



Key Stage 1 & Key Stage 2

Welcome

Welcome to the British School of Chicago. We believe that by reading this curriculum information booklet for Key Stages 1 and 2 (Years 1-6), you will have a detailed understanding of the education and learning experiences that your child will enjoy when they join our school.

Our curriculum is divided into 5 broad Key Stages. Key Stage 1 starts at the beginning of Year 1 (aged 5) and finishes at the end of Year 2 (aged 7). Key Stage 2 starts at the beginning of Year 3 (age 8) and finishes at the end of Year 6 (age 11).

The core curriculum consists of:

- **English:** Speaking and listening; Reading; Writing
- **Mathematics:** Using and applying mathematics; Number; Shape, space and measures
- **Science:** Scientific enquiry; Life processes and living things; Materials and their properties; Physical processes
- **Design and technology:** Designing; Making
- **Information and communication technology:** Exploring and discussing experiences of ICT; Developing ideas; Presenting ideas

- **History:** Chronology; Historical knowledge and understanding; Historical interpretation; Historical enquiry; Organisation and communication
- **Geography:** Geographical skills; School locality; A contrasting locality; Fieldwork investigations
- **Art and design:** Investigating and making; Knowledge and understanding
- **Music:** Performing skills; Composing skills; Appraising skills; Listening and applying knowledge and understanding; Listening and appraising
- **Physical education:** Dance; Games; Gymnastic activities; plus the option of swimming
- **Citizenship/PACE/PSHE:** how to be an active and responsible citizen, communities, personal and social development
- **Foreign Languages:** French, Spanish and Latin

English

Key Stage 1

In English, During Key Stage 1 your child will learn to speak confidently and listen to what others have to say. They will begin to read and write independently and with enthusiasm. They will also use language to explore their own experiences and imaginary worlds.

Speaking and listening: During Key Stage 1 your child will learn to speak clearly, thinking about the needs of their listeners. They will work in small groups and as part of the class, joining in discussions and making relevant points. They will also learn how to listen carefully to what other people are saying, so that they can remember the main points. They will learn to use language in imaginative ways and express their ideas and feelings when working in role and in drama activities.

Reading: During Key Stage 1 your child's interest and pleasure in reading is developed as they learn to read confidently and independently. They will focus on words and sentences and how they fit into whole texts. They will work out the meaning of straightforward texts and say why they like them or do not like them.

Writing: During Key Stage 1 your child will start to enjoy writing and see the value of it. They will learn to communicate meaning in narrative and nonfiction texts and spell and punctuate correctly.

Speaking and listening: During Key Stage 2 your child will learn how to speak in a range of contexts, adapting what they say and how they say it to the purpose and the audience. They will have



the opportunity to take varied roles in groups which will give them opportunities to contribute to situations with different demands. They will also learn to respond appropriately to others, thinking about what has been said and the language used.

Key Stage 2

In English, During Key Stage 2 your child will learn to change the way they speak and write to suit different situations, purposes and audiences. They will read a range of texts and respond to different layers of meaning in them. They will also explore the use of language in literary and nonliterary texts and learn how language works.

Speaking and listening: During Key Stage 2 your child will learn how to speak in a range of contexts, adapting what they say and how they say it to the purpose and the audience. They will have the opportunity to take varied roles in groups giving them opportunities to contribute to situations with different demands. They

will also learn to respond appropriately to others, thinking about what has been said and the language used.

Reading: During Key Stage 2 your child will read enthusiastically a range of materials and use their knowledge of words, sentences and texts to understand and respond to the meaning. They will increase their ability to read challenging and lengthy texts independently. They will also have the opportunity to reflect on the meaning of texts, analysing and discussing them with others.

Writing: During Key Stage 2 your child will develop understanding that writing is both essential to thinking and learning, and enjoyable in its own right. They will learn the main rules and conventions of written English and start to explore how the English language can be used to express meaning in different ways. They will use the planning, drafting and editing process to improve their work and to sustain their fiction and nonfiction writing.



Mathematics

During Key Stage 1 your child will develop their knowledge and understanding of mathematics through practical activity, exploration and discussion. They will learn to count, read, write and order numbers to 100 and beyond. They will develop a range of mental calculation skills and use these confidently in different settings. They will learn about shape and space through practical activity which builds on their understanding of their immediate environment. They will begin to grasp mathematical language, using it to talk about their methods and explain their reasoning when solving problems.

