

Introduction

We are a unique school in a unique situation and, as such, we have created a curriculum which is relevant to our pupils. This provides them with the skills and knowledge to reach their full potential.

The curriculum is linked to the UK National Curriculum with input from other countries including Botswana, South Africa and New Zealand.

The Thornhill Curriculum is balanced, broadly based and aims to:

- provide opportunities for all pupils to learn and to achieve
- promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and prepare all pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life.

These two aims are interdependent and reinforce each other. The personal development of pupils plays a significant part in their ability to learn and to achieve.

The curriculum provides all pupils with opportunities to acquire, develop, practise, apply and extend their skills in a range of contexts. These skills are also relevant to life and learning outside and beyond the school.

Skills include:

- the key skills of communication (including literacy),
- application of number,
- information communication technology,
- working with others,
- improving own learning and performance and problem solving
- thinking skills (including information processing, reasoning, enquiry, creative thinking and evaluation).

In Reception, Standard 1 and Standard 2 the curriculum is essentially based around numeracy and literacy, with the opportunity for pupils to be introduced to motivating, stimulating and interesting work from elsewhere in the curriculum. Pupils learn through broad-based topics. Learning outcomes are taken from different subject areas but not identified as subject-based to the children.

In Standards 3 and 4 numeracy and literacy are consolidated and applied in other contexts. The children begin to develop knowledge, skills and understanding as defined in individual subjects. A theme is chosen but learning outcomes are organised and presented to the children in a more subject-based way.

In Standards 5, 6 and 7 pupils extend subject-specific knowledge, skills and understanding through an interesting range of contexts. Separate science, history and geography lessons are

Core Subjects

Thornhill Curriculum Aims

English Language and Literacy Aims

At Thornhill we aim:

- to enable children to express themselves clearly, correctly and in an acceptable form in speech and writing.
- to teach children to read with fluency, expression and understanding.
- to develop the power to comprehend the spoken and written forms of the language.
- to enlarge the vocabulary and give a fuller understanding of the idiom of the language.
- to teach the basic grammar of the language, so that English may be used with understanding.
- to provide for the children as wide an acquaintance as possible with good English literature, including poetry, and help them experience the joys it offers.
- to stimulate their creativity through speech, writing, drama and art.
- to enable children to develop listening skills.

A holistic approach to the language is recommended, thereby providing extensive links with the other subjects taught

At Thornhill we use a mixture of both the Ginn Reading Programme and the Oxford Reading Tree reading schemes.

Maths Aims

At Thornhill we aim:

- to develop number concepts through experience with concrete material, discovery and discussion.
- to develop the ability of the pupil to recall and apply mathematical knowledge and methods to solve problems which may be encountered in daily life, now and in the future.
- to develop the ability to understand, interpret, read, speak and write mathematical language.
- to develop insight into spatial relationships and measurement.
- to develop a love for and a positive attitude towards mathematics.
- to provide basic mathematical preparation for future study.
- to develop problem solving and logical thinking.

These aims are carried out through New Heinemann Maths, which is a flexible and practical course written in line with the National Numeracy Strategy in the UK. It is a carefully structured programme, which allows the children to practise and consolidate the skills they are taught and to use and apply them in different contexts.

Geography Aims

At Thornhill there are four areas of geographical study which include:

1. The ability to undertake geographical enquiry and use geographical skills:
 - to investigate and enquire.
 - to ask where, why, how and to practically demonstrate this.
 - to use correct terms, undertake fieldwork, to use a variety of sources to gain information and to organise and communicate findings.
 - to make and use maps, plans and symbols.
 - to identify major geographical features.
 - to correctly use instruments and IT for investigation and recording.
2. Knowledge and understanding of places.
 - To study particular places and develop a sense of locality and the world around us.
3. Knowledge and understanding of geographical patterns and processes and how they affect people.
 - To explore themes in the environment (e.g. weather, rivers) and their effect on people.
4. Knowledge and understanding of environmental relationships and issues.
 - To be aware of human activity and its impact on the physical environment.

History Aims

At Thornhill there are five areas of historical study which include:

- Chronology - to know, understand and use dates, times and a timeline. To be able to place past events in a chronological framework.
- Range and depth of historical knowledge - to describe and identify characteristics of periods and societies. To understand the reasons why things are the way they are and to make links between events, time periods and situations.
- Interpretation of the past - to use a variety of sources to make assumptions about the past and what it means. (The effects of progress)
- Enquiry - to use a variety of sources to ask and answer questions about the past and record this appropriately. (Opinion/fact)
- Organisation and Communication - to recall, select and organise information. To use correct terms and to communicate findings in a variety of ways.



taught, which may or may not share a common theme.

