

The Oakley School curriculum equips pupils for life today and prepares them for the future. It promotes and develops the qualities of kindness, confidence, and resilience, and empowers all pupils to ‘be the best they can be’.

Oakley School curriculum aims to:

- To equip pupils with the knowledge, skills and understanding which enable them to understand the world they live in and participate actively and positively in wider society
- To promote a love of learning through a range of memorable experiences both within and outside of the curriculum
- To enable pupils to reach and exceed age-related expectations to provide them with the best foundation for the next stage in their education
- To enable pupils to leave school with the academic qualifications which best support them to achieve their future aspirations
- To enable pupils to utilise a wide range of skills to equip them for a technologically rich world
- To instil in pupils the fundamental British values and global virtues of democracy; the rule of law; individual liberty and freedom; mutual respect; and tolerance and acceptance of different faiths and beliefs

Our curriculum is purposefully sequenced from Reception to the end of Key Stage 4, with cohesion, cognitive load, and progressive learning at its core. It builds systematically on prior knowledge—both within individual subjects and across disciplines—to maximise the impact of cross-curricular learning. Each subject is mapped across all year groups to ensure that key concepts and skills are taught effectively and revisited meaningfully.

While the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework and National Curriculum provide a foundation, our curriculum goes further. Its breadth, depth, and ambition are integral to pupils’ success. From Reception onwards, we provide a broad and balanced education built on high expectations and a belief in every pupil’s capacity to achieve.

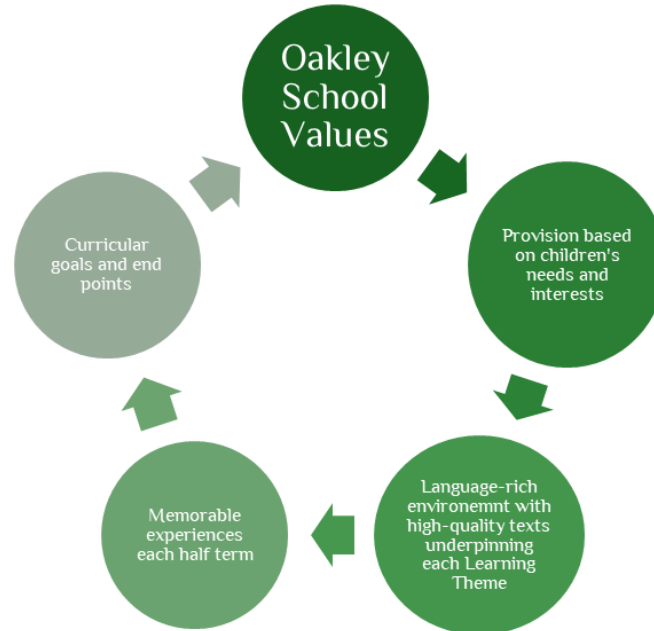
Early Years Foundation Stage

Our EYFS curriculum is carefully designed to meet statutory requirements while drawing on approaches that align with our ethos and the needs of our children, including *Development Matters (2020)*, Montessori principles, and initiatives such as Greg Bottrill’s *Drawing Club*. Rich, purposeful experiences help children secure the Early Learning Goals.

Language development is central: our curriculum “floats on a sea of talk.” We aim to develop curious thinkers and confident, resilient, independent, and kind learners. Our play-based, language-rich environment encourages exploration, problem-solving, collaboration, and high-quality interactions. We are committed to fostering lifelong

learners—and lifelong readers—by building the language and literacy foundations essential for future success.

EYFS Curriculum Snapshot



Key Stage 1

In Key Stage 1 at Oakley, we provide a broad, rich and ambitious curriculum that builds on the strong foundations established in the Early Years. Rooted in research about how children learn best, our approach blends high-quality teaching with a continuous provision model that encourages autonomy, independence and creativity. This approach ensures high levels of engagement and makes learning meaningful, allowing children to practise and embed new knowledge and skills in different contexts—while enjoying the process.