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During Key Stage 2 your child will use the number system more confidently. They will move from counting reliably to calculating fluently with all four number

operations. They will always try to tackle a problem with mental methods before using any other approach. Your child will explore features of shape and space and develop their measuring skills in a range of contexts. They will discuss and present their methods and reasoning using a wider range of mathematical language, diagrams and charts.

During Key Stage 2, your child will be taught the Knowledge, skills and understanding through:

- activities that extend their understanding of the number system to include integers, fractions and decimals
- approximating and estimating more systematically in their work in mathematics
- using patterns and relationships to explore simple algebraic ideas
- applying their measuring skills in a range of contexts
- drawing inferences from data in practical activities, and recognising the difference between meaningful and misleading representations of data
- exploring and using a variety of resources and materials, including ICT
- activities in which pupils decide when the use of calculators is appropriate and then use them effectively
- using mathematics in their work in other subjects

Science

Teaching staff at the British School of Chicago ensure that 'scientific enquiry' is taught through contexts taken from the sections on 'life processes and living things', 'materials and their properties' and 'physical processes'.

At Key Stage 1 your child will experience four sections within this curriculum area:

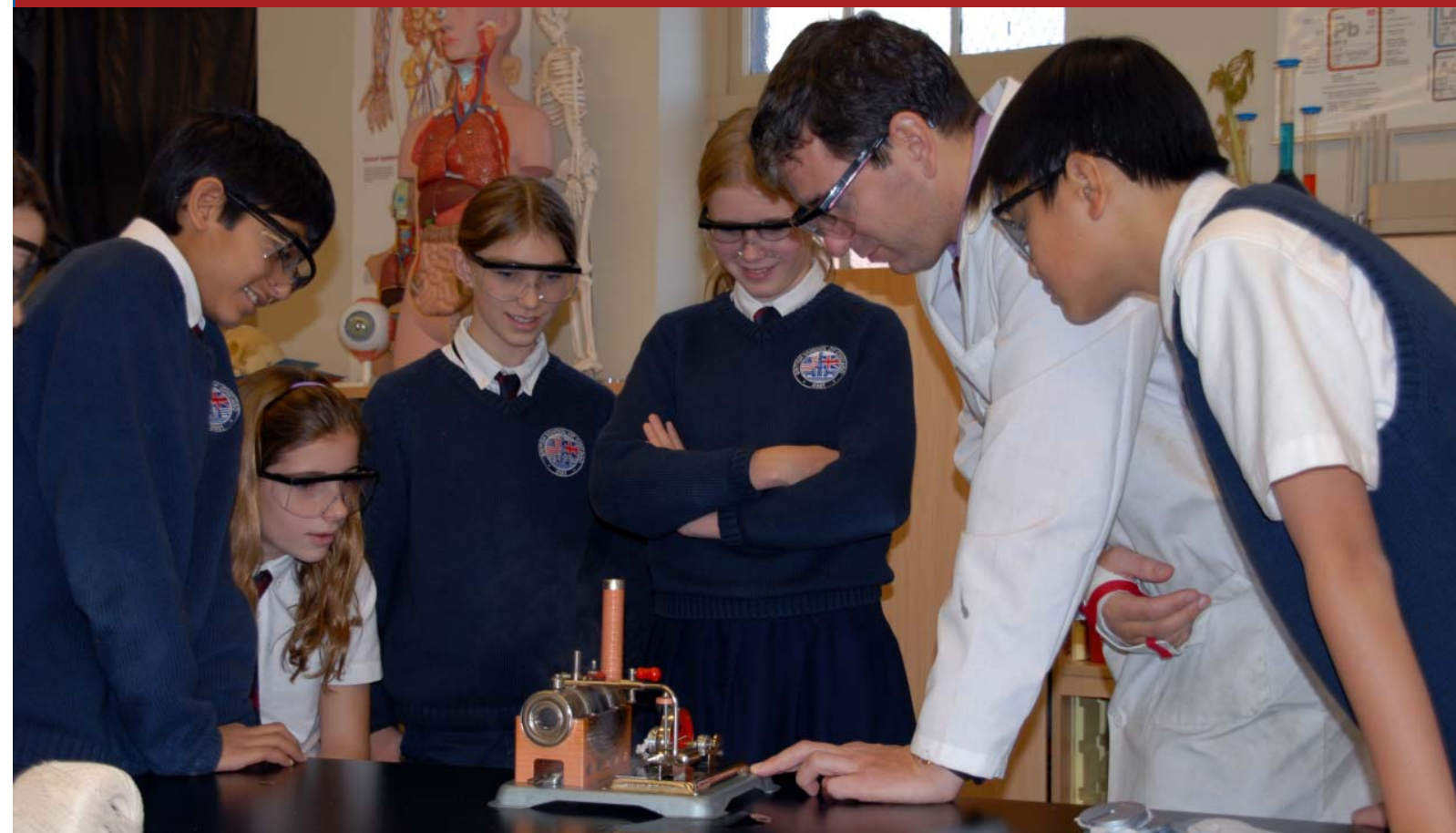
- Sc1 Scientific enquiry
- Sc2 Life processes and living things
- Sc3 Materials and their properties
- Sc4 Physical processes