Science Aims

Science education contributes to the growth and development of all students, as individuals, as responsible and informed members of society, and as productive contributors to Botswana's economy and future.

The aim of science education in the Thornhill School curriculum is to advance learning in science by:

- helping students to develop knowledge and a coherent understanding of the living, physical, material, and technological components of their environment;
- encouraging students to develop skills for investigating these components of the environment in scientific ways;
- providing opportunities for students to develop the attitudes on which scientific investigation depends;
- promoting science as an activity that is carried out by all people as part of their everyday life;
- portraying science as both a process and a set of ideas which have been constructed by people to explain everyday and unfamiliar phenomena;
- encouraging students to consider the ways in which people have used scientific knowledge and methods to meet particular needs;
- developing students' understanding of the evolving nature of science and technology;
- assisting students to use scientific knowledge and skills to make decisions about the usefulness and worth of ideas;
- helping students to explore issues and to make responsible and considered decisions about the use of science and technology in the environment;
- developing students' understanding of the different ways people influence, and are influenced by, science and technology;
- nurturing scientific talent to ensure a future scientific community;
- developing students' interest in and understanding of the knowledge and processes of science, which form the basis of many of their future careers.

Science education, along with the other essential learning themes, contributes to the development of the essential skills that will be of use to the individual throughout their lives.



Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Aims

ICT is a very important area of all our lives and is accelerating and intensifying year by year. We believe it is essential that all children Thornhill are provided with the skills to use the ever-increasing range of technological equipment that is available in our society. We aim to provide the resources to implement an ICT Curriculum that is broad, balanced and wide-ranging in approach, thus allowing future progress and success by the pupils at this school. It is our belief that, in the use of ICT, we should create an environment that is exciting and motivating. The way ICT is used should encourage children to develop confidence in their use of equipment and programmes, thus allowing the highest standards to be achieved. In this way, ICT will be used to support learning across the curriculum.

At Thornhill, we acknowledge the growing importance of, and changes in, the application of ICT. This is recognised in the movement towards an emphasis on the communications between computers and in the use of the Internet.

At Thornhill we recognise that:

- ICT is an important subject within the curriculum
- the use of ICT is a core skill
- children have an entitlement to good training in ICT skills
- ICT facilitates learning across the curriculum
- ICT improves efficiency and quality of learning
- the ability to communicate and share information electronically is a desirable skill for all pupils
- ICT is used to support all areas of the curriculum, especially Literacy and Numeracy
- the Internet and e-mail are tools that will enable pupils to develop links with the wider world
- ICT is not just learning about computers, but learning through computers, using technology as a tool in tandem with other teaching methods.

Library Aims

When the children come to the Library at Thornhill we aim:

- to instil in each child a love of books and reading so that they may develop into confident and successful scholars.
- to guide children to develop skills in three main areas.
 - Literary - i.e. different kinds of books.
 - Library - i.e. classification and layout of a library.
 - Research - i.e. finding information and knowing what to do with it.



Physical Education (PE) Aims

PE is an essential part of the curriculum. It develops pupils' physical competence and confidence, and their ability to use these to perform in various activities. It promotes physical skill, physical development and knowledge of the body in action.

PE provides opportunities for pupils to be creative, competitive and to face different challenges as individuals, in groups, and teams. It engenders positive attitudes towards an active and healthy lifestyle. Pupils learn to plan, perform and evaluate actions, ideas and performances to improve their quality and effectiveness. Through this process, pupils discover their aptitudes, abilities and preferred physical activity.

When teaching P.E. we aim to:

- develop the health and fitness of all pupils, enabling them to understand the importance of a healthy body by maintaining fitness throughout life.
- further develop positive social interaction of all pupils.
- develop individual skills, encouraging competent levels of participation and enjoyment creating healthy competitiveness.
- encourage habits of recreational sport that will provide an emotional outlet within an increasingly challenging lifestyle.
- provide the pupils with the understanding of achievement from hard work, determination and dedication.
- develop strong character through sound sportsmanship.

Languages

Setswana Aims

The Setswana department at Thornhill aims to provide children with skills to help them develop confidence in Setswana language, which will allow them to cope better with the requirements of life after they finish school. A significant amount of the content is geared to Setswana culture.

