

September 2008

The Meadows Montessori School

Integrated Curriculum Policy

The Meadows Montessori School runs with Montessori Ethos forming its core curriculum. The majority of the curriculum will be taught by using an integrated curriculum approach. This means that we are not governed by the boundaries imposed by traditional subject boundaries. It is a curriculum that allows the child to move through the chosen theme, using learning and understanding to link the subjects.

Montessori believed that children did not think naturally in terms of different subjects - but that they tend to have a more holistic view of the world. Therefore an integrated approach is compatible to the ethos of our school and the environment that the children will be working in.

The Montessori Integrated Curriculum will:

- Provide the children with a holistic approach to learning which will help them to make connections between different learning areas.
- Provide children with a comprehensive curriculum that caters for the individual child's needs.
- Assists the children to understand and build on their experiences in order to make sense of the world.
- Encourages teaching staff to be exciting and inspiring with their teaching skills
- Give teachers freedom to develop areas within the curriculum in different ways.
- Values and builds on prior knowledge
- Allows for the achievement of many outcomes from some or all learning areas.
- Allows for inclusion of students with a wide range of abilities and ages.

Planning

Long Term Planning

The themes for our curriculum have been chosen and placed within a Long Term Plan. We have chosen themes that are taken from the QCA Schemes of Learning. These themes have been chosen to allow progression, natural building on knowledge and to ensure a balanced 'core' of subjects are taught.

Medium Term Planning

Medium term planning takes the form of firstly a 'mind map' of information. All the curricular subjects surrounding the theme and then as part of a planning meeting with all teaching staff - lesson ideas, activities, trips etc.. are then mapped on. This plan is also influenced by assessment from the last half term and any 'child led' learning that staff what to ensure is incorporated into the plan.

Short Term Planning

These plans are completed on a weekly basis by teaching staff. They are directly influenced by the work completed the week before, any assessments that may have taken place and by staff following the 'child led' interests and ideas. These plans form a reflective practice and are used as direct evidence for planning for the next weeks work.

Resources

Our Montessori Prepared Environment allows for our resources to be well presented and well planned. Our Long Term Continuous Provision plan shows our materials that are on our shelves at all times. Alongside these activities staff will design, make, and prepare other materials that will compliment the Integrated Curriculum. These activities will change according to the child's interest and needs. Children will be directed to use these materials through their work journals or through free choice.

Evaluation

All staff will be responsible for evaluating the integrated curriculum theme at the end of each half term. This will be an evaluation form which will then be attached to the $\frac{1}{2}$ terms work and filed.