

KINGSBURY PRIMARY SPECIAL SCHOOL

A Parents Guide to Curriculum and Learning



Understanding the Kingsbury Curriculum, Pathways and Assessment

At Kingsbury, every child is unique, and so is their learning journey. Our curriculum has been carefully designed to ensure that all children experience learning that is engaging, purposeful and personalised to their needs, while developing the skills they need for life both now and in the future. Our curriculum is delivered through four pathways: Pre-Formal, Informal, Semi-Formal and Formal, allowing us to provide the right level of challenge and support for every learner.

Pre-Formal Pathway

Our Pre-Formal pathway is designed for pupils with the most complex learning, physical and medical needs. Learning focuses on communication, interaction, engagement, sensory exploration and developing an awareness of the world around them.

Informal Pathway

The Informal Pathway supports children with complex autism who learn best through sensory experiences, exploration and practical learning opportunities. Communication, emotional regulation, independence and social interaction are at the heart of learning, with staff carefully building on each child's strengths, interests and motivations to maximise engagement, understanding and progress.

Semi-Formal Pathway

The Semi-Formal pathway introduces more structured learning while maintaining a highly practical and engaging approach. Pupils develop skills across communication, literacy, numeracy, independence and personal development through meaningful, real-life experiences.

Formal Pathway

The Formal Pathway supports pupils who are ready to access more structured, subject-specific learning. These children are able to engage in adult-led teaching sessions for longer periods and benefit from a more formal approach to the curriculum. They are developing the skills needed to access learning across a range of subjects and may be working towards Pre-Key Stage Standards and beyond

What Does Learning Look Like at Kingsbury?

Regardless of their pathway, all children experience lively, hands-on and exciting learning opportunities.

We place a strong emphasis on:

- Communication
- Cognition
- Independence
- Life skills
- Play and exploration
- Creativity
- Preparation for next steps



However, learning doesn't stop when a lesson ends.

Children are given opportunities to practise, embed and generalise new skills in a wide range of environments. This might be during community visits, Forest School sessions, outdoor learning, lunchtime activities, classroom routines, sensory play or social experiences with friends.

At Kingsbury, we believe that every moment is an opportunity to learn. Our aim is not simply for children to demonstrate a skill in one lesson, but to use that skill confidently in different situations and environments.

How Do We Know Your Child Is Learning?

We understand that progress can look very different for every child. Sometimes the most important achievements are the smallest steps.

To capture this, we use a range of assessment methods:

Assessment Tool	What is it?	What does it tell us?
Tapestry	Photos, videos and observations	Shows learning and achievements over time linked to Cherry Levels, PLO's and curriculum
PLOs	Personal learning targets linked to EHCP outcomes	Tracks small-step progress linked to Annual and EHCP targets individual to each child
Bloom	Curriculum assessment system	Monitors curriculum progress and coverage for each phase
Teacher Observation	Daily professional judgement	Assesses engagement and application of skills
RAG Ratings	Progress monitoring tool	Identifies areas needing support and progress
Case Studies	Individual learning stories	Captures personalised progress
Progress Meetings	Reviews with leaders and teachers	Ensures the right support is in place

Working in Partnership with Parents

Parents and carers play a vital role in their child's education. Your views and aspirations help shape your child's learning targets, and we gather your input through:

Parents' Evenings

Parent surveys

Annual Review meetings

Ongoing conversations with class teams

By working together, we ensure that learning remains meaningful, relevant and focused on what matters most for your child and your family.

At Kingsbury, we are proud of every step our pupils take and we look forward to sharing their learning journey with you throughout the year.

How is the curriculum organised?

In the Informal, Semi-Formal and Formal pathways, learning is organised through exciting half-termly topics. Children develop skills and knowledge from a range of curriculum areas through practical experiences, sensory learning, exploration, play and real-life opportunities rather than separate subject lessons.

Alongside topic learning, all pupils access dedicated curricula for Pathway to Independence, Art, Music, Forest School and PSHE. Although the curriculum may look extensive, learning is always adapted to each child's stage of development, ensuring it is meaningful, engaging and achievable.

Phase A	TOPIC	SCIENCE	HISTORY	GEOGRAPHY	PSED See Kingsbury PSHE Association adapted framework	PATHWAY TO INDEPENDENCE	MUSIC	ART
AUT 1	Happy To Be Me	Animals including humans		Where am I on a map? (Local Environment)	Things we are good at	Being Active	Introduction to Colour and Sound	Self Portraits
AUT 2	Big Days, Bright Lights		Events beyond living memory (eg Bonfire/Remembrance)		Keeping Safe	Being Active	Rainbow Colour and Sound matching	Colour and Sensory Art
SPR 1	What on Earth...?	Plants		Habitats	Identifying and expressing feelings	Get Crafty	Boomwhackers	Nature Art
SPR 2	Tell us a story			Physical Geography	Baby to adult	Get Crafty	Rainbow rhythm	Street Art
SUM 1	Long, long ago...		Travel and transport		Taking care of physical health	Exploring and Experimenting	Bells	Abstract Art
SUM 2	Lets Play	Everyday materials	Toys		Rules and laws	Exploring and experimenting	Rainbow showcase and reflection	Art and Movement

Our Pre-Formal pathway follows a separate curriculum, based on the Equals Curriculum, which is specifically designed for pupils with profound and complex learning needs. This curriculum focuses on communication, cognition, creativity, sensory engagement, physical development and developing an understanding of themselves and the world around them.

Preformal Topics

TERM	TOPIC		PATHWAY TO INDEPENDENCE	MUSIC	ART
AUT	I Explore Me and My Community	- My movement - My communication - My Cognition - My creativity - My cultural development - My Sensory Play	Enterprise	Intro to sound and music	1 Sensory Art 2 Colour and Sensory Art
SPR	I Explore To Infinity and Beyond		MKE	Exploring instruments	
				Drums	1 Post - Impressionist 2 Art and Movement
			MOVE	Music Through Tech	
SUM	I Explore My Big Beautiful World			Sensory Music	1 Abstract Artists 2 Nature Inspired Artists
				Performance and celebration	

How Can I Support My Child's Learning at Home?

Learning happens everywhere, not just in school. Everyday activities such as reading together, talking about experiences, helping with simple jobs at home, visiting new places and encouraging independence all help children develop important skills.

Each half term, we share topic overviews so that families can see what their child is learning and make links between home and school where appropriate.

Tapestry helps us work together by sharing learning and achievements from both school and home. Families can upload photos, videos and comments, helping us build a fuller picture of each child's development and celebrate progress wherever it happens.

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How Our School is Organised

To support children at different stages of their development, Kingsbury is organised into four phases: A, B, C and D. These phases are loosely linked to traditional key stages and help us ensure that learning, expectations and opportunities are appropriate for pupils' ages and stages of development.

Each phase is led by a member of our Middle Leadership Team who work closely with teachers, therapists and support staff to ensure pupils receive a high-quality, consistent educational experience. This structure helps us provide strong support, smooth transitions and a clear learning journey throughout a child's time at Kingsbury.





Ultimately, our vision is simple: that every child leaves Kingsbury as the happiest, most confident and most independent version of themselves, ready for the next stage of their life and learning.

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