Throughout the standards, children are taught to understand Setswana and to use it correctly. They are expected to enjoy a gradual increase in the range and variety of appropriate forms and styles of the language. This is so that they can respond to and use the language as they move into the upper classes. The Setswana syllabus tries to achieve this through speaking, reading, writing, listening and cultural studies.

French Aims

When teaching French at Thornhill, we aim to:

- provide educational opportunities based on Thornhill's educational philosophy.
- develop a positive attitude towards the learning of French.
- ensure a continuity and a progression in the learning of a second language.
- lead students to an awareness of French culture.
- provide the students with an opportunity to appreciate cultural values.
- develop positive attitudes towards people who speak French or other languages.

Cultural Studies Aims

Cultural Studies is taught as a means of building on the multicultural base found here at Thornhill. We create opportunities for children to appreciate this diversity and to learn about each other's culture as well as their own.

When teaching Cultural Studies at Thornhill we aim to encourage the children:

- to realise that they belong to various groups and communities
- to recognise how their behaviour affects themselves and other people
- to listen to other people, and play and work cooperatively with an open vision
- to identify and respect the differences and similarities between people as we belong to a bigger family
- to reflect about the lives of people living in other places, and people with different values and customs as well as having a deepening understanding of their own lives
- to understand that differences and similarities between people arise from a number of factors, including cultural, ethnic, racial and religious diversity, gender and disability

At Thornhill we believe that all children should have an understanding of the language and culture of their home, the school and the community they live in. We aim for the children to gain knowledge and understanding of society through the appreciation of culture which includes language, traditions, songs, ceremonies, customs, social norms and a sense of citizenship.

Arts

Art & Design Aims

Art includes art, craft and design. These subjects are taught so that pupils may develop their own creative power

The children will:

- develop skills and technical expertise
- gain in knowledge
- be able to use Art as a strong medium of self-expression and as a visual language to express emotions, moods and personal feelings.
- learn to share, help and cooperate with others whilst learning to appreciate other people's ideas and methods of working.

As a practical subject, pupils are trained to co-ordinate their senses.

We aim to develop visual perception and visual literacy. Creative, imaginative and practical skills are needed to express ideas and feelings, or design and make images and artefacts.

Art encourages pupils to be aware of the existence, beauty and structure of their environment. It involves children in problem-solving situations, which require creative thinking. They learn to reflect and adapt their work, identifying ways in which it can be developed and improved.

Ideas and feelings, experienced and imagined, are recorded confidently and show a developing ability to represent what they see and touch with increasing accuracy and attention to detail.

Art provides opportunities for children to experience success and joy, develop confidence and provides freedom in decision-making.

Music Aims

The main aim of Music education at Thornhill is to develop children's sensitivity to, and their understanding of, music, through an active involvement in performing and composing, listening and appraising.

When teaching Music we aim to:

- develop pupils' understanding of a wide range of music
- develop and extend children's own interests
- increase pupils' ability to make judgements on musical quality
- aid the children to acquire the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to make music, for example in community music-making
- develop the pupils' skills, attitudes and attributes that can support learning in other subject areas and that are needed for life and work, for example listening skills, the ability to concentrate, creativity, aesthetic sensitivity, perseverance, self-confidence and perception
- promote positive attitudes towards, and enthusiasm for, music work in school
- develop children's social skills and awareness when they make music together
- develop each of the interrelated skills of performing, composing and appraising in all activities.



Thornhill Curriculum Aims

Trips

Outdoor education

Outdoor Education has a whole different meaning in Botswana and we take full advantage of the natural environment available to us.

We begin our Outdoor Education with the Standard 3's on a day visit to a local game reserve.

This is extended in Standard 4 with a two-day visit and overnight stay in a game reserve. The emphasis of both these trips is to learn about the local environment and how to look after it.

In Standard 5, have the opportunity to travel further afield for a longer stay and tend to concentrate on team-building and problem-solving exercises.

The Standard 6 pupils once again return to the bush to study in more detail the differing ecosystems that Botswana has to offer. Here they will go on game drives and sleep out under the stars.

The Standard 7 trip is a little different. It comes at the end of their time at Thornhill and usually takes the form of a trip to the South African coast. The ocean is a place that large numbers of our children will see for the first time - a very important learning experience.

We see our Outdoor Education programme as a very important part of our curriculum. It helps teachers and classes to bond together and helps all see each other in a different light. We feel that every child should participate in the programme as we see them grow immensely on these trips.

