

The Norman Gate Curriculum

At Norman Gate School we aim to a range of learning experiences to meet our children's diverse learning needs.

The Norman Gate curriculum prioritises communication, independence, functional skills, emotional literacy, building self-esteem and key life skills.

The Statutory Curriculum:

Our curriculum is based upon the statutory Early years Framework and the National Curriculum. Children are taught at the level that is right for them.

Within Lower School we focus on the Early Years Framework, there are some children in Upper School still working at this level.

The Early Years Framework

The EYFS curriculum is split into **Prime** and **Specific** areas. The prime areas are important because they lay the foundations for children's success in all other areas of learning and of life. The specific areas provide the range of experiences and opportunities for children to broaden their knowledge and skills.

The **Prime Areas** of learning are:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development;
- Communication and Language;
- Physical Development.

The **Specific Areas** of learning are:

- Literacy;
- Mathematics;
- Understanding the World;
- Expressive Arts and Design.

At the end of the Reception year, pupils are benchmarked nationally against the Early Learning Goals for each area, through the Early Years Foundation **Stage Profile (EYFSP)**.

From September 2021 the EYFS is changing for all schools and Early Years settings in England.

Why?

The government has reformed the framework to transform the early year's curriculum and assessment, focusing on what matters most for children's outcomes:

- A strong and holistic curriculum that puts early language development at the heart;
- A strong focus on the importance of ensuring that children have a deep, secure understanding of each concept or skill before moving on, rather than rushing them on to next steps. This is something we have always strived to do at Norman Gate School and will continue to do.

What?

The seven areas of learning and development

Personal, Social and Emotional Development – 'Self-Regulation' has been a key focus recently and this is now reflected in a new Early Learning Goal.

Communication and Language - 'Listening, Attention and Understanding' are now combined into one goal, with the other goal focusing on 'Speaking'.

Physical Development - These Early Learning Goals no longer include health and self-care, solely focusing on moving and handling skills. There is now a goal for gross motor skills and a separate goal focusing on fine motor skills.

Literacy - There are now three early learning goals for Literacy, with the reading focus now split into comprehension and reading words.

Mathematics - The new Mathematics Early Learning Goals focus on a deep understanding of number and numerical patterns. Although there is no longer a goal for shape, space and measure we will continue to teach children about shape, space and measures, as part of a well-rounded curriculum.

Understanding the World – Now includes the concept of 'Past and Present' and the removal of the 'Technology' goal. We will continue to introduce children to appropriate technology to support their learning.

Expressive Arts and Design - The goals for Expressive Arts and Design are broadly similar to the existing goals with mentions of being imaginative and using a variety of materials, tools and techniques.

New Focus

A new requirement to promote good oral health.

The National Curriculum

The National Curriculum follows the EYFS. At Norman Gate children move onto learning within the discrete subjects within the Prime and Specific areas when they are ready.

Early years Framework	National Curriculum	
Prime areas		
Communication and Language	English* <i>Spoken language</i>	Taught through topics and through a range of learning opportunities
Physical Development	Physical Education	Discrete lesson
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	<i>Personal, Social and Emotional Development including Relationships and Health Education</i>	Discrete lesson and through a range of learning opportunities
Core areas		
Literacy	English* <i>phonics Reading Writing Spelling, punctuation and grammar</i>	Discrete Phonics and applied through Topic
Mathematics	Mathematics	Discrete lesson and applied through Topic
Understanding the world	Science Computing History Geography	Taught through Topic
Expressive Art and Design	Art and Design Music	Taught through Topic

Additional Learning opportunities within the Norman Gate Curriculum

As well as the statutory areas of the curriculum we also develop social skills, speaking and listening, OT skills and well-being through:

- Daily Mindfulness sessions (including breathing exercises and yoga)
- Social Communication lessons or groups
- Narrative therapy sessions
- OT activities and sensory circuits.
- Play-based learning continues throughout the school, with focused lessons such as Plan-do-Review

Our curriculum focuses on an exploration of nature and the use of the outdoor environment to encourage of curiosity and a love of learning.

At Norman Gate, we have high expectations of our children. We encourage children to take risks in a secure and safe environment. We celebrate mistakes along the way as these provide vital learning opportunities.

Assessment

Teachers assess children's progress in all subjects using our online assessment system, Earwig. At the end of the year we will share your child's progress with you.

The Reception Baseline Assessment has been introduced for all children in Reception. This will happen in the autumn term and we will discuss the outcomes with you.

There have also been minor changes to the outcomes of the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile, we will share this assessment with you at the end of your child's year in Reception.

Pupils in Year 1 will take the Phonics check, if they are working at an appropriate level. Pupils who did not take the test, or did not pass the test, in Year 1 will take the Phonics check in Year 2, if they are working at an appropriate level.

Pupils in Year 4 will take the Multiplication check, if they are working at an appropriate level.

Year 6 pupils will take National Curriculum Standard Assessment Tests in English and Mathematics, if they are working at an appropriate level. Parents will be informed about their child's results in any standardised tests they have taken.

At the end of each key stage pupils will be assessed using the pre-key stage standards for pupils working below the test standard.

Pupils who are working at a level below the pre-key stage standards will be assessed using the Engagement Scale.

Further information

The National Curriculum - [The national curriculum: Key stage 1 and 2 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/national-curriculum-key-stage-1-and-2)

The Statutory Early Years Framework (new for September 2021) - [Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/988004/Development_Matters.pdf)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/988004/Development_Matters.pdf

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/596629/EYFS_STATUTORY_FRAMEWORK_2017.pdf

[Information for teachers: reception baseline assessment \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/596629/EYFS_STATUTORY_FRAMEWORK_2017.pdf)