
Curriculum Information 2019/2020



**Saxon Mount School KS3
Information**



Physical Education



Our aim in the Physical Education curriculum is to educate pupils by providing a wide variety of different practical experiences. The department seeks to develop each individual pupil's opportunity to participate and achieve in a range of different sports and activities, improve and develop their physical competency and skills, general fitness and their understanding of how to lead a healthy and active lifestyle. All pupils are given the opportunity to represent the school at a number of sporting events.

Topic to be covered at KS3:

Gymnastics, Dance, Swimming, Athletics, Target Games, Health Related Fitness, Outdoor Adventurous Activities, Invasion Games, Net Games, Striking and Fielding Games, Young Leaders Award.



History

History is important to us at Saxon Mount. Our view is that history adds to our pupil's ability to understand themselves and the world they inhabit. A good history education should leave pupils with the ability to see the world in a different way; to appreciate where we came from and where we could be headed.

In KS3 the students study:

Year 7 Normans (Battle of Hastings, Castles, Domesday, Feudal system),

Kings and the Church (Henry II, Medieval village life, Thomas a Beckett), Challenges to the Throne (King John, Magna Charta, Peasants' revolt),

Religion and the Tudors, (Henry VIII, The Reformation, Elizabethan England (Spanish Armada, Francis Drake).

Year 8 Cromwell (Great Plague, Great Fire of London, Charles I and II, Development of Parliament)

Key stage 3 Curriculum



Industrial Revolution (Life in factories, Railways, Cotton mills, Child workers, Change in urban and rural communities)

Slavery (Start and end of slave trade) Crime and punishment (Law and order in Victorian England, Sir Robert Peel and the start of the Police Force).



Geography

It is important in every pupil's life to understand where they are, where they are going and the ever-changing environment that we all live in. The Geography curriculum at Key stage 3 gives pupils the opportunity to explore the interaction between the physical and human process that form and shape the landscapes we cherish.

Topics to be covered at KS3:

Year 7 Where on Earth Am I? (Human and Physical Geography of the UK, How the UK is formed, Climate of the UK,

Geography Rocks! Nature and properties of rock, Tectonic Activity (earthquakes and volcanoes)

Rivers, Water cycle, Upper Middle Lower Course, Waterfalls, Meanders and Floodplains.

Year 8 Coasts (Features of coasts, Tourism on the coast, Erosion, Waves, Longshore Drift, Coastal management), Climate and Ecosystems (Weather, Climate zones, Ecosystems, Tropical Rainforest)

Resource Management Food: Where does our food come from? (Farming), Water and Energy



Science

Science is everywhere and plays a role in everything we do. A sound knowledge of science can enhance an individual's ability to make decisions essential for healthy living and to participate constructively in society. Science provides our pupils with the opportunity to explore the amazing world around them and to develop an enquiring mind.

Topics to be covered at KS3:

Lab safety, use of basic equipment, states of matter, Light and Dark, Everyday materials and their uses, Plant Biology, habitats, Reproduction, Healthy Living, Magnesium.

Forces, Classification, Lifecycles and reproduction, Rock formation and fossils, Plants and the environment / environmental change, Diet and nutrition, Electricity and sound.

Mixtures and separating solutions (Sorting out). Novel Materials. Pushes- Pulls and forces. Space the Earth and beyond (Fly me to the Moon), Attractive forces. Final Frontiers, Acids and alkalis. How fast how Slow, Cells and organ systems (staying Alive). Casualty, Creepy Crawlies. Extinction



Maths

We believe that every child can learn Maths and has the capacity to continue to expand their mathematical intelligence regardless of their starting point. The team's sole aim is to support and provide positive outcomes for all children.

Topics to be covered at KS3:

Number and Calculation (Counting, place value, Addition and subtraction, multiplication and division, Measurement (Money, Time, Temperature, Mass/length, Area and perimeter), Geometry (Properties of 2D shapes/symmetry, Angles/3D shapes, Position/direction/movement, Venn and Carroll diagrams, Identifying types of lines). Statistics (Pictograms/bar charts, Tally charts, tables and bar charts, frequency tables, Simple tables), Fractions (Decimal fractions – tenths, Simple unitary fractions, Fractions of a set, Equivalent fractions)



English - Our Key Stage 3 English curriculum explores a range of literature to develop and capture the creative imagination of our children. Each year pupils build upon the skills they have learnt and then apply them in their reading, writing and spoken word presentations.

