

Ivel Valley School

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Proposed New Curriculum 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Schools across England and Wales have been prompted to re-examine their school curricula this year with a view to refining how we teach.

This year we have spent a great deal of time looking at the curriculum with teachers, staff and governors. As a result of this we have devised a new Curriculum Map which shows, in broad terms, the way that we intend to deliver education at Ivel Valley School.

I am confident that this new Curriculum Map will further develop our approach to educating the children and young people in our school community. I am also pleased that our proposed curriculum will begin to capture the things that make learning at Ivel Valley so special.

I'm afraid that the map contains quite a lot of 'education speak' so I've set out the key developments below along with our reasons for introducing them:

- *Increased emphasis on outdoor education including Forest Schools*
We know that many of our pupils benefit from learning in the outdoors. Forest Schools and outdoor learning give them the chance to develop their understanding of risk, their resilience and their concentration, amongst lots of other things! Some of you may have noticed that we have erected an outdoor classroom and established a Forest Schools area adjacent to the school car park.
- *Increased emphasis on sport, exercise and health*
We want **every** pupil in the school to have the opportunity to participate in some form of sport and exercise. Again, we know that this helps concentration, it releases endorphins, improves confidence and helps pupils to lead healthier lives.
- *More opportunities for pupils to develop their thinking skills*
Research (and experience) tells us that children and young people benefit enormously from being taught strategies to tackle problems. We will teach pupils skills like trying again, learning from mistakes, working as a team, creative problem solving and critical thinking.



We have adapted a framework called *The Characteristics of Effective Learning* to support this.

- *More focus on play and exploration*

Younger pupils in the school will learn through play more often, whilst older pupils will learn through exploration. Again, research shows that learning through play and/or exploration allows pupils to learn something more effectively than being sat behind a desk.

- *Key Stage Four and College students will have more emphasis on preparation for adulthood*

This is a government initiated strategy that focuses on four key areas:

- Employment
- Friends, Relationships & Community
- Independent Living
- Good Health

These areas will form the basis of the College curriculum and also feed into Key Stage Four learning.

As part of our curriculum development I would like to ask for your thoughts and feedback about our proposed new curriculum. At the centre of any curriculum is your child, we share your ambitions for them and want to give them the most engaging learning opportunities possible.

I would be very grateful if you could have a think about our proposed curriculum and offer your feedback via the link below, this consultation will close on 15th May 2019.

<https://forms.gle/udciX39g8FpLg5Re8>

Yours faithfully



Joe Creswick
Principal

