



INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL

Curriculum Policy

MIPS-103

<i>Date of Adoption</i>	<i>May 2019</i>
<i>Date of Next Review</i>	<i>May 2024</i>



1 Introduction

- 1.1 The curriculum offered at Millennium Integrated Primary School (MIPS) encompasses all elements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum (NIC) and is designed to give a broad and balanced education to all children and to provide all children with experiences suitable to their current stage of development.
- 1.2 This curriculum aims to give greater emphasis to Personal Development and Mutual Understanding and to focus on the explicit development of Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities. It aims to empower young children to develop their potential and to make informed and responsible choices throughout their lives. This then should help children to develop as individuals, contributors to society, the economy and the environment.
- 1.3 This approach gives teachers considerable flexibility to make decisions about how best to interpret and combine the requirements to prepare the children for a rapidly changing world.
- 1.4 At Millennium we feel that children learn best when learning is interactive, practical and enjoyable. We like to provide the children with opportunities to experience open-ended and challenging tasks which encourage creativity and flexibility. All our children have the opportunity to be actively involved in the planning, reviewing and reflecting of each cross-curricular topic. This approach helps the children to be engaged and motivated learners.
- 1.5 Through the opportunities provided for the children to engage in active learning contexts across all 6 areas of the curriculum, children should progressively develop their cross-curricular skills and their thinking skills and personal capabilities. Their experiences in ICT assist the development of the ability to handle and communicate information, solve problems, pose questions and take risks. They use ICT to process, present and exchange their ideas and translate their thinking into creative outcomes that show an awareness of audience and purpose.
- 1.6 They are also provided with opportunities to collaborate within and beyond the classroom, to share and exchange their work and to exhibit and showcase their learning.
- 1.7 Millennium participates in the Shared Education Programme with Carr Primary School, where different classes throughout the school participate in shared lessons with their year group counterparts. These classes are arranged to support mutual areas of the curriculum for each school – under the direction of both principals.

- 1.8 Cross-Curricular Skills:
 - Communication
 - Using Mathematics
 - Using Information and Technology
- 1.9 Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities
 - Thinking, Problem-Solving and Decision Making
 - Self-Management
 - Working with Others
 - Managing Information
 - Being Creative
- 1.10 The Three Stages of the Primary Curriculum
 - The Foundation Stage: P1 and P2
 - Key Stage 1: P3 and P4
 - Key Stage 2: P5, P6 and P7

2 Duty to Deliver Curriculum

- 2.1 Delivering a 'balanced and broadly based' curriculum is a statutory duty for grant-aided schools under the [Education \(Northern Ireland\) Order 2006](#).
- 2.2 If any school fails to discharge this duty or has acted/proposes to act unreasonably in relation to it, complaints may be made to the Education Authority under the [Complaints Tribunal \(Curriculum and Related Matters\) Regulations \(NI\) 2016](#).
- 2.3 MIPS also has its own internal Complaints Policy (MIPS-115). It is worth noting that external complaints bodies will usually expect internal procedures to have been exhausted before they will take action.

3 The Structure of the Primary Curriculum

- 3.1 The curriculum for the three stages is set out in 6 areas of learning. Although the areas of learning are set out separately, learning is integrated, where appropriate, across the 6 areas to make relevant connections for the children. Teachers now have considerable flexibility to select from within the learning areas those aspects they consider appropriate to the ability and interests of their pupils.
- 3.2 The structure of the curriculum for each year group is distributed at the annual curriculum evening held by the respective teachers. Each area of the curriculum is also reported on in the annual written report.

3.3 The Areas of Learning are:

- Language and Literacy (including Talking and Listening, Reading and Writing; schools are also encouraged to teach additional languages)
- Mathematics and Numeracy (focusing on the development of mathematical concepts and numeracy across the curriculum)
- The Arts (including Art and Design, Drama and Music)
- The World Around Us (focusing on the development of knowledge, skills and understanding in Geography, History and Science and Technology)
- Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (focusing on emotional development, social skills, learning to learn, health, relationships and sexuality education and mutual understanding in the local and global community)
- Physical Education (focusing on the development of knowledge, skills and understanding through play and a range of physical activities)

4 Further Information

- 4.1 If you wish to find out more about the Northern Ireland curriculum go to www.nicurriculum.org.uk.

Appendix 1 Schedule of Updates

<i>DATE</i>	<i>RESPONSIBLE PERSON</i>
<i>May 2019</i>	<i>B Corrigan</i>