Texts explored in KS3:

Year 7 - Auto-biography (including the study of various extracts from texts such as Boy by Roald Dahl). Class novel - The Twits By Roald Dahl. Poetry (reading, responding to, and writing poems in various forms). Class novel - The Wreck of the Zanzibar (By Michael Morpurgo). Story Writing (Using picture stimuli to tell a simple story)

Year 8 - The Suitcase Kid (By Jacqueline Wilson). Journey to Jo'burg (by Beverley Naidoo). Narrative Poetry – reading a range of narrative poetry (such as: The Highwayman, The Lady of Shallot) looking to develop a personal and critical response or work around The Diary of Anne Frank

Year 9 – Class novels: Boy in the Striped Pyjamas (by John Boyne), Holes (by Louis Sacher) and either Narrative Writing or the class novel Of Mice and Men (John Steinbeck)

Music

Our KS3 curriculum at Saxon Mount ensures that pupils have weekly lessons in year 7 and 8. Pupils enjoy a variety of projects and practical opportunities. Pupils play, perform, improvise and compose in a range of contexts. Pupils explore a range of musical structures, styles genres and traditions.

Topics to be covered at KS3:

Blues and Jazz, Samba, Film music, Graphic scores, Musical elements, Dance Macabre and the history of western music. There are many opportunities for practical music-making during lesson time, using percussion instruments, keyboards and guitars.



Design Technology

We believe that Design and Technology enables us to shape the development of our pupils. Creativity and responsibility are key traits required not only in the subject but also for life after compulsory education. Design and Technology provides our pupils with an exciting opportunity to express their practical abilities.

Topics to be covered at KS3:

In Y7 Pupils start by learning about structures and how they can be designed for strength. They move on to a project which develops their practical making skills and allows them to explore mechanisms. In the final project, pupils design and make a wooden product, widening their knowledge of hand tools and materials.

In Y8 Pupils design and make using a wider range of materials, hand and machine tools. They develop their ability to work with accuracy and improve the quality of finish. They deepen their knowledge of mechanisms and start to think about planning the stages of making, resolving problems through discussion.

In Y9 Pupils further develop their design skills in the context of pewter casting and consider the restrictions of this more complex process. The next making activity introduces traditional but demanding woodwork joints to produce a given product. Pupils then use the learnt skills to create a product which incorporates electronic components, which they solder.

Life Skills



As a school we place importance on pupils developing the skills they need to succeed in life long after they leave us at Saxon Mount. We understand the importance of academic progress but will also believe in improving and extending the life chances of our pupils.

Along with the subject based curriculum we offer a life skill curriculum at key stage 3 which allows pupils the opportunity to develop and support the learning of these valuable skills. Whether it be learning to use a knife and fork or tying shoe laces, or learning to use money or the local buses pupils will be given the opportunity to develop these lifelong skills.



Food



At Key Stage 3 we offer a curriculum that is both skills and knowledge based and designed to progressively challenge pupils, building on their previous knowledge. Through a variety of practical and theory activities, pupils are taught a range of topics and will demonstrate their understanding of the subject.

Topics to be covered at KS3:

Early in Y7 pupils will learn the routines and behaviours required to work with others safely in a kitchen environment. Skills based lessons will build confidence to tackle complex dishes later in Y7 and through KS3. Some lessons will focus on KS2 knowledge not yet covered, to unify groups.

The aim of the Y8 scheme is to develop knowledge of: Food Safety and Hygiene, Different cooking methods, A range of skills and processes, such as rubbing-in, equipment and ingredients, ways of adapting recipes, sensory analysis, effective use of literacy & numeracy.

