and spiritually
- Promote independent thinking
- Persevere and learn from their mistakes
- Have high expectations and self-belief to enable them to fulfil their potential
- Be equipped with the skills to fully participate in an ever changing world
- Be respectful and productive members of the community
- Have the courage and confidence to take calculated risks

Although our curriculum is based on the National Curriculum, there are other planned opportunities throughout the year, which make up the wider curriculum. Children have the opportunity to develop their skills through a focussed day, which will culminate in a sharing assembly. These are often joint days across the Federation. We teach the subjects of the national curriculum both discretely and through topics, which are carefully planned, in order to ensure the children cover the key skills.

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Subject Intent

English

At the Acorn Federation we intend to:

- Ensure our children have access to a high quality English curriculum that is both challenging and enjoyable.
- Enhance all children's vocabulary and use of Standard English in both written and oral language.
- Provide our children with a variety of high quality reading materials & opportunities, which will enable them to develop as confident and fluent readers with a passion for reading.
- Ensure our children are inquisitive readers who share opinions about a range of texts: "I think..., because..., In my opinion..., The writer says that...so that led me to think that..."
- Support children and parents in taking reading into the home.
- Use a range of exciting stimulus and topics to promote a love of writing.
- Ensure children can spell quickly and accurately through effective phonics teaching and helping them understand the morphology and orthography of words.
- Ensure our children can confidently form, articulate and communicate ideas and organise them coherently.
- Develop our children's handwriting so it is fluent, legible and, eventually, speedy.

Maths

At the Acorn Federation we intend to develop our children's mathematical skills by:

- Ensuring they become fluent in the fundamentals of mathematics.
- Developing their ability to recall and apply knowledge rapidly and accurately.
- Developing an appreciation of number and number operations, which enables mental calculations and written procedures to be performed efficiently, fluently and accurately to be successful in mathematics.
- Ensuring they are able to reason mathematically
- Ensuring they can solve problems by applying their Mathematics to a variety of problems with increasing sophistication, including in unfamiliar contexts and to model real-life scenarios

Science

To develop our children's investigative and experimental skills through an exciting, challenging curriculum. By the end of their learning journey at The Acorn Federation all of our children will be able to, -

- Understand the nature, processes and methods of science through different types of science enquiries that help them to answer scientific questions about the world around them.
- Develop scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding through the specific disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics.
- Be equipped with the scientific knowledge required to understand the uses and implications of science, today and for the future.
- Develop a sense of excitement and curiosity about the world around them.

RE

To develop a knowledge about religions and beliefs and to learn from religion and belief.

By the end of their learning journey at The Acorn Federation all of our children will be able to, -

- Feel prepared for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.
- Develop personally through, -
 - a) exploring questions raised by their own and others' experience and
 - b) learning from and reflecting on answers offered by the religions and beliefs of the people of Derbyshire and the wider community.

Art

At the Acorn Federation we intend to:

- Engage, inspire and challenge our pupils, providing them with opportunities to experiment and create their own works of art.

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- Ensure our children become proficient in using art, craft and design techniques, such as drawing, painting and sculpture.
- Ensure our children know about great artists, craft makers and designers, and understand how art and design contribute to the culture and creativity of our nation.
- Enhance our children's use of subject specific vocabulary when evaluating and analysing creative works.

Computing

At the Acorn Federation, we aim to prepare our children for their future by giving them the opportunities to gain knowledge and develop skills that will equip them for an ever changing digital world. Knowledge and understanding of ICT is of increasing importance for children's future both at home and for employment. We aim to provide our children with the knowledge and understanding to use technology safely and to know what to do when they are concerned. We will enable our children to find, explore, analyse, exchange and present information effectively.

Design and Technology

At the Acorn Federation we aim to:

- develop the creative, technical and practical expertise needed to perform everyday tasks confidently and to participate successfully in an increasingly technological world
- build and apply a repertoire of knowledge, understanding and skills in order to design and make high-quality prototypes and products for a wide range of users
- critique, evaluate and test their ideas and products and the work of others
- understand and apply the principles of nutrition and learn how to cook.

Geography –

To develop pupils' understanding of local, national and international Geography.

By the end of their time at The Acorn Federation all of our children will be able to-

- Know about diverse places, people, resources and natural and human environments and how these impact on the lives of people who live there.
- Understand the Earth's main physical and human features and processes.
- Understand economic geography, climate, pollution, conservation and the impact of these.
- Use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features.

History

To develop a secure knowledge of history locally and the wider world.

To develop pupils' chronological understanding and provide opportunities for pupils to investigate a range of periods of history.

By the end of their learning journey at The Acorn Federation all of our children will be able to, -

- Know and understand Britain's past and chronology and also that of the wider world.
- Acquire historical information themselves, by asking perceptive questions, thinking critically, weighing evidence and arguments, and developing perspective and judgement.
- Understand the complexity of people's lives, the process of change, the diversity of societies and relationships between different groups, as well as examining the challenges of their time.

Languages

At the Acorn Federation we intend to:

- Foster pupils' curiosity and develop their understanding of the world.
- Enhance our children's vocabulary in the French language and develop their ability to understand new words.
- Support our children to listen attentively to spoken language and engage in basic conversations by asking and answering simple questions, expressing opinions and responding to those of others.
- Support our children to understand and communicate basic ideas, facts and feelings verbally and, eventually, in writing.
- Develop our children's understanding of basic grammar appropriate to the French language.

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Music

At the Acorn Federation we intend to develop an understanding of what music is through listening, singing, playing, evaluating, analysing, and composing across a variety of historical periods, styles, traditions, and musical genres. We aim to develop a curiosity for the subject, as well as an understanding and acceptance of the validity and importance of all types of music.

Physical Education

At the Acorn Federation we intend to develop a child's knowledge, skill and understanding, so that they can perform with increasing competence and confidence in a range of physical activities. Physical Education promotes an understanding in children of their bodies in action. It involves thinking, selecting and applying skills and promotes positive attitudes towards a healthy lifestyle. Thus we enable children to make informed choices about physical activities throughout their lives.

At the Acorn Federation we intend to:

- Enable children to develop and explore physical skills with increasing control and co-ordination.
- Encourage children to work and play with others in a range of group situations.
- Develop the way children perform skills and apply rules and conventions for different activities.
- Show children how to improve the quality and control of their performance.
- Teach children to recognise and describe how their bodies feel during exercise.
- Develop the children's enjoyment of physical activity through creativity and imagination.
- Develop an understanding in children of how to succeed in a range of physical activities and how to evaluate their own success.
- Assess pupils learning, analyse and interpret the results to inform future planning and lessons.

PSHE

At the Acorn Federation we intend to:

- Give our pupils the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to become informed, active and responsible British citizens.
- Ensure our children understand and respect our common humanity: its diversity and its differences.
- Ensure our children can form the effective and fulfilling relationships that are an essential part of life and learning.
- Help our pupils learn about their own identity, risks, decision-making and how to keep themselves safe and healthy.
- Help our pupils reflect on experiences and understand how they are developing personally and socially.
- Ensure our children have strategies to tackle many of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues that are part of growing up.