



**PONTEFRACT**  
ACADEMIES TRUST

---

# CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

---

All primary schools in the Pontefract Academies Trust follow the National Curriculum for Key Stages 1 and 2, and the Early Years Framework in Reception. Just like the pupils in our schools our curriculum is unique! There is a relentless focus on the individual and bespoke needs of every child that is reflected in our curriculum planning and delivery. In short, we facilitate opportunities for all of our pupils to be the best version of themselves possible.

Our curriculum intent is rooted in the long term sustainable development of the individual, regardless of their personal or social circumstances. The young people in our care will be literate, numerate and acquire the capacity to be resilient. Every pupil has the right to learn and our ambition for their holistic development will be unwavering. Through our thematic approach to learning, pupils will question the world around them, seek out truth and happiness and be prepared for a future where they thrive and succeed.

The Trust has developed a sequential thematic curriculum that drives core learning and ensures that our pupils receive an education that is broad, balanced and meets the National Curriculum objectives. Topic themes alternate every term in Key Stage 2 and every half term in Key Stage 1.



## The Pontefract Academies Trust Curriculum Themes

- Culture
- Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds
- The World Around Us
- The World Beyond Us
- Modern Britain
- Technology in Action

These themes reflect our local and national context and will be used to ensure that every pupil thinks reflectively about the welfare of themselves and others. It is important that pupils enjoy learning whilst they are on a journey that develops them into responsible and safe citizens. We will ensure that the curriculum builds upon prior learning, in a sequential fashion, from the Early Years Foundation Stage. Over time mastery will be developed around these themes whilst ensuring full coverage of each subject content across the key stages. All subject topics are underpinned by quality literature that has been specifically chosen to reflect real life learning and application.

Pupils in Pontefract Academies Trust's primary schools will be taught the following subjects -

- English
- Maths
- Science
- PE
- History
- Geography
- Art
- Computing
- Religious Education
- Music
- Modern Foreign Language (in Key Stage 2)
- Design and Technology
- PSHE/SMSC and British Values (spiritual, moral, social and cultural values)

## READING STRATEGY

The ability to fluently read a wide variety of text types is fundamental to learning and underpins our daily practice. All pupils have extensive opportunities to develop their reading skills, both within and outside of the classroom, and will be provided with texts that inspires and challenges their thinking and learning. The Trust has developed a non-negotiable 'literary canon' that will ensure every pupil is being taught using books that reflect not only our local context but the evolving world in which we live in. The same texts are used in every school to facilitate standardisation, moderation and the sharing of best practice. Pupils will also be encouraged to take books home with them every day to support their access to a diverse range of vocabulary and writing styles. As their confidence grows, through improved phonics skills and comprehension, they will thrive as independent readers. Phonics is taught daily in a systematic manner in Early Years and Key Stage 1 so pupils quickly develop the decoding skills necessary to access a wider variety of books.

## EXTRA CURRICULUM

Every pupil will be offered the opportunity to participate in a plethora of extra curriculum activities that will enrich their learning, develop their natural talents and ensure that they fine-tune their independent and team working skills. The Trust's primary schools offer a range of sporting activities, including swimming, football, gymnastics and rugby as well as trips and visits to local and national places of interests to support pupils' holistic development. Many of the clubs we offer are run by external providers and take place after school. In addition, pupils will be offered an extensive opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument or participate in a solo or group production. The timetables change regularly in accordance with the time of year. Further information can be found on the individual school websites.

# THE 10 NON-NEGOTIABLES OF OUR PRIMARY SCHOOL CURRICULUM

1. Meet the intrinsic and extrinsic drivers of the pupils by understanding their local context and individual needs.
2. Provide opportunities to develop expertise through rich and meaningful learning experiences; both inside and outside of the classroom.
3. Ensure pupils know how to cope with life in a multi-cultural country and be safe in all their endeavours.
4. Develop additional creativity by exposure to the arts, sport and music.
5. Promote reflection, resilience and collaboration with others to positively impact self-value and esteem.
6. Keep the development of English and Mathematical skills at the heart of our raison d'être. Reading and writing will be the gateway skills to success.
7. Ensure progression and continuity in pupils' thinking and learning.
8. Develop self-awareness and an understanding of fundamental British values.
9. Be ambitious and responsive to changes in the world around us.
10. Make school a happy place to be!



**CARLETON PARK**

JUNIOR & INFANT SCHOOL



**DE LACY  
PONTEFRACT**

PRIMARY SCHOOL



**HALFPENNY LANE**

JUNIOR, INFANT &  
NURSERY SCHOOL



**LARKS HILL**

JUNIOR & INFANT SCHOOL



**ORCHARD HEAD**

JUNIOR, INFANT &  
NURSERY SCHOOL



**THE ROOKERIES  
CARLETON**

JUNIOR, INFANT &  
NURSERY SCHOOL