Pupils will cover a wider range of cookery skills and develop their knowledge of food and cookery in preparation for the KS4 Food courses. They will draw upon their skills and knowledge to design and make their own healthier mini party snacks for a children's Birthday party taking into account 'Reference Intakes', presentation, mini portion sizes and healthier outcomes.



Art



The KS3 curriculum encourages our students to explore different techniques, artists and their processes. The programme enables our students to develop an understanding of the fundamental skills of art and confidence in reflection and development of a project.

Topics to be covered at KS3

Year 7 students are introduced to the elements of art at the beginning of the year. They take part in an illustration project and start developing their 2d art skills by exploring art processes by artists Eric Carle and Quentin Blake. Later on in the year students begin working in 3d during a 'Bugs Life' project, they draw real life bugs, looking at mixed media artists and design and make a 3d bug developed from their drawings.

Year 8 students take part in a series of workshop style projects to include textiles, printing, 3d model making and clay techniques. These projects introduce students to a range of processes in order to develop their design and 3d model making skills.

Year 9 students work towards an Arts Award qualification. This level 1 qualification, includes a series of practical art projects, reviewing an arts experience, researching their arts inspirations and delivering a workshop.



Religious Education and Citizenship

We believe that it is our moral duty to ensure our pupils understand the complex world we live in. Developing a positive knowledge and understanding of faiths, ethics and beliefs, we educate our pupils to have respect for those who are different from ourselves. The subject also incorporates exploring our own beliefs and how we make moral decisions.

Topics to be covered at KS3:

Year 7 Festivals: Christmas, Easter, Hanukkah, Samhain, Chinese New Year, Divali, Eid Community and Identity, Pilgrimages and Religious Buildings in our Communities,
Year 8 Buddhism: Beliefs and Practices
Crime, Ethics and Morals
Inspirational People (Rosa Parkes, Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela, Malala, Stephen Hawking)
Year 9 Judaism: Beliefs and Practices
Rights and Responsibilities
Should we care for others?) Human charities, Wildlife charities Stewardship (recycling).



PSHE

Here at Saxon Mount we believe that PSHE is an important part of the curriculum. The subject is delivered across all year groups by one trained PSHE teacher using a range of teaching and learning styles. There is an emphasis on active learning by including the children in discussions, investigations and problem-solving activities. The children are encouraged to take part in a range of practical activities that promote active citizenship. We organise classes in such a way that pupils are able to participate in discussion to resolve conflicts or set agreed classroom rules of behaviour, (target meetings, circle time).

Topics to be covered at KS3:

Topics covered: Emotional Wellbeing, Friendship, Risk and Safety (Stranger Danger, Personnel Safety and Gangs) Sex Relationship Education (RSE), Drug Education and CPR.



Computing / ICT

Computing is concerned with how computers and computer systems work, and how they are designed and programmed. It is a practical subject, in which invention and resourcefulness are encouraged.

Topics to be covered at KS3:

At KS3 there is a focus on programming and computer science and students will continue to learn to use computers to find things out, exchange and share information, review, modify and evaluate work using familiar software. Students learn the principles of programming through practical games, the control of robots and a variety of visual programming software. Students are also taught how to stay safe when using technology.

Creative Media

Pupils have been given the opportunity to study Creative Media during Key stage 3 to help build a foundation of learning for Key stage 4 Tech awards. In the modern day media influences the direction of the world and our aim is to ensure that pupils have the opportunity and skills to access vital information.

Topics to be covered at KS3:

Pupils will explore audio/moving image, publishing and interactive media. Pupils will learn practical skills e.g. video editing, and develop knowledge and understanding of the creative media.



Performing Arts

Performance Arts Course aims to give all pupils a full range of vocational skills together with a solid grounding in the Performing Arts. At key stage 3 we hope to provide pupils with the foundation knowledge and experiences to enable pupils to study Performing Arts at Key stage 4 level. Pupils are given the opportunity to use and develop their skills by taking part in technique classes and performances delivered by their class teacher. They will experience various methods of recording, acting.

Topics to be covered at KS3:

The development of key skills that prove your aptitude in Performing Arts such as reproducing repertoire or responding to stimuli; rehearsal and performance, responsibilities, performance disciplines and styles.