Our curriculum is coherently planned and carefully sequenced so that knowledge and skills build cumulatively over time. Children revisit key concepts, make links across subjects and themes, and develop a secure, growing vocabulary that supports long-term learning. Learning experiences are developmentally appropriate, exploratory and enriched with opportunities for academic, artistic, technical and sporting excellence. Full coverage of the National Curriculum is ensured through adaptive teaching that meets the needs of every learner.

Teachers use a range of assessment strategies to identify gaps, tailor learning and ensure that all pupils are engaged, inspired and challenged. Outdoor learning, first-hand experiences and enrichment play a central role in deepening understanding and fostering curiosity about the world. A robust PSHE curriculum underpins our provision, promoting positive behaviour, wellbeing and safety, and supporting children in developing our core values of respect, responsibility, resilience and tolerance. Children learn how to keep themselves physically and mentally healthy and grow in confidence and independence.

Through this thoughtful, empowering and research-informed curriculum, we aim for all children to develop a secure body of knowledge and the cultural capital they need to thrive. By the end of Key Stage 1, pupils are well-prepared for the next stage of their education and are beginning to grow into responsible, active citizens who contribute positively to their community and beyond.

Key Stage 3

As pupils move into the Secondary phase, they study a broad, balanced curriculum with Core and Ebacc subjects central to their studies from Key Stage 2 onwards. The curriculum that pupils study provides a strong foundation for further academic study in Further and Higher Education. It also ensures that our pupils will go on to achieve a suite of qualifications that will allow them to compete with their peers nationally for Higher Education places and competitive employment routes. Some students have a bespoke curriculum in place to meet their needs, supported by our expert inclusion staff.

Skilful mapping of statutory curriculum requirements ensures that all pupils experience excellent provision of PE, RE, RSE, Citizenship and Computing.

Ample opportunities for Physical Education both within the curriculum and extra-curricular offer ensure our pupils experience a range of activities and sports. An inclusive PE curriculum will educate pupils in the importance of active and healthy lifestyles and instil a love for lifelong involvement in physical activity and sports. When the nearby country park opens, we will use this to provide a range of outdoor activities such as Forest School, orienteering and health-related fitness.

Our Character & Culture curriculum ensures pupils experience excellent provision of RSE, Citizenship and Careers education.

Religious Education provision is mapped across all year groups and enjoys the status of a distinct subject within the curriculum. Pupils' statutory entitlement to Religious Education is met through the delivery of an expertly designed curriculum and by well-trained teachers.

Computing will be a distinct subject throughout a pupils' time at Oakley School and opportunities to develop a pupil's understanding of key Computing concepts and skills are mapped across all subjects.

At all times, leaders and teachers at Oakley School create opportunities to enhance our curriculum; memorable experiences both in and outside of the classroom are a core strategic aim of the school.

Key Stage 3 Curriculum Structure

Pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 follow a 2-week timetable of 50 hour-long lessons. In addition, each day will start with a 20min tutor time through which tutors will deliver the pastoral curriculum.

In order to ensure all of our Year 9 students experience a broad curriculum, all students will continue to study English, Maths, Science, Physical Education, Geography, History, Philosophy & Ethics and Character & Culture. In addition to these core subjects, students continue with 4 of the subjects they have been studying in Years 7 and 8 each for 4 lessons per fortnight. This allows students to study fewer subjects but to a greater depth and will help them to make informed decisions for Key Stage 4. Typically, at least one of these 4 subjects is a Modern Foreign Language.

Subject	Hours per Fortnight		
	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
English	7	7	8
Maths	7	7	8
Science	6	6	6
Physical Education	4	4	4
Geography	3	3	3
History	3	3	3
Philosophy and Ethics	2	1	1
Character and Culture	2	1	1
French	4	3	4 lessons per fortnight of 4 out of these 8 subjects
Spanish		3	
Computing	2	2	
Art	2	2	
Music	2	2	
Drama	2	2	
Design and Technology	2	2	
Food and Nutrition	2	2	