During Key Stage 1 your child will observe, explore and ask questions about

living things, materials and phenomena. He/she will begin to work with other pupils to collect evidence to help them answer questions and to link this to simple scientific ideas. They will evaluate evidence and consider whether tests or comparisons are fair. Your child will use reference materials to find out more about scientific ideas, share their ideas and communicate them using scientific language, drawings, charts and tables.

During Key Stage 2 your child will learn about a wider range of living things, materials and phenomena. They will begin to make links between ideas and to explain things using simple models and

theories. They will apply their knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas to familiar phenomena, everyday things and their personal health. They will begin to think about the positive and negative effects of scientific and technological developments on the environment and in other contexts. They will carry out more systematic investigations, working on their own and with others. They will use a range of reference sources in their work. They will also talk about their work and its significance, and communicate ideas using a wide range of scientific language, conventional diagrams, charts and graphs.



Design and Technology (DT)

Teaching staff at the British School of Chicago ensure that 'knowledge and understanding' is applied when 'developing ideas', 'planning', 'making products' and evaluating them.

During Key Stage 1 your child will learn how to think imaginatively and talk about what they like and dislike when designing and making. He/she will build on their early childhood experiences of investigating objects around them. They will explore how familiar things work and talk about, draw and model their ideas. They will also learn how to design and make safely and could start to use ICT as part of their designing and making.

During Key Stage 2 your child will work on their own and as part of a team on a range of designing and making activities. They will think about what products are used for and the needs of the people who use them. They will plan what has to be done and identify what works well and what could be improved in their own and other people's designs. They will also draw on knowledge and understanding from other areas of the curriculum and use computers in a range of ways.



Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

During Key Stage 1 your child will explore ICT and learn to use it confidently and with purpose to achieve specific outcomes. They will start to use ICT to develop their ideas and record their creative work and they will also become familiar with hardware and software.

During Key Stage 2 your child will use a wider range of ICT tools and information sources to support their work in other subjects. They will develop their research skills and decide what information is appropriate for their work. They will begin to question the plausibility and quality of information and they will also learn how to amend their work and present it in a way that suits its audience.



History

During Key Stage 1 your child will learn about people's lives and lifestyles. They will find out about significant men, women, children and events from the recent and more distant past, including those from the wider world. They will listen and respond to stories and use sources of information to help them ask and answer questions and they will also learn how the past is different from the present.

During Key Stage 2 your child will learn about significant people, events and places from both the recent and more distant past. They learn about change and continuity in their own area and in other parts of the world. They will look at history in a variety of ways, for example from political, economic, technological and scientific, social, religious, cultural or aesthetic perspectives. They will use different sources of information to help them investigate the past both in depth and in overview, using dates and historical vocabulary to describe events, people and developments. They will also learn that the past can be represented and interpreted in different ways.

Geography

During Key Stage 1 your child will investigate their local area and a contrasting area in the United States, United Kingdom or abroad, finding out about the environment in both areas and the people who live there. They will also begin to learn about the wider world. They will carry out geographical enquiry inside and outside the classroom. In doing this they will ask geographical questions about people, places and environments, and use geographical skills and resources such as maps and photographs.

