

Curriculum Guide for Parents

Where parents and other members of the public can find more information on the curriculum

What is the National Curriculum?

The National Curriculum is a set of subjects and standards used by primary schools to ensure all children learn the same core knowledge and skills. It is divided into "Key Stages":

- Key Stage 1: Years 1 and 2.
- Key Stage 2: Years 3 to 6.

At each stage, children study core subjects like English, Maths, and Science, alongside foundation subjects such as History, Geography, Art, and Computing. The goal is to provide a "broad and balanced" education that prepares children for the future.

The "Rathbone Standard": Our Approach

At Co-op Academy Rathbone, we take the National Curriculum and make it "irresistible" for our pupils. We follow the "Rathbone Standard," which means:

- High Ambition: We expect the best from every child and use a "phonics-first" approach to give them a flying start in reading.
- I Do, We Do, You Do: Teachers model new skills first, then the class practices together, before children try things independently.
- Limited "Teacher Talk": We focus on getting children active and thinking for themselves as quickly as possible.
- Calm Environments: We use clear routines and visual signs to keep classrooms settled and happy.

Our "Spiral" Curriculum

We use a spiral curriculum, which simply means we revisit important topics multiple times. Each time a child returns to a subject, the learning gets a little deeper and more complex. This helps children remember what they've learned and builds their confidence as they "succeed together".

How We Check Progress

We don't just wait for big tests at the end of the year. Our teachers use "Assessment for Learning" to spot mistakes and help children in the moment.

- Retrieval Practice: Every lesson starts with a "Do Now" or "Review Now" task to help children remember what they learned yesterday or last week.
- Monitoring: Every half-term, school leaders look closely at the progress of individual children to make sure they are thriving personally and academically.
- Termly Meetings: We hold regular "Pupil Progress Meetings" to ensure every child is on track to reach their full potential.

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Our Values

Everything we do is built on the Co-op values: **Doing what matters most**, **Being ourselves always**, **Showing we care**, and **Succeeding together**. Our curriculum isn't just about passing tests; it's about helping your child become a "Safe, Helpful, and Thriving" member of our community.