During Key Stage 2 your child will investigate a variety of people, places and environments at different scales in the United States of America, the United Kingdom and abroad, and start to make links between different places in the world. They will find out how people affect the environment and how they are affected by it. They will carry out geographical enquiry inside and outside the classroom. In doing this they will ask geographical questions, and use geographical skills and resources such as maps, atlases, aerial photographs and ICT.

Art and design

During Key Stage 1 your child will develop their creativity and imagination by exploring the visual, tactile and sensory qualities of materials and processes. They will learn about the role of art, craft and design in their environment. They will begin to understand colour, shape and space and pattern and texture and use them to represent their ideas and feelings.

During Key Stage 2 your child will develop their creativity and imagination through more complex activities. These will help to build on their skills and improve their control of materials, tools and techniques. Your child will increase their critical awareness of the roles and purposes of art, craft and design in different times and cultures. They will become more confident in using visual and tactile elements and materials and processes to communicate what they see, feel and think.



Music

During Key Stage 1 your child will listen carefully and respond physically to a wide range of music. They will play musical instruments and sing a variety of songs from memory, adding accompaniments and creating short compositions, with increasing confidence, imagination and control. They will also explore and enjoy how sounds and silence can create different moods and effects.

During Key Stage 2 your child will sing songs and play instruments with increasing confidence, skill, expression and awareness of their own contribution to a group or class performance. They will improvise, and develop their own musical compositions, in response to a variety of different stimuli with increasing personal involvement, independence and creativity. They will explore their thoughts and feelings through responding physically, intellectually and emotionally to a variety of music from different times and cultures.

Physical Education

During Key Stage 1 your child will build on their natural enthusiasm for movement, using it to explore and learn about their world. They will start to work and play with other pupils in pairs and small groups. By watching, listening and experimenting, they will develop their skills in movement and coordination, and enjoy expressing and testing themselves in a variety of situations.

During Key Stage 2 your child will enjoy being active and using their creativity and imagination in physical activity. They will learn new skills, find out how to use them in different ways, and link them to make actions, phrases and sequences of movement. They will enjoy communicating, collaborating and competing with each other. They will develop an understanding of how to succeed in different activities and learn how to evaluate and recognise their own success.





Citizenship/PACE/PSHE

All National Curriculum subjects provide opportunities to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Explicit opportunities to promote pupils' development in these areas are provided in a framework for personal, social and health education (PACE/PSHE). A significant contribution is also made by school ethos, effective relationships throughout the school and other curriculum activities.

During Key Stage 1 your child will learn about themselves as developing individuals and as members of their communities, building on their own experiences and on the early learning goals for personal, social and emotional development. They will learn the basic rules and skills for keeping themselves

healthy and safe and for behaving well. They will have opportunities to show they can take some responsibility for themselves and their environment. They will begin to learn about their own and other people's feelings and become aware of the views, needs and rights of other children and older people. As members of a class and school community, they will learn social skills such as how to share, take turns, play, help others, resolve simple arguments and resist bullying. They will begin to take an active part in the life of their school and its neighbourhood.

During Key Stage 2 your child will learn about themselves as growing and changing individuals with their own experiences and ideas, and as members

of their communities. They will become more mature, independent and self-confident. They will learn about the wider world and the interdependence of communities within it. They will develop their sense of social justice and moral responsibility and begin to understand that their own choices and behaviour can affect local, national or global issues and political and social institutions. They will learn how to take part more fully in school and community activities. As they begin to develop into young adults, they will face the changes of puberty and movement into High school with support and encouragement. They will learn how to make more confident and informed choices about their health and environment; to take more responsibility, individually and as a group, for their own learning; and to resist bullying.

Foreign Languages: French, Spanish and Latin

The learning of a foreign language in school will provide a valuable educational, social and cultural experience for your child. He/she will develop communication and literacy skills that will lay the foundation for future language learning. They will develop linguistic competence, extend their knowledge of how language works and explore differences and similarities between the foreign language and English. Learning another language raises awareness of the multi-lingual and multi-cultural world for your child and introduces an international dimension to their learning, giving them an insight into their own culture and those of others. Learning a foreign language will provide a medium for cross-curricular links and for the reinforcement of knowledge, skills and understanding developed in other subjects.

All pupils in **Key Stage 1** will experience the languages of French and Spanish. Latin is added as a third foreign language for all pupils in **Key Stage 2**.



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